

## COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO AUDITOR - CONTROLLER • TREASURER - TAX COLLECTOR

James W. Hamilton, CPA Auditor-Controller 

◆ Treasurer-Tax Collector

## Whistleblower Hotline Report As of September 30, 2021

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 oversight of the County by reporting suspected financial fraud, waste, and abuse. From inception in November 2013 through September 30, 2021, the Whistleblower Hotline received 281 reports.

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 a 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 Internal Audit Division in conjunction with County Counsel, Human Resources, and Department Heads, as appropriate.

Eleven reports were received in the 1st quarter of Fiscal Year 2021-22, ending September 30, 2021.

The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter reports received related to the following categories:

- Violation of Federal, State, City, or County Regulation (6)
- Misconduct (4)
- Other (1) –report related to a medical records request.

The disposition of the 11 cases includes:

- Five were referred to the appropriate Department Head.
- Three contained insufficient information and follow up requests for additional information were not responded to.
- One was referred to both the appropriate Department Head and Human Resources.
- One was referred to the Administrative Office.
- One was related to non-County business and was referred to the District Attorney.

The San Luis Obispo County Whistleblower Program improves controls and promotes accountability and oversight throughout the County through the identification of potential fraud, waste, and abuse. The Whistleblower Program contributes to the County's vision of a well-governed community.