



COUNTY OF VENTURA

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

Employee Fraud Hotline Report *Update #14* For the Period January through June 2008

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.

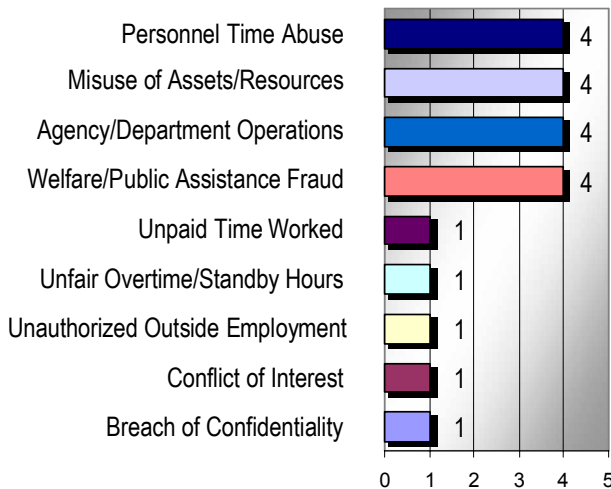
I am pleased to present the Semi-Annual Report of the Employee Fraud Hotline for the period January through June 2008. The Employee Fraud Hotline was established as an avenue to report fraud, waste, and abuse occurring at the County of Ventura. I encourage employees to resolve concerns through their 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 August 5, 2008.

Christine L. Cohen
Auditor-Controller

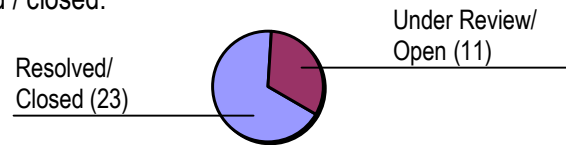
Hotline Activity at a Glance . . . During January through June 2008, the Employee Fraud Hotline received 34 new complaints of improper governmental activities, of which we pursued 21 (62%). Twelve issues were not pursued because the complainants were redirected to other hotlines, and one issue was reserved as a future audit subject.

The 21 new complaints that we pursued involved the following types of issues:

Types and Number of New Hotline Issues Pursued



As of June 30, 2008, most of the 34 new issues have been resolved / closed:



During January through June 2008, we resolved/closed a total of 30 Hotline issues out of the 43 total complaints that were under review/open (34 new complaints and 9 complaints from prior periods):

Summary Outcomes of 30 Hotline Issues Resolved/Closed during January-June 2008

Substantiated (see description below)	4
Unsubstantiated	13
Redirected to other hotlines	12
Reserved as future audit subject	1

DESCRIPTION OF SUBSTANTIATED COMPLAINTS

- Conflict of Interest.** A County department improperly purchased goods from a company owned and operated by an employee of the department. The department subsequently closed the \$25,000 blanket purchase order with the company.
- Outside Employment.** Two County employees were employed by outside companies without proper authorization in violation of the County's Personnel Rules and Regulations. The department took action to require the employees to complete the required forms for proper authorization and approval.
- Whistleblower Protection.** A County department improperly implemented a policy to discourage staff from reporting possible program fraud outside of the established procedure. The department amended the policy to allow employees the ability to self-report to outside agencies without fear of reprisal.
- Breach of Confidentiality.** A County employee improperly disclosed confidential County information to an individual in a public setting. Although not the sole cause for dismissal, the employee was terminated.