



# COUNTY OF VENTURA

# AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

## Employee Fraud Hotline Report... Update #11 For the Period July through December 2006

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 July through December 2006. 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 January 23, 2007.

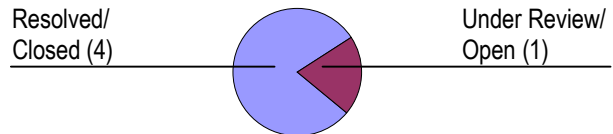
Christine L. Cohen  
Auditor-Controller

**Hotline Activity at a Glance . . .** During July through December 2006, the Employee Fraud Hotline received five new complaints of improper governmental activities, of which we pursued three (60%), all of which involved complaints about department operations. Two issues were not pursued because one caller was redirected to another hotline and one issue was closed due to insufficient information.

Most of the five new complainants chose to identify themselves as members of the General Public:

- **Complainant Anonymity:**  
Not Anonymous . . . . . 80%  
Anonymous. . . . . 20%
- **Complainant Source:**  
General Public . . . . . 60%  
County Employees. . . . . 20%  
Unknown . . . . . 20%

As of December 31, 2006, most of the five new issues have been resolved / closed:



During July through December 2006, we resolved/closed a total of 4 of the new Hotline issues, as no complaints were under review/open from prior periods:

### Summary Outcomes of 4 Hotline Issues Resolved/Closed during July-December 2006

- Substantiated (see description below) . . . 1
- Unsubstantiated. . . . . 1
- Redirected to another hotline. . . . . 1
- Insufficient information. . . . . 1

Although the Hotline can be contacted via phone, e-mail, or regular mail, we continue to receive most Hotline complaints by phone:

- **Contact Method:**  
Phone. . . . . 80%  
E-mail. . . . . 20%

### DESCRIPTION OF SUBSTANTIATED COMPLAINT

**Fraud Reporting.** A County department had not established adequate policies to follow-up on staff reports of suspected fraud committed by clients. Although specific instances of inappropriate follow-up were not identified, the department established formalized procedures and scheduled additional employee training to facilitate the proper handling of suspected fraud.