



## **Whistleblower Hotline Report As of December 31, 2023**

The San Luis Obispo County Whistleblower Hotline was established in November 2013 to provide a mechanism by which employees and citizens may contribute to the accountability, transparency, and oversight of the County by reporting suspected financial fraud, waste, and abuse. From inception in November 2013 through December 31, 2023, the Whistleblower Hotline received 335 reports.

The Whistleblower Hotline includes a toll-free hotline number (855-326-9623) and website (reportlineweb.com/sanluisobispo) which are accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and are administered by an independent hotline provider. Reports may be submitted anonymously.

Reports received are reviewed by the County's Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector and the Internal Audit Division in conjunction with County Counsel, Human Resources, and Department Heads, as appropriate.

Eleven reports were received in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of Fiscal Year 2023-24, ending December 31, 2023.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter reports received related to the following categories:

- Violation of Federal, State, City, or County Regulation (3)
- Safety/Sanitation (4)
- Theft/Waste/Mismanagement (2)
- Misconduct (2)

The disposition of the cases includes:

- One was referred to the Human Resources Department.
- Three were referred to Department Heads.
- Three are pending.
- Three did not include sufficient info to refer/investigate.
- One report was substantiated. The report alleged misappropriation of County funds by a County employee. The employee is now on leave and the District Attorney's office is actively investigating.

The San Luis Obispo County Whistleblower Program improves controls and promotes accountability and oversight throughout the County through the identification of potential fraud, waste, and abuse. The Whistleblower Program contributes to the County's vision of a well-governed community.