

CHRISTINE L. COHEN  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009-1540



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BARBARA BEATTY  
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August 4, 2009

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, California 93009

**SUBJECT: Receive and File the Semi-Annual Report of Employee Fraud Hotline Activity for January through June 2009**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive and file.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Auditor-Controller's Office officially established the Employee Fraud Hotline (Hotline) in August 2001 to address complaints of fraud, waste, and abuse, which indicate areas of risk and exposure to the County.

Hotline issues may be reported by telephone at (805) 644-6019, e-mail at [Fraud.Hotline@ventura.org](mailto:Fraud.Hotline@ventura.org), and regular mail through the Auditor-Controller's Office.

**DISCUSSION:**

During the second half of fiscal year 2008-09, the Hotline received 44 new complaints of improper activity, of which 20 (45%) have been closed and 24 (55%) remain under review. Most of the issues were reported by anonymous individuals, mainly regarding payroll/personnel concerns and allegations of mismanagement as shown in the attached report.

During January through June 2009, we also resolved 15 of 23 issues from prior periods that were still under review. Two complaints were substantiated during the reporting period.

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In brief, our Hotline policy requires that we evaluate and follow all reported issues until we determine that the issues have been satisfactorily resolved. Therefore, we may take various courses of action depending on our evaluation of the allegation, including actions that may require the cooperation and assistance of other County agencies/departments.

This letter has been coordinated with the District Attorney, County Executive Office, County Counsel, and Health Care Agency (HCA) Compliance Office. If you have any questions, please contact me at 654-3151.

Sincerely,



CHRISTINE L. COHEN  
Auditor-Controller

Exhibit – Semi-Annual Report of Employee Fraud Hotline Activity, January through June 2009

cc: Honorable Gregory D. Totten, District Attorney  
Marty Robinson, County Executive Officer  
Noel A. Klebaum, County Counsel  
Paul E. Lorenz, HCA, Compliance Officer