

County Whistleblower Report for July-December 2012

The Auditor-Controller's Internal Audit Division continues 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 department heads and the County Administrator as deemed appropriate.

From July 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, the Whistleblower Program received 14 reports of perceived incidence of fraud, waste and abuse, or violations of policy or law. Reports were received in the following categories:

- violations of law/County policy (4)
- timesheet fraud (1)
- welfare fraud (2)
- waste of County funds (2)
- other (5)

Eight of the cases were found to not have merit. The two welfare fraud cases were referred to the H&SS Special Investigations Bureau for further investigation into alleged welfare fraud and were found to have merit.

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The following four cases were found to have merit:

| <i>Complaint Allegation</i> | <i>Resolution</i> |
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| A supervisory employee was abusing the overtime system by taking all the overtime for herself and denying other employees the opportunity to earn overtime. | The supervisory employee was instructed to share overtime with all qualified employees who were willing to work when overtime was needed. |
| A County contract was mismanaged. Delay in execution of the contract resulted in a loss of \$60,000 in incentive funds to the County. | The employee who managed the contract resigned from the County. The department head has implemented improved management controls to improve accountability in future projects. |
| An employee was wasting work time by watching videos at his desk when he should have been working. | Employee counseled by supervisor on his inappropriate use of time. Employee agreed to cease watching videos at his desk during work hours. |
| An employee was reviewing the work of employees that were direct relatives of the employee in violation of the County personal relationship policy. | Policies were changed to require employees to excuse themselves from reviewing the work of employees to whom they are related. |

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.

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