



FACT SHEET

ELAINE M. HOWLE
State Auditor

Date: **September 21, 2006**

Report: **I2006-2**

The California State Auditor released the following report today:

**Investigations of Improper Activities by State Employees
January 2006 Through June 2006**

KEY FINDINGS

This report details the results of investigations completed by the Bureau of State Audits (bureau) or by other state agencies on our behalf between January 1, 2006, and June 30, 2006, that substantiated complaints. Following are examples of substantiated improper acts.

State employees and departments engaged in improper activities, including the following:

- A Department of Forestry and Fire Protection employee falsified his time sheets to receive \$17,904 in wages for 672 hours not worked.
- A Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (Corrections) employee submitted false time sheets and failed to charge leave balances for 78 hours not worked.
- A Department of Industrial Relations employee misused bereavement leave for time she missed from work while she was incarcerated.
- A Corrections employee failed to obtain a psychology license as is required for his position.

UPDATES ON PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ISSUES

- Corrections disciplined five employees for mismanaging state funds.
- The Department of Motor Vehicles issued a two-step demotion to an employee for time and attendance abuse; however, it agreed to continue to pay her salary at the rate she was paid prior to the demotion.
- Corrections reported that it established accounts receivable for 13 of 25 nurses who improperly received increases in pay associated with supervising inmates.
- Corrections required an employee to repay \$5,072 in commuting and travel-related costs to which she was not entitled.
- Corrections failed to charge 4,568 hours against the union time bank, in addition to the 10,980 hours we previously reported, for a total cost to the State of \$589,661.
- The Department of Health Services reported that its corrective and adverse action is still under review for improper contracting practices we reported in September 2005.

BACKGROUND

The bureau, in accordance with the California Whistleblower Protection Act (Whistleblower Act) contained in the California Government Code, beginning with Section 8547, receives and investigates complaints of improper governmental activities. 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 any state or federal law or regulation; that is economically wasteful; or that involves gross misconduct, incompetence, or inefficiency. The Whistleblower Act authorizes the state auditor to investigate allegations of improper governmental activities and to publicly report on substantiated allegations.

Contact: ELAINE M. HOWLE **Telephone:** (916) 445-0255 **Internet:** www.bsa.ca.gov

Whistleblower Hotline: (800) 952-5665