COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

AUDITOR • CONTROLLER • TREASURER • TAX COLLECTOR

JAMES P. ERB, CPA
Auditor-Controller
Treasurer-Tax Collector

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Whistleblower Hotline Report
As of March 31, 2014

The San Luis Obispo County Whistleblower Hotline was established in November 2013 to provide a mechanism by which employees and citizens may contribute to the accountability, transparency, and responsibility of the county by reporting financial fraud, waste, and abuse.

The Whistleblower Hotline includes a toll-free hotline number (855-326-9623) and website (reportlineweb.com/sanluisobispo) which are accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days week and are administered by an independent hotline provider. Reports may be submitted anonymously.

Reports received are reviewed by the County's Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector and the Chief Internal Auditor in conjunction with County Counsel, Human Resources, and Department Heads, as appropriate.

From the hotline's inception in November 2013 through March 31, 2014 the Whistleblower Hotline received ten reports regarding perceived instances of fraud, waste, and/or abuse.

The reports received related to the following categories:

- Management Conduct (4)
- Conflicts of Interest (1)
- Abuse/Waste of County Time by Employee (1)
- Timesheet/Payroll Fraud (1)
- Waste of County Resources (1)
- Other (2)

The disposition of the ten cases includes:

- Two were found to be unsubstantiated
- Two were referred to County Counsel and the Department Heads of the departments named in the report for follow-up
- Two were referred to Department Heads for departmental follow-up
- Two were incorporated into the internal audit division's annual audit plan
- One was closed due to insufficient information upon which to follow-up
- One was substantiated and ultimately referred to the District Attorney

The substantiated report concerned an allegation that a seller on eBay, who was selling land located in San Luis Obispo County, was not the legal owner of the land. The internal audit division working with the tax-collector division determined that the report had merit, and forwarded it to the District Attorney.