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Former controller charged with embezzlement

By Michelle Durand

A 37-year-old controller who served prison time for grand theft stole \$225,841 from the Foster City flooring company where she worked and used some of the money for a down payment on a home, according to prosecutors who charged her with embezzlement.

Lina Hinds also faces special enhancements based on the amount of money in question — known as excessive taking — and committing a crime while on bail which could tack more time on to any potential sentence if convicted. Hinds could face up to eight years, said Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

Hinds has pleaded not guilty to all charges and allegations. She remains free from custody on her own recognizance while awaiting Superior Court arraignment March 29.

Between May 1 and July 11, Hinds took \$225,841 from her Foster city employer by forging the chief executive officer's signature on checks and authorizing a line of credit, according to the District Attorney's Office,

Hinds reportedly used the money for personal needs, including a down payment on a home.

When the CEO noticed the missing money, Hinds allegedly offered to pay back the stolen funds. Instead, authorities were alerted and prosecutors filed charges in October.

In 1999, Hinds was convicted of grand theft greater than \$400 in Los Angeles County and sent to prison.

She also has a pending case out of Auburn for which she was on bail, Wagstaffe said.

She has no prior criminal convictions in San Mateo County, according to court records clerks.

Michelle Durand can be reached by e-mail: michelle@smdailyjournal.com or by phone: (650) 344-5200 ext. 102. What do you think of this story? Send a letter to the editor: letters@smdailyjournal.com.