

Firm fined, will make restitution for underpaying workers

One of eight area firms accused of underpaying workers on federally funded construction projects was fined \$2,500 yesterday and ordered to make restitution to the workers.

U.S. District Judge Judith N. Keep imposed the penalty on Cartel Construction, doing business as United Constructors of El Cajon.

The firm, accused of violating the federal Davis-Bacon Act, which requires that workers on federal projects be paid at the prevailing rate of the local area, pleaded guilty to making a false statement about the wages being paid.

United Constructors performed work under a \$162,000 subcontract on

the Golden Age Garden Apartments at 740 S. 36th St., in San Diego. It was accused of underpaying 18 workers about \$24,000.

Attorney Peter J. Hughes, representing the company, said \$25,000 already is on deposit to cover restitution. The amount of actual restitution is to be determined by the Department of Labor.

on government jobs for three years. Hughes told the court the 1982 incident was the firm's first venture in government contracting. The company, he said, actually lost \$52,000 on the job.

Guilty pleas also have been entered on behalf of at least three other firms, now awaiting sentencing.

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