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Ventura County Performance Auditing

The 2016-2017 Ventura County Grand Jury conducted an investigation into the Internal Audit Division's performance in the combined Auditor-Controller environment. Only six percent of the elected Auditor/Controller's budget is allocated to the Internal Audit Division, which conducts performance audits evaluating whether taxpayer dollars are being spent in an efficient, effective, and economic manner.

The Internal Audit Division has completed an average of 12 reports a year over the past four years. Yet, its Fiscal Year 2016-17 Internal Audit Plan lists 99 Future Potential Audit Subjects to be pursued as staff resources allow. The Grand Jury recommends the Auditor-Controller clearly define the intended use of this list and reduce it to a realistic and achievable number.

There is no written evaluation of the Internal Audit Division's performance in meeting its goals and objectives. For instance, the Grand Jury concluded it is impossible to determine if 80% of performance audits had resulted in added revenue or cost savings or if the audits had met their stated target of saving \$500,000 each fiscal year.

The Grand Jury recommends the Auditor-Controller publish an annual report evaluating the Internal Audit Division's success in meeting its goals and objectives. Regular communication with County elected officials, staff, and the public would highlight the work of the Internal Audit Division and increase its perceived value, particularly in the area of saving taxpayers' money.

The complete report may be accessed at www.ventura.org/grand-jury; click on the Annual Reports tab and select "Fiscal Year 2016-2017."