



Elaine M. Howle *State Auditor*

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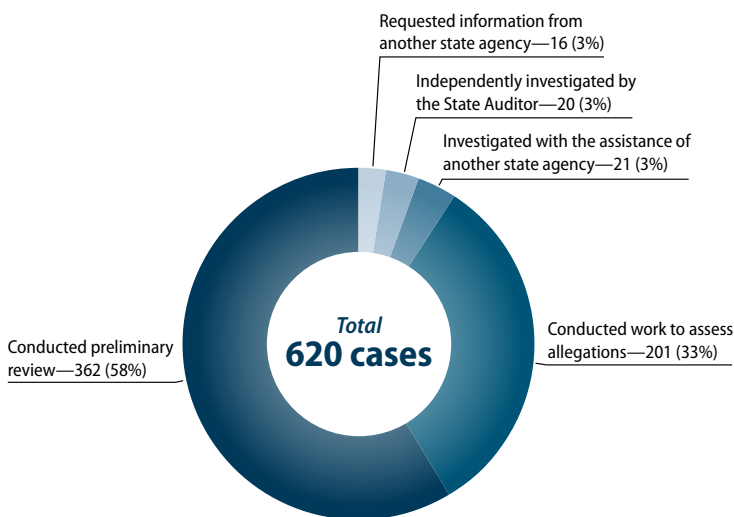
## Investigations of Improper Activities by State Agencies and Employees

*Misuse of Resources, Inaccurate Attendance Records, Disclosure of Confidential Information, and Improper Payments*

### 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. Since 1993, when the State Auditor activated the whistleblower hotline, it has identified improper governmental activities that resulted in a total loss to the State of over \$576 million.

**From July 2016 Through December 2016, the State Auditor Conducted Work on 620 Cases**



### Key Findings

Based on allegations of improper governmental activities pursuant to the Whistleblower Act, this report discusses ten investigations with substantiated improper governmental activities that the State Auditor either completed or directed other state agencies to complete on its behalf over a six-month period, including the following:

- A parole agent with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation misused a state vehicle for her personal commute at a cost to the State of \$3,800, stored the vehicle at her home without prior approval, and did not report as taxable income, the value of her personal use of the vehicle.
- An employee of the California Department of Transportation misused an estimated 130 hours over a nine-month period by taking excessive breaks to smoke and extended lunches during her workdays—costing the State \$4,300.
- Some employees misused state time and resources.
  - An employee at the Department of Health Care Services spent a significant portion of her work hours shopping online, sending and receiving personal emails, visiting social media websites, and doing other personal activities.
  - A library employee at California State University, Fresno used his university computer over a 13-month period to visit more than 48,000 webpages related to online videos and games unrelated to his work, which may have cost the university as much as \$22,000.

**For complaints of state employee misconduct, contact us through one of the following methods:**

- Whistleblower Hotline | 1.800.952.5665
- auditor.ca.gov/hotline
- INVESTIGATIONS, California State Auditor  
PO Box 1019 | Sacramento | CA | 95812
- Whistleblower FAX line | 916.322.2603