



# Solano County Auditor-Controller's Whistleblower Program Status Update June 30, 2016

## Significant Issues Update

The Auditor-Controller's Internal Audit Division operates the County's 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 in cooperation with Appointed and Elected Department Heads and the County Administrator as deemed appropriate.

From January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016, the Auditor-Controller's Office received 278 contacts through the Whistleblower Program. Thirty-three were reports of perceived incidence of fraud, waste, and abuse, or violations of County policy or law. Two hundred forty-five were determined not to be County Whistleblower matters because the complaint failed to provide sufficient information, or the allegation was not within the scope of the County's whistleblower program. In addition, there were eight complaints from our last report. Four remain open with an investigation in progress and four were closed, bringing the caseload to 41.

Reports of valid whistleblower matters were received in the following categories:

- 12 Violations of Law and/or County policy
- 7 Welfare fraud
- 3 Management conduct
- 1 Environmental nuisance
- 18 Other

Of the 41 complaints:

- 3 were substantiated and found to have merit
- 14 were found to not have merit
- 11 remain open with investigation in progress
- 4 were closed due to insufficient information
- 9 were referred to appropriate agencies and were closed

Details about the complaints found to have merit are as follows:

<i><b>Complaint Allegation</b></i>	<i><b>Resolution</b></i>
Seven complaints of alleged welfare fraud were referred to H&SS Special Investigations Bureau (SIB) for investigation.	The complaints were investigated by SIB. Two complaints were found to have merit while five complaints were found to not have merit.
A County employee was operating a County vehicle to go out for lunch.	The complaint was investigated by the department. The employee was counseled and advised of County policy.

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 promotes accountability and oversight throughout the County by providing a process for employees and other County citizens to report perceived incidence of fraud, waste, and abuse in policy and practice.

For questions, please contact Kirk Starkey, Internal Audit Manager, at (707) 784-3057.