

The California State Auditor released the following report today:

Investigations of Improper Activities by State Agencies and Employees

Misuse of State Resources, Forgery, False Time Reporting, Financial Interests Disclosure Violations, and Waste of State Funds

BACKGROUND

The California Whistleblower Protection Act (whistleblower act) empowers the state auditor to investigate allegations of improper governmental activities by state agencies and employees. The whistleblower act defines an “improper governmental activity” as any action by a state agency or employee during the performance of official duties that violates state or federal law, is wasteful, or involves gross misconduct, incompetence, or inefficiency.

KEY FINDINGS

In regards to allegations of improper governmental activities pursuant to the whistleblower act, the state auditor completed and reported on six investigations with substantiated improper governmental activities, including the following:

- Four psychiatrists at Patton State Hospital regularly worked an average of 22 to 29 hours per week from July 2014 through June 2015 rather than the required 40-hour per week average. In total they worked 2,254 fewer hours than what was required at a total cost to the State of \$296,800.
- A supervising nurse at California Correctional Health Care Services forged multiple military documents and falsely reported his time regarding his purported reservist duties, ultimately receiving compensation and benefits totaling \$6,000 to which he was not entitled.
- A psychiatrist violated the California Political Reform Act of 1974 by failing to disclose income of \$29,800 that he received from a pharmaceutical company.
- The Department of Water Resources wasted \$4,500 in state funds when it improperly reimbursed three employees in excess of the allowed amount for training. Further, this department potentially could have saved \$50,800 had its staff appropriately followed its training policies when reimbursing another seven employees.
- The Porterville Developmental Center wasted \$25,600 when it failed to charge 566 hours of leave to 12 employees who missed scheduled nine-hour or 10-hour workdays but were only charged for eight hours of leave.

This report also outlines the investigative results from four investigations that were best suited for other state agencies to investigate on our behalf. State departments must report to the state auditor any corrective or disciplinary action taken in response to the recommendations made by the state auditor no later than 60 days after we notify the agency or authority of the improper activity and monthly thereafter until corrective action is completed.

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To report suspected improper governmental activities, contact the Whistleblower Hotline: (800) 952-5665, mail information to the state auditor, or submit a complaint online to www.auditor.ca.gov