



COUNTY OF VENTURA

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

Employee Fraud Hotline Report *Update #20* For the Period January through June 2011

Three ways to contact the Hotline:

Call:
(805) 644-6019



Write:
Employee Fraud Hotline
Ventura County Auditor-Controller
Administration Building L#1540
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

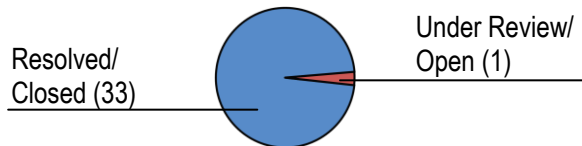
E-Mail*:
Fraud.Hotline@ventura.org
* E-mail is not confidential.

I am pleased to present the Semi-Annual Report of the Employee Fraud Hotline for the period January through June 2011. The Employee Fraud Hotline was established as an avenue to report fraud, waste, and abuse occurring at the County of Ventura. I encourage employees to resolve concerns through their normal administrative channels whenever possible. However, the Employee Fraud Hotline provides an alternative reporting mechanism to ensure that concerns about possible wrongdoing in our County government are properly addressed. This report reflects information provided to the Board of Supervisors on July 26, 2011.

Christine L. Cohen
Auditor-Controller

Hotline Activity at a Glance . . . During January through June 2011, the Employee Fraud Hotline received 34 new complaints of improper activity, of which we pursued 23 (68%). Eight of the new issues were not pursued because the complainants were redirected to other hotlines or other appropriate agencies, and three issues were not pursued due to insufficient information.

As of June 30, 2011, most of the 34 new issues have been resolved/closed:



During January through June 2011, we resolved/closed a total of 44 Hotline issues out of the 47 total complaints that were under review/open (34 new complaints and 13 complaints from prior periods):

Summary Outcomes of 44 Hotline Issues Resolved/Closed during January-June 2011

Substantiated (see description below).....	2
Unsubstantiated	31
Redirected to Other Hotlines/Agencies.....	8
Insufficient Information	3

Most of the new complaints were made by phone:

Contact Method

Phone	70%
Regular Mail	24%
E-mail	6%

DESCRIPTION OF SUBSTANTIATED COMPLAINTS

- Unauthorized Disbursements.** An employee signed County checks without proper authority as a deputized auditor-controller. The department has been instructed to cease with such practice and discussions are ongoing to resolve departmental concerns.
- Improper Sharing of Computer Password.** An employee inappropriately shared a County computer password with a volunteer. The employee was counseled by management, and policies and procedures were reviewed for sufficiency.