



CALIFORNIA STATE AUDITOR

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FACT SHEET

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Report: 2008-041

The California State Auditor released the following report today:

Recommendations Not Fully Implemented After One Year

The Omnibus Audit Accountability Act of 2006

BACKGROUND

The California State Auditor offers government decision makers solutions for streamlining processes which, if implemented, could ultimately save taxpayers millions of dollars. We also offer transparent findings, which are free from outside influence, including that of the Legislature, governor, and the subjects of our audits and investigations. As the independent external auditor, we ensure that public programs are delivered in the most efficient and effective manner and that public funds are spent wisely, benefiting all Californians. Each year our recommendations result in meaningful changes to government operations and the opportunity for agencies to save the State millions of dollars. Our audit efforts bring the greatest returns when the auditee acts upon our findings and recommendations.

The Omnibus Audit Accountability Act (Accountability Act) of 2006 requires state agencies to report to us their status in implementing the recommendations we make in our audit reports. Further, the Accountability Act requires the California State Auditor to annually report to the Legislature the recommendations that state agencies have yet to fully implement.

RESULTS

From January 2005 through October 2007, the California State Auditor issued 46 reports for audits requested through the Joint Legislative Audit Committee or through legislation. Based on the most recent responses from state agencies, we reported the following:

- We identified 63 recommendations made to 17 state agencies that had been outstanding for more than one year but were not yet fully implemented. We reported 40 of these recommendations in last year's Accountability Act report in January 2008.
- Although not fully implemented, many agencies have reported progress in implementing the recommendations. For example, the Department of Health Services reported that, as a result of our findings and recommendations, it has begun recouping payments it incorrectly made to long-term facilities. The department reported that it has thus far recovered \$5.3 million.
- Of the 63 recommendations that had been outstanding for more than one year, agencies still have not fully implemented 49 as of November 2008.
- Although some agencies reported that they will begin or continue fully implementing the recommendations within 90 days, others did not provide an implementation date. In addition, some agencies reported that they will not implement the recommendation or they do not plan to fully implement for several years. For example, in one case, an agency stated that it would fully implement the recommendation in 2012.

