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PRESS RELEASE

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Arsonist Sentenced for Destroying Oroville Apartment Construction Site

An Oroville woman was sentenced this afternoon on a charge of arson for her act of burning down an Oroville apartment complex that was under construction causing over a million dollars in damage.

Jamie Gorman, 40, of Oroville, who has been in custody since the September 9, 2021 fire, was given an additional 120 days in Butte County Jail as part of a two-year probationary time ordered by Superior Court Judge Jesus Rodriguez.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said Gorman plead no contest in October of this year to a felony count of arson. Ramsey said that on the evening of September 9, 2021, Oroville Police officers responded to a report of a smoke alarm at the Olive Ranch construction site of a new apartment complex at Grand Avenue and Table Mountain Boulevard. When the officers arrived to the site, officers saw smoke coming from within the site and discovered fire coming from within the structure, which spread rapidly to the rest of the two-story unfinished structure. Cal Fire and the Oroville Fire Department successfully put out the fully-involved fire. Unfortunately, the fire not only burnt down the entire construction site, but also partially melted the wall of a nearby apartment complex and three tenants' vehicles parked nearby.

A surveillance camera on scene captured a view of Gorman entering the construction site alone. The video also showed Gorman pulling an erosion control straw wattle from the fence into the structure. Approximately one minute after she exited the structure, smoke was visible then a glow from the fire could be seen.

Gorman told the court that she was homeless at the time of the fire and using excessive amounts of alcohol and methamphetamine. She said that at the time she set the fire she was hallucinating that the apartment complex construction was somehow a place of evil that needed to be destroyed.

In sentencing Gorman, Judge Rodriguez noted that this was her first felony conviction and that as conditions of probation, Gorman was ordered to begin a residential drug and alcohol program after her 120 days of jail, to wear an GPS ankle monitor and to register as an arson felon. The judge also ordered she pay \$1,178,688.98 in restitution to Olive Ranch Construction, as well as ordered restitution to the owners of the vehicles that were damaged. Gorman faces four years in state prison should she fail probation.

