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Media Advisory

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Delta College Trustee Maria Elena Serna Resigns Due to Conviction (Stockton, CA)

San Joaquin Delta College Trustee Maria Elena Serna has resigned from the board seat she was first elected to in 1990 as the result of pleading no contest to violating California Penal Code section 72. The admission of guilt came on Monday the 8th of December at the San Joaquin County Courthouse.

The charges and subsequent conviction stem from an investigation into several duplicate travel requests submitted to Delta College as well as to the Community College League of California (CCLC) for a period extending back to 2005. The issue came to light when college officials became aware that Serna had requested and received payment from both agencies for the same trips.

Superintendent/President Dr. Raul Rodriguez said, "This is a fundamental abuse of public trust. As difficult as it was, there was never a question about whether to pursue this violation. Students learn from everything we do as an institution and Mrs. Serna was not demonstrating the characteristics we want to model for our students. It's all very unfortunate."

With four newly elected trustees scheduled to be sworn in on December 10th and their first consideration of action items scheduled to occur on December 16th, the Delta College Board of Trustees will be a member short until action is taken to fill the seat vacated by Serna.

According to California Education Code section 5091, when a resignation is filed with the County Superintendent of Schools resulting in a vacancy, the district's governing board has 60 days to either order a special election or make a provisional appointment to the position.

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