



To: Board of Supervisors
 From: Phyllis Taynton, CPA, Auditor-Controller
 Date: September 3, 2021
 Subject: Significant Issues Update

1) Whistleblower Program Update, January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021

The County Auditor-Controller's Internal Audit Division (Division) administers the County's Whistleblower Program (Program). The Program includes a special hotline number (866) 384-TIPS and a website for submission of complaints. The complaints received were reviewed by the Audit Division in cooperation with Appointed and Elected Department Heads and the County Administrator as deemed appropriate.

From January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021, the Division received 33 complaints of perceived incidences of fraud, waste, and abuse, or violations of County policy or law through the Whistleblower Program. Of the 33 complaints, 18 were determined not to be County Whistleblower matters because the complaint failed to provide sufficient information, or the allegation was not within the scope of the County's Whistleblower Program (e.g. COVID rules violations committed by local establishments) and was referred to the applicable agency. There are no complaints remaining from our last report. As a result, there were 15 cases reviewed this period.

The 15 Whistleblower Program complaints reviewed are summarized by category as follows:

- 7 Violations of law and/or County policy
- 6 Welfare fraud
- 2 Management conduct

Of these 15 complaints:

- 7 Were determined to not have merit
- 5 Were closed due to insufficient information
- 3 Are open with active investigation

Details about the complaints found to have merit as follows:

Complaint Allegation(s)	Resolution
Six (6) complaints of alleged welfare fraud were referred to H&SS Special Investigations Bureau (SIB) for investigation.	The complaints were investigated by SIB. Four (4) complaints were found to not have merit. Two (2) complaints are still open with an investigation in progress as of June 30, 2021.

The Whistleblower Program continues to serve as a successful tool to aide in the identification of County-related matters of potential fraud, waste, and abuse. The Program looks at and addresses controls and promotes accountability and oversight throughout the County by providing a process for employees and County residents to report perceived incidence of fraud, waste, and abuse in policy and practice.

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