

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

October 2022 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

RYAN WRIGHT,
aka "Ryan Petetit,"

Defendant.

CR No. 2:23-cr-00492-PA

I N D I C T M E N T

[18 U.S.C. § 371: Conspiracy; 18 U.S.C. § 1519: Falsification of Records; 18 U.S.C. § 1503: Obstruction of Justice; 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c): Criminal Forfeiture]

The Grand Jury charges:

INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

At times relevant to this Indictment:

A. DEFENDANT WRIGHT, DEVELOPMENT COMPANY 1, AND CO-CONSPIRATOR 1

1. Defendant RYAN WRIGHT, also known as "Ryan Petetit," was a Managing Member of Development Company 1, a development company located in the City of San Luis Obispo ("City") in the Central District of California. Defendant WRIGHT also served as Development Company 1's Chief Executive Officer until December 1, 2015.

Development Company 1 had multiple projects in the Central District

1 of California, including in the City and San Luis Obispo County
2 ("County").

3 2. Co-Conspirator 1 was an attorney with a private law firm
4 specializing in real estate and land use in the County and City. Co-
5 Conspirator 1's law practice represented clients who needed land use
6 permits from the County. Co-conspirator 1 was also a Managing Member
7 of Development Company 1 and formed Development Company 1 in 2012.

8 B. SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

9 3. The County was a local government that every calendar year
10 between 2014 and 2017 received benefits in excess of \$10,000 under a
11 Federal program involving a grant, contract, subsidy, loan,
12 guarantee, insurance, and other forms of Federal assistance.

13 4. The County was governed, in part, by its Board of
14 Supervisors, which adopted legislation, adjudicated issues, held
15 public hearings, set hearing agendas, and set policy in the County.

16 5. The Board of Supervisors was comprised of five members,
17 each of whom represented a district within the County. Each district
18 elected its own supervisor to represent it.

19 6. County Supervisor 1 represented the district that included
20 a majority of the City's geographical region and population. County
21 Supervisor 1 voted on matters appearing before the County Board of
22 Supervisors, including matters that affected Development Company 1
23 and others seeking permits, and had influence over matters occurring
24 within the County, including in the City and in the City's
25 departments and commissions.

26 7. To provide transparency and accountability as an elected
27 official, California Political Reform Act, California Government Code
28 Section 81000, et seq., required County Supervisor 1 to file a

1 Statement of Economic Interest, also known as a Form 700. Form 700s
2 required elected officials to disclose on an annual basis income,
3 investments, and gifts received by the elected official, among other
4 financial interests. Form 700s were required to be filed annually by
5 April of the following calendar year.

6 8. County Supervisor 1 was also the sole Managing Member of
7 Consulting Company 1, which was formed on July 10, 2014. According
8 to California Secretary of State filings, Consulting Company 1's
9 purpose was providing "consulting services."

10 C. CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

11 9. The City was a local government that every calendar year
12 between 2014 and 2017 received benefits in excess of \$10,000 under a
13 Federal program involving a grant, contract, subsidy, loan,
14 guarantee, insurance, and other forms of Federal assistance.

15 10. The City was governed, in part, by its City Council, which
16 adopted legislation, adjudicated issues, including issues related to
17 land development, held public hearings, set hearing agendas, and set
18 policy in the City.

19 11. The City Council was comprised of four City Council members
20 and a Mayor, all of whom were elected at large by the City's
21 registered voters.

22 12. The City Manager was employed by the City and responsible
23 for the City's day-to-day operations for the period of 2010 to 2017.
24 During 2014 to 2016, the City Manager had meetings approximately once
25 a month with County Supervisor 1 where they would discuss issues
26 related to the City and County.

27 13. The Community Development Director was employed by the City
28 and responsible for, among other things, overseeing the issuance of

1 permits, design review, and providing input on plans for building
2 developments within the City during 2014 through August 2015. On or
3 about August 2015, the Community Development Director was promoted to
4 Assistant City Manager and Interim Finance and Information Technology
5 Director.

6 14. To provide transparency concerning paid lobbyists and
7 consultants' activities within the City, City Municipal Code
8 Section 2.64, et seq., required registration for "Municipal
9 Advocates," individuals who received compensation to advocate with
10 City officials and employees regarding legislative or other
11 discretionary City decisions. Public officials acting in their
12 official capacity were exempted from registering as Municipal
13 Advocates. County Supervisor 1 never registered as a Municipal
14 Advocate.

15 D. THE COMMISSIONS

16 15. The City's Architectural Review Commission ("ARC") was
17 responsible for establishing architectural guidelines and rules on
18 the design of new construction and major commercial developments.
19 The ARC was comprised of seven commissioners appointed by the City,
20 including ARC Commissioner 1.

21 16. The City's Cultural Heritage Commission ("CHC") was
22 responsible for overseeing programs aimed at preserving the City's
23 historic and architecturally significant buildings and locations.
24 The CHC was comprised of seven members appointed by the City.

25 17. The Airport Land Use Commission ("ALUC") was an independent
26 body of seven members created in compliance with the California
27 Aeronautics Act. The ALUC prepared and adopted land use plans for
28 each airport within its jurisdiction and reviewed actions proposed by

1 local cities and counties that would affect land uses within the
2 vicinity of airports.

3 E. THE FEDERAL INVESTIGATION

4 18. On March 11, 2020, Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI")
5 special agents executed search warrants at County Supervisor 1's home
6 and his County office. During that same month, a local newspaper
7 publicized the fact that the FBI had executed search warrants at
8 County Supervisor 1's home and office.

9 19. On April 23, 2020, FBI special agents interviewed Co-
10 Conspirator 1 concerning the corruption investigation.

11 20. On April 29, 2020, FBI special agents interviewed defendant
12 WRIGHT.

13 21. On August 17, 2022, Co-Conspirator 1 accepted service of a
14 federal grand jury subpoena directed to Development Company 1 for,
15 among other things, records related to payments to County Supervisor
16 1's Consulting Company 1.

17 22. These Introductory Allegations are incorporated into each
18 count of this Indictment.

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COUNT ONE

[18 U.S.C. § 371]

A. OBJECTS OF THE CONSPIRACY

23. Beginning on a date unknown and continuing until in or around May 23, 2017, in San Luis Obispo County, within the Central District of California, defendant RYAN WRIGHT conspired with Co-Conspirator 1, County Supervisor 1, and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to knowingly and intentionally commit offenses against the United States, namely, bribery concerning programs receiving federal funds, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(2), and wire fraud, through the deprivation of honest services of a County official, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 1346.

B. MEANS BY WHICH THE OBJECTS OF THE CONSPIRACY WERE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED

24. The objects of the conspiracy were to be accomplished, in substance, as follows:

a. In exchange for official acts by County Supervisor 1 to benefit defendant WRIGHT and Co-Conspirator 1, defendant WRIGHT would give, offer, and agree to give financial benefits to County Supervisor 1, including but not limited to money and gifts that ultimately totaled over \$95,000 in value.

b. County Supervisor 1 would agree to perform, and would perform, official acts, including advocating for Development Company 1's projects and prospective projects with the City and voting for Development Company 1's projects in the County.

c. Defendant WRIGHT, Co-Conspirator 1, and County Supervisor 1 would disguise, conceal, and cover up the bribes

1 provided to County Supervisor 1. Defendant WRIGHT and Co-Conspirator
2 1 would create Consulting Company 1 to funnel payments to County
3 Supervisor 1 and thereby conceal the payments from the public and
4 City official's knowledge. County Supervisor 1 would provide false
5 information on his publicly-filed Form 700s.

6 C. OVERT ACTS

7 25. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to accomplish the
8 objects of the conspiracy, on or about the following dates, defendant
9 WRIGHT, Co-Conspirator 1, County Supervisor 1, and others known and
10 unknown to the Grand Jury, committed and caused to be committed
11 various overt acts within the Central District of California, and
12 elsewhere, including the following:

13 **The Formation of Consulting Company 1**

14 Overt Act No. 1: On June 24, 2014, in a text message
15 exchange, defendant WRIGHT and County Supervisor 1 discussed creating
16 a separate entity to pay County Supervisor 1 for his work for
17 Development Company 1. During this discussion, defendant WRIGHT told
18 County Supervisor 1 that Co-Conspirator 1 "wants to protect all three
19 of us" "[a]nd put[ting] a gag order on all three of us [is a] good
20 idea[]." Defendant WRIGHT warned County Supervisor 1 that "[l]oose
21 lips sink ships."

22 Overt Act No. 2: On July 9, 2014, at the request of defendant
23 WRIGHT, a Development Company 1 employee sent an email to an
24 assistant at Co-Conspirator 1's law firm and asked her to file the
25 paperwork for Consulting Company 1, naming County Supervisor 1 as the
26 managing member and naming Co-Conspirator 1 as the agent for service
27 of process.

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1 **Defendant WRIGHT's First Bribe Payments and Benefits to County**
2 **Supervisor 1**

3 Overt Act No. 3: On July 14, 2014, in a text message
4 exchange, defendant WRIGHT told County Supervisor 1 that Development
5 Company 1 would pay County Supervisor 1 \$5,000 up front and \$1,700 a
6 month thereafter, and would provide County Supervisor 1 with a leased
7 car from a Volvo dealership using Development Company 1's funds.

8 Overt Act No. 4: On July 14, 2014, in a text message
9 exchange, County Supervisor 1 reported to defendant WRIGHT that he
10 had already spoke to one ARC member. During the same conversation,
11 County Supervisor 1 explained to defendant WRIGHT that he was "going
12 to golden ticket you to all the people and places you need to be
13 with/at."

14 Overt Act No. 5: On July 14, 2014, in a text message
15 exchange, County Supervisor 1 told defendant WRIGHT that he liked the
16 idea of Consulting Company 1 paying him because he and defendant
17 WRIGHT and Co-Conspirator 1 could keep their arrangement "private" by
18 only disclosing Consulting Company 1 on his Form 700 disclosure form.

19 Overt Act No. 6: On July 16, 2014, in a text message
20 exchange, County Supervisor 1 reported to defendant WRIGHT that he
21 just finished a meeting with the City Manager and discussed the 590
22 Marsh Street parcel (the "Marsh project"), which would later become
23 part of the larger San Luis Square Project. County Supervisor 1 told
24 defendant WRIGHT: "It can happen."

25 Overt Act No. 7: On July 19, 2014, after agreeing to accept a
26 car allowance paid for by defendant WRIGHT, County Supervisor 1
27 leased a 4-door Volvo Wagon valued at \$43,020.

1 Overt Act No. 8: On July 21, 2014, during the ARC meeting
2 conducting a "conceptual review" of the Marsh project, County
3 Supervisor 1 addressed the ARC after a local neighborhood group
4 criticized the project as too tall and contrary to the City's design
5 guidelines. After indicating that he worked in the County building,
6 County Supervisor 1 responded to the project's critics by saying "we
7 don't want to stifle projects by chopping off floors I assume
8 the folks from [Development Company 1] want as much input as possible
9 to make this something to be proud of." At no time during this
10 meeting did County Supervisor 1 disclose his financial arrangement
11 with defendant WRIGHT, Co-Conspirator 1, and Development Company 1.

12 Overt Act No. 9: On July 21, 2014, after County Supervisor 1
13 addressed the ARC, County Supervisor 1 forwarded an email to
14 defendant WRIGHT that County Supervisor 1 received from ARC
15 Commissioner 1, which spoke favorably about the Marsh project and
16 County Supervisor 1: "Nice to see you in the room tonight. . . that
17 [Marsh] project has great promise." In the forwarded email to
18 defendant WRIGHT, County Supervisor 1 wrote: "Just so you see the
19 value of my help....(Don't pass on)."

20 Overt Act No. 10: On July 24, 2014, three days after the
21 hearing on the Marsh project, County Supervisor 1 negotiated a \$2,500
22 check from Development Company 1's Bank of America account. The
23 check was made payable to County Supervisor 1 or Consulting Company 1
24 and had the memo line of "Invoice # 101 - Retainer." The check bore
25 the signature of "Ryan Petetit [defendant WRIGHT]."

26 Overt Act No. 11: On August 22, 2014, County Supervisor 1
27 opened a Bank of America account in the name of Consulting Company 1
28 and used a \$2,500 check payable to Consulting Company 1 that

1 defendant WRIGHT caused to be made from a company owned by a
2 Development Company 1 investor. The check was dated July 31, 2014,
3 and had the memo line of: "Invoice #101 - Retainer for 590 Marsh
4 Nipomo M."

5 **Consulting Company 1's "Operating Agreement" and Trip to San**
6 **Francisco to Watch County Supervisor 1's Favorite Baseball Team**

7 Overt Act No. 12: On September 5, 2014, County Supervisor 1
8 deposited a \$6,400 check from Development Company 1's Bank of America
9 account into Consulting Company 1's Bank of America account. The
10 check was dated September 5, 2014 and made payable to County
11 Supervisor 1 or Consulting Company 1. The check bore the signature
12 of "Ryan Petetit [defendant WRIGHT]."

13 Overt Act No. 13: On September 25, 2014, County Supervisor 1
14 sent an email to defendant WRIGHT and Co-Conspirator 1 as well as
15 Development Company 1 telling them that his attorney had reviewed the
16 proposed operating agreement and suggested certain restrictions,
17 including that County Supervisor 1 would "disqualify himself from
18 voting on any matters before him that do or could pertain to
19 [Development Company 1]" and County Supervisor 1 "shall not appear on
20 behalf of [Development Company 1] before any commissions or Boards in
21 SLO County or any of its cities."

22 Overt Act No. 14: On September 26, 2014, Co-Conspirator 1
23 responded to County Supervisor 1's September 25, 2014 email and
24 disagreed with County Supervisor 1's attorney's proposed restriction
25 on County Supervisor 1 speaking on Development Company 1's behalf as
26 a private citizen before a "local architectural review board for the
27 City of SLO." Co-Conspirator 1 proposed re-writing the restriction
28 so that County Supervisor 1 could appear before commissions or boards

1 in the City on Development Company 1's behalf so long as he did not
2 do so in his capacity as a supervisor or County representative.
3 Specifically, Co-Conspirator 1's rewritten provision read: "[County
4 Supervisor 1] shall not appear on behalf of [Development Company 1]
5 before any commissions or Boards OF SLO County or AS A SUPERVISOR OR
6 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNTY WITH RESPECT TO any of its cities."
7 Defendant WRIGHT and a Development Company 1 employee were copied on
8 the email.

9 Overt Act No. 15: On October 8, 2014, defendant WRIGHT and
10 County Supervisor 1 caused a check for \$4,950 from Development
11 Company 1's Bank of America account to be deposited into Consulting
12 Company 1's Bank of America account. The check was dated October 7,
13 2014, and was made payable to County Supervisor 1 or Consulting
14 Company 1. The check bore the signature of "Ryan Petetit [defendant
15 WRIGHT]."

16 Overt Act No. 16: On October 14, 2014, in a text message
17 exchange, defendant WRIGHT told County Supervisor 1 he could make
18 \$250,000 per year and have "[o]n going income for ever." County
19 Supervisor 1 told defendant WRIGHT that "I think [Co-Conspirator 1]
20 is starting to understand my value," a statement with which defendant
21 WRIGHT agreed.

22 Overt Act No. 17: On October 16, 2014, defendant WRIGHT, using
23 Development Company 1's funds, flew himself and County Supervisor 1
24 on a semi-private jet to San Francisco, California, to watch Game 5
25 of Major League Baseball's National League Championship Series
26 between the San Francisco Giants and the St. Louis Cardinals.
27 Defendant WRIGHT, using Development Company 1's funds, also paid for
28 his and County Supervisor 1's premium seat, which were in the first

1 row along the third baseline and cost approximately \$1,032 per
2 ticket. On October 16, 2014, defendant WRIGHT, using Development
3 Company 1's funds, paid at least \$754.58 for hotel rooms for himself
4 and County Supervisor 1 at a luxury hotel in San Francisco,
5 California.

6 Overt Act No. 18: On November 7, 2014, defendant WRIGHT and
7 County Supervisor 1 caused a check for \$4,950 from defendant
8 Development Company 1's Bank of America account to be deposited into
9 Consulting Company 1's Bank of America account. The check was dated
10 November 6, 2014, and made payable to County Supervisor 1 or
11 Consulting Company 1. The check bore the signature of "Ryan Petetit
12 [defendant WRIGHT]."

13 Overt Act No. 19: In a letter dated December 15, 2014, to a
14 Development Company 1 investor, a Development Company 1 employee
15 asked for reimbursement related to Consulting Company 1. The same
16 employee explained the charges included reimbursement for a laptop
17 and cellphone because Development Company 1 was Consulting Company
18 1's "only client and these items are used exclusively for" use on
19 Development Company 1's projects.

20 Overt Act No. 20: On December 16, 2014, at the County's Board
21 of Supervisors Meeting, County Supervisor 1 voted via consent agenda
22 to approve the final map for Development Company 1's Toad Creek
23 Homes, LLC project, a proposed subdivision of 26 residential lots and
24 two open space lots in Templeton, California.

25 Overt Act No. 21: On December 18, 2014, defendant WRIGHT and
26 County Supervisor 1 caused two checks from Development Company 1's
27 Bank of America account made payable to Consulting Company 1 to be
28 deposited into Consulting Company 1's Bank of America account. One

1 check was for \$4,950 and had "Inv # 6,7,8,9, 11" in the memo line.
2 The other check was for \$3,084.68 and had "Reimbursements" in the
3 memo line. Both checks were dated December 17, 2014 and bore the
4 signature of "Ryan Petetit [defendant WRIGHT]."

5 Overt Act No. 22: On December 31, 2014, defendant WRIGHT and
6 County Supervisor 1 caused a check for \$4,950 from Development
7 Company 1's Bank of America account made payable to Consulting
8 Company 1 to be deposited into Consulting Company 1's Bank of America
9 account. The check bore the signature of "Ryan Petetit [defendant
10 WRIGHT]," and its memo line read "Inv. # 24, 25, 26, 27, 28."

11 **County Supervisor 1 Conceals His Connection to, and Payments**
12 **From, Development Company 1**

13 Overt Act No. 23: On February 2, 2015, defendant WRIGHT and
14 County Supervisor 1 caused a check for \$4,950 from Development
15 Company 1's Bank of America account made payable to Consulting
16 Company 1 to be deposited into Consulting Company 1's Bank of America
17 account. The check bore the signature of "Ryan Petetit [defendant
18 WRIGHT]" and its memo line read "Consulting services."

19 Overt Act No. 24: On February 23, 2015, in a text message
20 exchange, County Supervisor 1 told defendant WRIGHT he planned to
21 describe Consulting Company 1's activities on his Form 700 "as
22 coaching and speechwriting" and "[f]or you rather than all of
23 [Development Company 1]." County Supervisor 1 asked defendant WRIGHT
24 if he was "ok" with it. Defendant WRIGHT asked for a few days so he
25 could check "legal."

26 Overt Act No. 25: On March 15, 2015, in a text exchange,
27 defendant WRIGHT told County Supervisor 1 that it "[l]ooks like Avila
28 will be another [County Supervisor 1's initials] with [Development

1 Company 1]." When asked by County Supervisor 1 which Avila project,
2 defendant WRIGHT told him "Avila ranch" and that the current owner
3 wanted to sell to him.

4 Overt Act No. 26: On March 19, 2015, in an email from a
5 Development Company 1 employee to a Development Company 1 investor,
6 copying defendant WRIGHT, the employee asked for two checks, each for
7 \$2,500, made payable to County Supervisor 1's re-election campaign.
8 Defendant WRIGHT responded in an email to a Development Company 1
9 investor only and wrote that "[w]e're giving [County Supervisor 1]
10 25k In total this time around the other funds are coming from us
11 personally or one other entity. If we loose [sic] him it's bad for
12 us Down town."

13 Overt Act No. 27: On March 20, 2015, in a text message
14 exchange, County Supervisor 1 told defendant WRIGHT that he had "been
15 smoothing the way with CalTrans" concerning the Avila Ranch project,
16 which, like the ALUC, had opposed the project. Defendant WRIGHT
17 responded that "I'm not doing Avila ranch without u in office."

18 Overt Act No. 28: On March 26, 2015, County Supervisor 1 filed
19 his Form 700 disclosure for 2014, which disclosed that he made
20 between \$10,001 and \$100,000 from working for Consulting Company 1,
21 which he described as a business that did "[w]riting, [e]diting,
22 [c]oaching" and labeled his position as "consultant." County
23 Supervisor 1 omitted from the Form 700 gifts that were required to be
24 reported, including the flight to San Francisco, the ticket to the
25 playoff baseball game, and the hotel stay that cost at least \$1,409-
26 all paid for by defendant WRIGHT with Development Company 1's funds.

27 Overt Act No. 29: On April 1, 2015, in a text message exchange
28 discussing what the City Manager wanted in order to support the Avila

1 Ranch project, County Supervisor 1 told defendant WRIGHT that "i
2 think i can help with [City Manager] because she needs me right now."
3 County Supervisor 1 then asked if defendant WRIGHT needed anything
4 else to which defendant WRIGHT responded he just "need[ed] the vote."

5 Overt Act No. 30: On May 4, 2015, defendant WRIGHT caused the
6 transfer of \$10,000 from Development Company 1's Bank of America
7 account to Consulting Company 1's Bank of America account.

8 Overt Act No. 31: On May 13, 2015, in a text message exchange,
9 defendant WRIGHT told County Supervisor 1 that defendant WRIGHT
10 needed to meet with San Luis Obispo City Councilmembers 1 and 2
11 because of an upcoming ARC meeting.

12 Overt Act No. 32: On May 26, 2015, in a text message exchange,
13 County Supervisor 1 told defendant WRIGHT that City Councilmember 2
14 liked defendant WRIGHT and that County Supervisor 1 told City
15 Councilmember 2 that defendant WRIGHT "contributed to the get out the
16 vote effort to help him get elected. i am your friend and
17 consigliere." County Supervisor 1 went on to write "you never say
18 anything, that's my job," and "i let the elected know who is
19 helping."

20 **Defendant WRIGHT, Co-Conspirator 1, and Development Company 1**
21 **Pay County Supervisor 1 \$15,000 for ARC and CHC "Approval"**

22 Overt Act No. 33: On June 10, 2015, defendant WRIGHT and
23 County Supervisor 1 caused a check for \$10,000 from Development
24 Company 1's Bank of America account made payable to Consulting
25 Company 1 to be deposited into Consulting Company 1's Bank of America
26 account. The check bore the signature of "Ryan Petetit [defendant
27 WRIGHT]," and its memo line read "May & June consulting services."
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1 Overt Act No. 34: On June 23, 2015, in a text message
2 exchange, defendant WRIGHT told County Supervisor 1 that July 13 was
3 the date ARC would review the San Luis Square project and that County
4 Supervisor 1 needed to “[g]et ready.”

5 Overt Act No. 35: On July 4, 2015, in a text message exchange,
6 County Supervisor 1 told defendant WRIGHT that he was meeting with
7 ARC Commissioner 1 the following day and that County Supervisor 1
8 would get ARC Commissioner 1 to take the lead on the conversation
9 concerning the San Luis Square project at the upcoming joint ARC-CHC
10 meeting.

11 Overt Act No. 36: On July 5, 2015, in a text message, County
12 Supervisor 1 reported to defendant WRIGHT that he spent an hour with
13 ARC Commissioner 1 who “loves your stuff.”

14 Overt Act No. 37: On July 6, 2015, in a text message exchange,
15 County Supervisor 1 wrote to defendant WRIGHT that he was meeting
16 with Community Development Director for lunch and asked “[o]ther than
17 obvious stuff, anything else I need to push?” Defendant WRIGHT told
18 County Supervisor 1 he would call County Supervisor 1 later.

19 Overt Act No. 38: On July 11, 2015, in a text message
20 exchange, County Supervisor 1 told defendant WRIGHT that City staff
21 and some ARC commissioners and City Council “friends” suggested that
22 County Supervisor 1 not attend the upcoming July 13, 2015 joint ARC
23 and CHC meeting discussing the San Luis Square Project and instead
24 “work behind the scenes” to advance the San Luis Square Project.
25 Defendant WRIGHT told County Supervisor 1 he “disagree[d]” and that
26 “[t]hose arc folks eat from your hands” and listed three ARC
27 commissioners who heard County Supervisor 1 speak about the Marsh
28 Project at the July 21, 2014 ARC meeting.

1 Overt Act No. 39: On July 12, 2015, in a text message
2 exchange, County Supervisor 1 told defendant WRIGHT he would attend
3 the July 13, 2015 ARC meeting but that he was “[n]ot allowed to
4 speak” but he would be “working behind the scenes. Ok!” County
5 Supervisor 1 further explained that he was not “[l]egally” permitted
6 to testify in support of Development Company 1’s projects and cited
7 to the restriction his attorney suggested to include in the operating
8 agreement. County Supervisor 1 told defendant WRIGHT “[t]hat's why I
9 am working behind the scenes and will work the room during the
10 hearing.” Defendant WRIGHT persisted in his efforts to get County
11 Supervisor 1 to address the ARC and CHC when they considered the San
12 Luis Square Project and suggested that County Supervisor 1 could
13 speak in favor of “this kind of project” but not specifically endorse
14 the San Luis Square Project. Defendant WRIGHT then wrote: “I’m just
15 being honest [Co-Conspirator 1] and my partners have been counting
16 big time on your voice in the hearing.”

17 Overt Act No. 40: On July 13, 2015, notwithstanding that the
18 previous day County Supervisor 1 had previously stated he was “[n]ot
19 allowed to speak,” he addressed the joint ARC and CHC meeting
20 considering the conceptual design of Development Company 1’s San Luis
21 Square project. County Supervisor 1 referenced his role on the
22 Economic Development Commission and his work with the San Luis Obispo
23 City council and council staff. County Supervisor 1 described the
24 need to provide additional urban housing for new tech workers before
25 saying “I represent 62% of the City in the County.” County
26 Supervisor 1 concluded by saying that the San Luis Square Project was
27 the solution to the City’s housing shortage and that he “hope[d]” the
28

1 ARC and CHC would "work with the project applicants to find ways to
2 make this work economically."

3 Overt Act No. 41: On July 13, 2015, during a text message
4 exchange, defendant WRIGHT reported to County Supervisor 1 that ARC
5 Commissioner 1 was "taking a lead" and voiced strong support for the
6 San Luis Square Project and its four stories. As the commissioners
7 continued to speak in favor of the project during the hearing,
8 defendant WRIGHT asked County Supervisor 1 if he "drug[ged] these
9 ppl." Later, County Supervisor 1 bragged that the "[t]hat joint
10 commission listened to every word I spoke . . . [a]nd nodded."
11 County Supervisor 1 reviewed for defendant WRIGHT the ARC members to
12 whom he advocated in support of the project. Defendant WRIGHT
13 responded "you are a huge [f]ucking help" to which County Supervisor
14 1 replied: "[n]obody wants to fuck with their county supervisor when
15 it's me."

16 Overt Act No. 42: On July 13, 2015, after County Supervisor 1
17 asked defendant WRIGHT if he could pay Consulting Company 1's
18 retainer for July and August, defendant WRIGHT told County Supervisor
19 1 "[d]ude you get a bonus" and promised him an additional \$15,000.

20 Overt Act No. 43: On July 14, 2015, the day after County
21 Supervisor 1 addressed the joint ARC CHC meeting concerning
22 Development Company 1's San Luis Square Project, County Supervisor 1
23 sent Co-Conspirator 1 the following text messages: "I spoke with
24 everyone I needed to and it worked," "[ARC commissioner 1] told me my
25 comments made the difference with ARC," and "[s]o did [a CHC member]
26 with CHC."

27 Overt Act No. 44: On July 14, 2015, County Supervisor 1 sent
28 an email to defendant WRIGHT, copying an employee at Development

1 Company 1, with an attached invoice that stated, "San Luis Square
2 approval at ARC & CHC: BONUS" with the amount of \$15,000 under it,
3 the amount of \$4,900 for "July invoice," and a total amount due of
4 \$19,900.

5 Overt Act No. 45: On July 14, 2015, defendant WRIGHT forwarded
6 County Supervisor 1's July 14, 2015 email and invoice to Co-
7 Conspirator 1 and wrote that he gave County Supervisor 1 "a friendly
8 bonus" of \$15,000 and that County Supervisor 1 was a "difference
9 maker last night or one of them!"

10 Overt Act No. 46: On July 20, 2015, in a text message
11 exchange, County Supervisor 1 told defendant WRIGHT that the City's
12 Assistant City Attorney told County Supervisor 1's legislative aide
13 that "the big dog showed up and got the biggest downtown project
14 approved" and that the Assistant City Attorney told the legislative
15 aide that her boss, County Supervisor 1, was the "big dog" who
16 "knocked it out of the park."

17 Overt Act No. 47: On August 5, 2015, County Supervisor 1
18 deposited a \$25,000 check from Development Company 1's Bank of
19 America account made payable to Consulting Company 1 into Consulting
20 Company 1's Bank of America account. The check bore the signature of
21 "Ryan Petetit [defendant WRIGHT]," and its memo line read "July &
22 August consulting servies [sic] plus bonus."

23 Overt Act No. 48: On March 30, 2016, County Supervisor 1 filed
24 his Form 700 disclosure for calendar year 2015, and despite that he
25 was paid approximately \$49,950 from Development Company 1 via
26 Consulting Company 1 in 2015, he failed to report any outside income
27 received from either entity as required.

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1 **Defendant WRIGHT and Co-Conspirator 1 Funnel \$10,000 to**
2 **County Supervisor 1 for Votes Favoring Development Company 1**

3 Overt Act No. 49: On August 26, 2016, in a text exchange,
4 defendant WRIGHT told County Supervisor 1 that his project in
5 Templeton, California, an unincorporated part of the County, was
6 "done and approved."

7 Overt Act No. 50: On August 30, 2016, in a text message
8 exchange, defendant WRIGHT told County Supervisor 1 he would get him
9 a campaign donation of \$10,000 from his "buddies wife" before
10 providing the name of a woman who was married to a contractor working
11 with Development Company 1.

12 Overt Act No. 51: On September 4, 2016, in a text message
13 exchange, County Supervisor 1 asked defendant WRIGHT if he could
14 count on his financial support to which defendant WRIGHT responded
15 that he was "funneling money" to County Supervisor 1 through another
16 person and that he told Co-Conspirator 1 he planned to give County
17 Supervisor 1 \$10,000.

18 Overt Act No. 52: On September 12, 2016, in a text message
19 exchange, defendant WRIGHT asked if County Supervisor 1 was "ok" with
20 having to explain receiving a check from the wife of a contractor
21 working with Development Company 1. County Supervisor 1 told
22 defendant WRIGHT that it was "not gonna be a problem" but he "need[s]
23 the 10k."

24 Overt Act No. 53: On October 14, 2016, in response to Co-
25 Conspirator 1's request for a telephone call, Co-Conspirator 1 and
26 County Supervisor 1 had a five-minute conversation.

27 Overt Act No. 54: On October 18, 2016, at a County Board of
28 Supervisors meeting, County Supervisor 1 voted via consent agenda to

1 approve the final map for Development Company 1's Las Tablas Villas
2 project in Templeton.

3 Overt Act No. 55: On November 3, 2016, in a text message,
4 defendant WRIGHT told County Supervisor 1 that he was "closing up
5 that deal in Templeton," an unincorporated area in the County of San
6 Luis Obispo.

7 Overt Act No. 56: On November 5, 2016, in a text message,
8 defendant WRIGHT told County Supervisor 1 his check would not go to
9 the campaign but directly to Consulting Company 1.

10 Overt Act No. 57: On November 13, 2016, in a text message
11 exchange, defendant WRIGHT told County Supervisor 1 that "I have that
12 [Consulting Company 1] \$ for u." County Supervisor 1 asked "when?
13 I'm desperate."

14 Overt Act No. 58: On November 17, 2016, in a text message
15 exchange, County Supervisor 1 wrote "\$10,000!" to defendant WRIGHT,
16 after he complained about his need for money. County Supervisor 1
17 then clarified that the money would be paid to Consulting Company 1.
18 Later that day, defendant WRIGHT asked for Consulting Company 1's
19 Bank of America account.

20 Overt Act No. 59: On November 18, 2016, in a text message,
21 County Supervisor 1 asked defendant WRIGHT if he "[w]ant[ed] to buy
22 my Volvo?" and told him the lease was coming due and he could not
23 afford to buy it.

24 Overt Act No. 60: On November 23, 2016, in a text message
25 exchange, defendant WRIGHT told County Supervisor 1 that he should
26 have the "funds." After County Supervisor 1 expressed his gratitude,
27 defendant WRIGHT responded: "You earned it."

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1 Overt Act No. 61: On November 23, 2016, defendant WRIGHT
2 caused the transfer of \$10,000 from Development Company 1's Bank of
3 America account to Consulting Company 1's Bank of America account.

4 Overt Act No. 62: On March 29, 2017, County Supervisor 1 filed
5 his Form 700 disclosure for calendar year 2016 and despite that he
6 was paid \$10,000 from Development Company 1 via Consulting Company 1
7 in 2016, he failed to report any outside income from either entity as
8 required.

9 Overt Act No. 63: On May 23, 2017, the day after members of
10 the CHC expressed concerns about the San Luis Square project, Co-
11 Conspirator 1 sent County Supervisor 1 a text message indicating
12 Development Company 1 had a "[t]ough night at CHC last night" and
13 asked if County Supervisor 1 had time to talk.

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COUNT TWO

[18 U.S.C. § 1519]

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3 26. On or about August 22, 2022, within the Central District of
4 California, defendant RYAN WRIGHT, also known as "Ryan Petetit," in
5 relation to and in contemplation of a matter within the jurisdiction
6 of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, knowingly altered, falsified,
7 and made a record with the intent to impede, obstruct, and influence
8 the investigation and proper administration of that matter.
9 Specifically, defendant WRIGHT altered, falsified, and made an Excel
10 spreadsheet with entries claiming that Development Company 1 owed
11 County Supervisor 1 \$10,000 for work related to a project in Santa
12 Barbara County. In fact, as defendant WRIGHT then knew, the
13 spreadsheet had been altered after learning of the FBI investigation
14 to include references to the Santa Barbara project while the original
15 document included no such references.

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COUNT THREE

[18 U.S.C. § 1503]

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3 27. From on or about August 17, 2022 to on or about September
4 7, 2022, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of
5 California, and elsewhere, defendant RYAN WRIGHT, also known as "Ryan
6 Petetit," corruptly endeavored to influence, obstruct, and impede the
7 due administration of justice. Specifically, after Development
8 Company 1 received a federal grand jury subpoena on or August 17,
9 2022 seeking records concerning payments to County Supervisor 1 and
10 Consulting Company 1, defendant WRIGHT endeavored to influence,
11 obstruct, and impede the federal investigation with falsified
12 documentation and information regarding the purpose of Development
13 Company 1's payments to County Supervisor 1 and caused that falsified
14 documentation and information to be transmitted to the Federal Bureau
15 of Investigation and United States Attorney's Office in response to
16 the federal grand jury subpoena.

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FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

[18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)]

28. Pursuant to Rule 32.2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, notice is hereby given that the United States of America will seek forfeiture as part of any sentence, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), in the event of the defendant's conviction of the offenses set forth in either of Counts One or Three of this Indictment.

29. The defendant, if so convicted, shall forfeit to the United States of America the following:

(a) All right, title and interest in any and all property, real or personal, constituting, or derived from, any proceeds traceable to any such offense; and

(b) To the extent such property is not available for forfeiture, a sum of money equal to the total value of the property described in subparagraph (a).

30. Pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), the defendant, if so convicted, shall forfeit substitute property, up to the total value of the property described in the preceding paragraph if, as the result of any act or omission of the defendant, the property described in the preceding paragraph, or any portion thereof: (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; (b) has been transferred, sold to or deposited with a third party; (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court; (d) has been

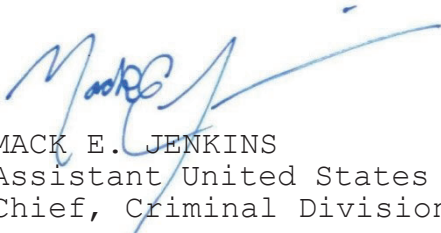
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1 substantially diminished in value; or (e) has been commingled with
2 other property that cannot be divided without difficulty.

3
4 A TRUE BILL

5
6 _____
7 Foreperson

8
9 E. MARTIN ESTRADA
United States Attorney

10 
11
12 MACK E. JENKINS
Assistant United States Attorney
Chief, Criminal Division

13
14 LINDSEY GREER DOTSON
Assistant United States Attorney
Chief, Public Corruption and
15 Civil Rights Section

16 THOMAS F. RYBARCZYK
Assistant United States Attorney
17 Public Corruption and Civil
Rights Section

18
19 DANIEL J. O'BRIEN
Assistant United States Attorney
Senior Litigation Counsel
20 Public Corruption and Civil
Rights Section