

Office of the Auditor-Controller
Contra Costa County

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TO: Internal Operations Committee
FROM: Robert R. Campbell, Auditor-Controller
By: Joanne M. Bohren, CPA
SUBJECT: Internal Audit – Annual Report

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The Board of Supervisors adopted a policy on June 27, 2000, directing the Auditor-Controller to annually report to the Internal Operations Committee on the proposed schedule of Internal Audit examinations for the following calendar year. The attached "*Schedule of Internal Audit Examinations*" provides the proposed schedule for 2015 and the attached "*Schedule of Internal Audit Examinations for 2014*" summarizes the status of the 2014 examinations.

In 2014, the Internal Audit division completed twenty-seven (27) of the twenty-eight (28) scheduled examinations. The remaining examination will be completed by the end of February, 2015.

General Findings:

Departmental Examinations

There is an overall lack of adherence to several of the County's Administrative Bulletins, which results in many of our departmental examination findings as follows:

- comply with the Administrative Bulletins established for the cash collection process, issuance of gift cards, and other incentives;
- segregate duties;
- certify equipment; and
- reconcile variances between inventory records and the Finance System.

Approximately twenty-five percent (25%) of the 2014 examination findings were repeated findings from previous examinations. In order to timely correct issues and mitigate repetitive findings, the Internal Audit division conducts a follow-up with auditees six months after the issuance of the final examination report to determine if the recommendations were implemented. Since that follow-up process occurs mostly in the beginning three (3) months of the calendar year, there is no data currently available on the status of the 2014 findings. For calendar year 2013, eighty-one percent (81%) of the finding recommendations had been implemented.

Procurement Card

The quarterly procurement card review continues to reflect compliance issues in the use of the card for recurring payments and meal payments. Per the Procurement Card Manual, Section III.H., the use of a procurement card for recurring payments, such as FastTrack deposits, and for meal payments is prohibited. Additionally, the required supporting documentation for payments often is missing or inadequate. The Internal Audit staff believes this is directly related to the discontinuation of the procurement card training program that was previously in existence.

2015 Scheduled Examinations

The Chief Auditor and the Assistant Auditor-Controller performed a thorough review of existing and recurring examinations as well as identifying potential new examinations that should be incorporated in the 2015 schedule. The emphasis and priority in scheduling examinations is based on the perceived risk to the County. The schedule is composed of legally required examinations, such as the Treasury cash counts, reoccurring examinations, and new examinations.

Legally required examinations have their basis in government code. Reoccurring examinations have a preferred cycle attached to them based on their perceived amount of inherent risk. If a concern comes to the attention of the Chief Auditor or the Assistant Auditor-Controller, a reoccurring examination may be planned prior to it being due based on the preferred cycle. For example, an examination of the Health Services department's "Mental Health" contracts is included in the 2015 schedule based on the Board of Supervisor's input.

The County's financial operations are subject to audit by a firm of independent external auditors, Macias Gini & O'Connell, LLP, Certified Public Accountants (MGO). The external auditors are responsible for performing an annual audit of the general-purpose financial statements of the County and the Public Financing Authority. The external auditors also perform an annual "Single Audit" of the County's federal financial-assistance programs. Other independent auditors perform annual audits of the Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association, the County Housing Authority, state grant programs, and the FIRST 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission.

Other Projects

In addition to performing departmental examinations, the Internal Audit division is responsible for preparing the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and providing assistance to other County departments and the County's external auditors. The CAFR process consumes approximately four months of staff time.

One of the reasons the preparation of the CAFR is so time consuming is due to the complexity of the annual implementation of new Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) statements. In 2014, the most significant change in accounting statements was the implementation of GASB Statement No. 65, *Items Previously Reported as Assets and Liabilities*, which added two new categories of "deferred outflows of resources" and "deferred inflows of resources" to the County's financial statements.

In 2015, GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 27*, will be implemented. The significance of this statement will be the inclusion of the County's net pension liability (the total pension liability less plan assets) in the financial statements of the CAFR. The Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement System (CCCERA) accompanied by its auditors and actuary are working with CCCERA members and the County to provide numerical data to aid in the implementation of this statement. An estimate of the County's net pension liability at June 30, 2015, is not yet available.

Attachments