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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAN ARRESTED ON \$600,000 WARRANT ISSUED
BY MERCED COUNTY

Edward Mitchell Jr., 47, was arrested on Wednesday April 5, 2017 at his residence in Eureka, as a result of a \$600,000 warrant issued out of Merced County for 14 felony counts of obtaining money, labor or property by false pretenses and 14 felony counts of diversion of construction funds, announced District Attorney Larry D. Morse II.

Mitchell is being held with a \$250,000 bail amount.

Between July 2014 and October 2015, CSLB investigated complaints regarding Mitchell accepting well-drilling deposits from at least 14 victims and then never returning to complete the work, said Enforcement Supervisor Winton Horn. Horn was the lead investigator with CSLB when the accusations began.

Mitchell was chief executive officer of Mitchell Drilling Environmental Corporation and had a valid CSLB license until April 26, 2016, when it was revoked, said Horn.

Mitchell was arrested by Humboldt County's District Attorney's Office, Investigations Unit, with the assistance of the California Contractor's State License Board after investigators with the Merced District Attorney's Office learned he resided in Eureka. He was booked into the Humboldt County Jail, and has since been transported to Merced County Jail.

"It is good to see that he is going to have to explain to the homeowners where the money went," Horn added.

According to investigators, some of his victims experienced additional hardships because their permits to drill their wells had expired and due to a change in county ordinances, their land no longer was eligible for a permit.

Any additional victims are encouraged to contact the CSLB Fresno District Office at (559) 490-0580.