

California Department of Real Estate 1651 Exposition Boulevard Sacramento, CA 95815 <u>www.dre.ca.gov</u>

AND HOUSING AGENCY · GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM



## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 5, 2020 Contact: Shelly Wilson (916) 576-8100

## DRE REVOKES LICENSE OF ORANGE COUNTY REAL ESTATE BROKER LAURA PRECIADO FOR FRAUDULENT ACTIVITY

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Real Estate (DRE) has revoked the real estate broker license and mortgage loan originator license endorsements of Orange County real estate broker Laura Christina Preciado for defrauding prospective buyers of real estate, effective February 3, 2020.

Among other things, between January 2016 and January 2018 Preciado collected more than \$1 million in consumer deposits for properties she was not authorized to list. She also failed to put those deposits in trust and instead used some of the money on personal expenses or to pay back previous deposits. In addition, Preciado listed properties for which she had no valid listing agreements or authorizations from the properties' owners or agents.

"Preciado's actions are not only dishonest and criminal in nature, they are a complete disregard for the law and have caused severe financial harm to the public and the public's trust," said Acting Real Estate Commissioner Sandra Knau. "Consumer protection is DRE's highest priority and that is evident in this ruling."

In addition to DRE's actions against Preciado's licenses, she has also been charged with multiple felony counts of grand theft in two Orange County Superior Court cases related to her fraudulent real estate conduct. Her next court appearance is scheduled for February 24, 2020.

More information about DRE's actions against Laura Preciado can be found here: https://www2.dre.ca.gov/PublicASP/displayonlinedocument.asp?filing=H41332LA

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The mission of the California Department of Real Estate (DRE) is to safeguard and promote the public interests in real estate matters through licensure, regulation, education and enforcement. For more information, visit <u>www.dre.ca.gov</u>.