



COUNTY OF VENTURA

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

Employee Fraud Hotline Report ... Update #10 For the Period January through June 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 January through June 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 July 25, 2006.

Christine L. Cohen
Auditor-Controller

Hotline Activity at a Glance . . . From January through June 2006, the Employee Fraud Hotline received seven new complaints of improper governmental activities. Of the seven new complaints, we pursued six, involving three personnel and three operational issues, and redirected one to the State Medi-Cal Fraud Hotline. All seven new issues, reported by anonymous individuals, had been resolved/closed as of June 30, 2006.

Summary Statistics of Complaints Received During January-June 2006

Personnel.....	3
Operational.....	3
Other	1
Total Number of Complaints	7
Issues Resolved/Closed.....	7

In all, we resolved/closed a total of nine Hotline issues out of the nine complaints that were under review/open (7 new complaints and 2 complaints from prior periods) from January through June 2006. Eight of the nine issues resolved/closed were reviewed by other County agencies/departments and one by the Auditor-Controller's Office.

Summary Outcomes of 9 Hotline Issues Resolved/Closed During January-June 2006

Substantiated (see description below).....	2
Unsubstantiated.....	6
Redirected to Other Hotline.....	1

On average, Hotline issues received during the second half of fiscal year 2005-06 were resolved/closed within 25 days of the allegation being made.

DESCRIPTION OF SUBSTANTIATED COMPLAINTS

- Time Abuse.** A County employee actively promoted a personal home-based business while on County time. The employee agreed to confine any activity related to the home-based business to non-work areas and hours, pursuant to the County's policy on *Solicitations at County Facilities*.
- Distribution of Restitution Payments.** Restitution amounts were not adequately collected and distributed to a claimant. The responsible agency has resolved case management system delays and has distributed all restitution amounts collected to the claimant.