

The Solano County Auditor-Controller's Whistleblower Program Status Update June 2011

Significant Issues Update

During the past year, the Auditor-Controller's Internal Audit Division continued to operate the County Whistleblower Program. The program includes a special hotline number (866)384-TIPS and a website for submission of reports. The reports received were reviewed by the Internal Audit Division of the Auditor-Controller's Office in cooperation with Appointed and Elected Department Heads and the County Administrator as deemed appropriate.

From March 15, 2010 through April 1, 2011, the Whistleblower Program received 37 reports of perceived incidence of fraud, waste and abuse, or violations of policy or law. Reports were received in the following categories; possible violations of Law/County policy (25), timesheet fraud (4), unauthorized/inappropriate use of County property (2), contracting for services (1), and other (5).

The Internal Audit Division opened cases for 31 of the 37 reports received. The remaining 6, all under the category of violations of Law were referred to agencies outside the County for further investigation and/or legal action.

Of the 31 cases opened, 24 of the cases were closed and 7 remain open and under review by County Departments.

Of the 24 cases closed, 21 were found to not have merit. The 3 found to have merit were in the category of violations of law/county policy with one being welfare fraud.

In cases where no fraud, waste, or abuse was found, the review by our office or County Department management resulted in improvements to processes and controls. These improvements help to prevent future potential issues of fraud, waste and abuse.

The Whistleblower Program continues to demonstrate success in the identification of County-related matters in potential fraud, waste and abuse. The Program continues to improve controls, and oversight throughout the County. The Whistleblower Program is a successful addition to the County's efforts to ensure accountability by providing a process for employees and other County citizens to report perceived incidence of fraud, waste and abuse.