



COUNTY OF VENTURA

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

Employee Fraud Hotline Report ... Update #8 For the Period January through June 2005

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.

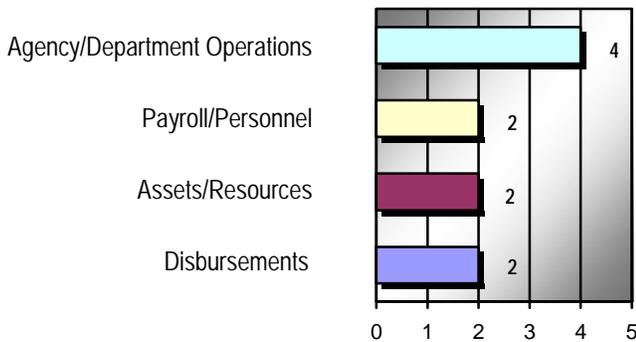
I am pleased to present the Semi-Annual Report of the Employee Fraud Hotline, which was established as an avenue to report fraud, waste, and abuse occurring at the County of Ventura. I encourage employees to resolve concerns through their normal administrative channels whenever possible. However, the 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 26, 2005.

*Christine L. Cohen
Auditor-Controller*

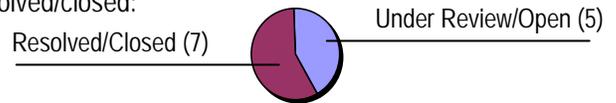
Hotline Activity at a Glance . . . During January through June 2005, the Employee Fraud Hotline received 12 new complaints of improper governmental activities, of which we pursued 10 (83%). We did not pursue two issues because one caller was redirected to another hotline and one issue was closed due to insufficient information.

The 10 new complaints that we pursued mainly involved agency/department operations:

**Types and Number of
New Hotline Issues Pursued**



As of June 30, 2005, most of the 12 new issues have been resolved/closed:



During January through June 2005, we resolved/closed a total of 8 Hotline issues out of the 14 total complaints that were under review/open (12 new complaints and 2 prior open complaints):

Summary Outcomes of 8 Hotline Issues Resolved/Closed during January-June 2005

Substantiated (see description below) . . .	3
Unsubstantiated.	3
Redirected caller to another hotline.	1
Insufficient information.	1

DESCRIPTION OF SUBSTANTIATED COMPLAINTS

- Zero-Dollar Checks.** Payroll checks were issued for zero-dollar amounts potentially increasing the possibility that the check amount could be fraudulently altered. The responsible department enhanced their new check printing process and discontinued issuing zero-dollar payroll checks by providing a copy of the check printed on plain white paper.
- Employee Anniversary Gifts.** Employee anniversary gifts (presented to employees on their 5, 10,...40-year employment anniversary date) appeared overpriced by the vendor and could be purchased elsewhere for a fraction of the cost. The responsible department will issue a new Request for Proposal to determine whether better pricing could be achieved.
- Unreported Time Off.** Two employees did not properly report all time off from work. The department ensured that appropriate timecard adjustments were made to reduce the employees' accumulated leave hours.