



## Attorney General files against local contractor

By ANGEL PACHECO  
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A legal dispute over a multi-million-dollar home has drawn the attention of the Contractors State License Board and state attorney general, which have filed to revoke or suspend the license of Santa Barbara-based builders Armstrong Associates Inc.

The accusations, filed by the Office of the Attorney General on behalf of board enforcement supervisor Wood Robinson, alleges the Santa Barbara Street contractor, without legal reason, abandoned construction of the \$3.19 million home of James and Karen Bell on Hidden Valley Road in 2009.

The case is pending before the Registrar of Contractors.

Armstrong Associates attorney David Schlueter is confident the charges will be dismissed as soon as the contractor has an opportunity to present evidence and documentation.

The homeowners initiated the case by making a complaint to the board, which has so far only considered the Bells' point of view in its investigation, Mr. Schlueter said.

Mr. Schlueter contends the Bells wouldn't pay Armstrong Associates the final \$250,000 for construction.

The residence, which was left unfinished after nearly two years of construction, is the subject of an extensive lawsuit pending in Santa Barbara County Superior Court.

The board enforcement supervisor alleges Armstrong Associates departed from plans and

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specifications without the owners' permission, failed to maintain the proper permit to haul soil, and overcharged for hauling away excess soil.

In addition to revoking or suspending Armstrong Associates' contracting license, the enforcement supervisor is looking to have the company billed for damages.

Armstrong Associates' contractor license is current and active.



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