

# News Release

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## **CSLB Holiday Sting Targets Fake Contractors in Monterey County**

*CSLB cites two in Seaside for illegal contracting*

**SACRAMENTO** – 'Twas two days before Christmas, and the [Contractors State License Board](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) (CSLB) was stirring its ongoing efforts against unlicensed contracting. An undercover sting operation in Seaside on December 23, 2014, sent the message that there would be no holiday respite, with two individuals cited for violating state contracting laws.

“Illegal contractors are mistaken if they think they’re less likely to be caught at this time of year,” said CSLB [Registrar Steve Sands](#). “CSLB is serious about protecting the public, including weekends and holidays.”

CSLB’s [Statewide Investigative Fraud Team](#) (SWIFT) teamed up with the [Monterey County District Attorney’s Office](#) to conduct the sting at a home near Laguna Grande Regional Park. Investigators sought bids to build a handicap ramp leading to the home’s front porch.

One bogus contractor bid a range of \$1,000-\$3,000 to do the job and was cited for contracting without a license ([Business and Professions Code section 7028](#)). In California, all home improvement jobs valued at \$500 or more (combined labor and material costs) must be conducted by a company or person with a CSLB-issued license. He faces an additional charge of illegal advertising ([Business and Professions Code section 7027.1](#)). State law requires contractors to place their license number in all print, broadcast, and online advertisements.

The other man gave a \$1,550 bid for the work. He was cited for acting in the capacity of a salesperson for a home improvement contractor without being properly registered with CSLB ([Business and Professions Code section 7153](#)), and for illegal advertising.

The two suspects were ordered to appear at 8:15 a.m. on February 6, 2015, in Monterey County Superior Court, 230 Church Street, Salinas, CA 93901. ([MAP](#))

SUSPECT’S NAME CITY OF RESIDENCE	LICENSE CLASSIFICATION	ALLEGED VIOLATIONS
Sadahum Knalsa Seaside	<a href="#">B – General Building</a>	Contracting without a license, Illegal advertising
Jose Luis Mendoza Flores	<a href="#">B – General Building</a>	Acting in the capacity of a salesperson

Watsonville		without registration, Illegal advertising
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CSLB encourages consumers to always “Check The License First” by visiting [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) or calling its toll-free automated line: 800.321.CSLB (2752). Also, visit CSLB’s website for [tips](#) about how to hire a contractor and to sign up for [CSLB Email Alerts](#).

The Contractors State License Board operates under the umbrella of the [California Department of Consumer Affairs](#). CSLB licenses and regulates about 290,000 contractors in California, and is regarded as one of the leading consumer protection agencies in the United States. In fiscal year 2013-14, CSLB helped recover nearly \$51 million in ordered restitution for consumers.

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