



## **Whistleblower Hotline Report As of March 31, 2024**

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 March 31, 2024, the Whistleblower Hotline received 345 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.

Ten reports were received in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of Fiscal Year 2023-24, ending March 31, 2024.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter reports received related to the following categories:

- Misconduct (5)
- Violation of Federal, State, City, or County Regulation (3)
- Safety/Sanitation (2)

The disposition of the cases includes:

- Three were referred to the Human Resources Department.
- Three did not include sufficient info to refer/investigate.
- Two were referred to Department Heads.
- Two were related to non-County operations and referred to outside agencies.

Two cases that were previously pending are now closed. One case related to misconduct was closed due to insufficient information to refer/investigate. One case alleging mismanagement of resources by a County employee was substantiated. The substantiation as well as an internal HR investigation led to the employee's termination.

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.