



## COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

### AUDITOR - CONTROLLER • TREASURER - TAX COLLECTOR

**James W. Hamilton, CPA** Auditor-Controller • Treasurer-Tax Collector

**Lydia J. Corr, CPA** Assistant Auditor-Controller • Treasurer-Tax Collector

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## Whistleblower Hotline Report As of June 30, 2020

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 June 30, 2020, the Whistleblower Hotline received 222 reports.

The Whistleblower Hotline includes a toll-free hotline number (855-326-9623) and website ([reportlineweb.com/sanluisobispo](http://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 Supervisor in conjunction with County Counsel, Human Resources, and Department Heads, as appropriate.

8 reports were received in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of Fiscal Year 2019-20, ending June 30, 2020.

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter reports received related to the following categories:

- Violation of Federal, State, City, or County Regulation (2)
- Safety (1)
- Violation of Civil Service Code (1)
- Other (4) – one report related to civil dispute and three reports related to physical distancing in public related to COVID-19

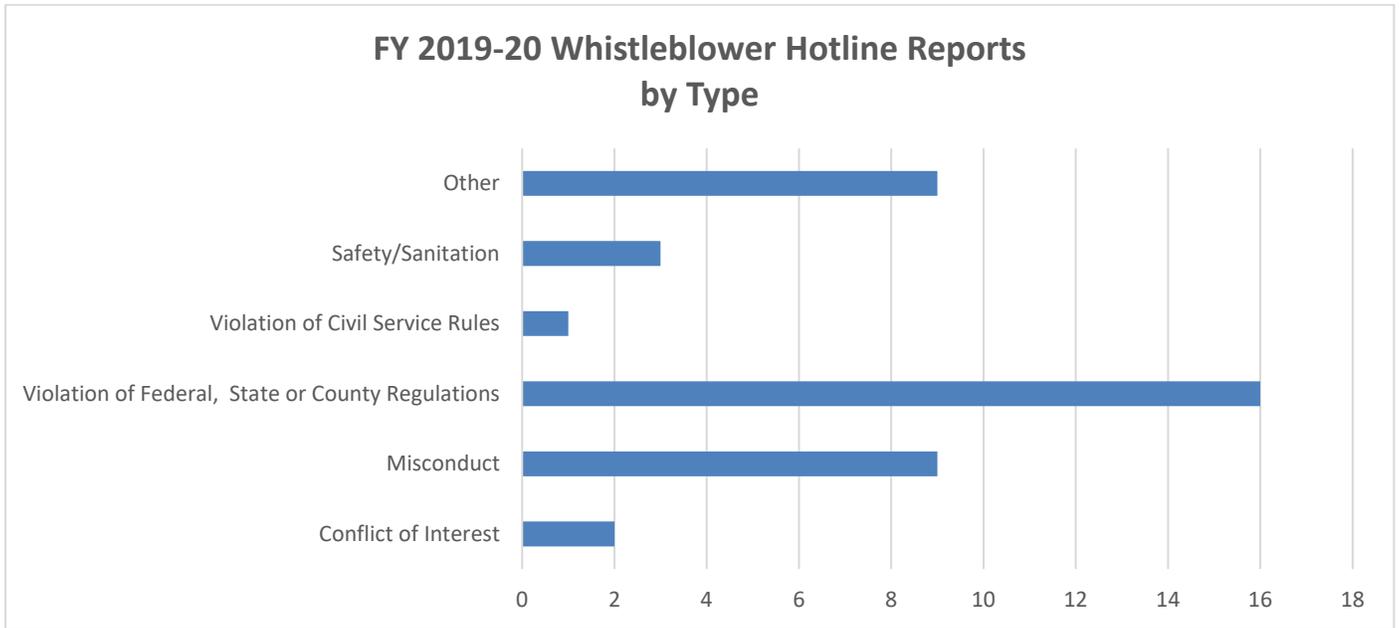
The disposition of the 8 cases includes:

- Three were referred to the County Emergency Services Director and Public Health Officer
- Two were related to non-County operations
- One was referred to Human Resources
- One was referred to the appropriate Department Head
- One is in progress

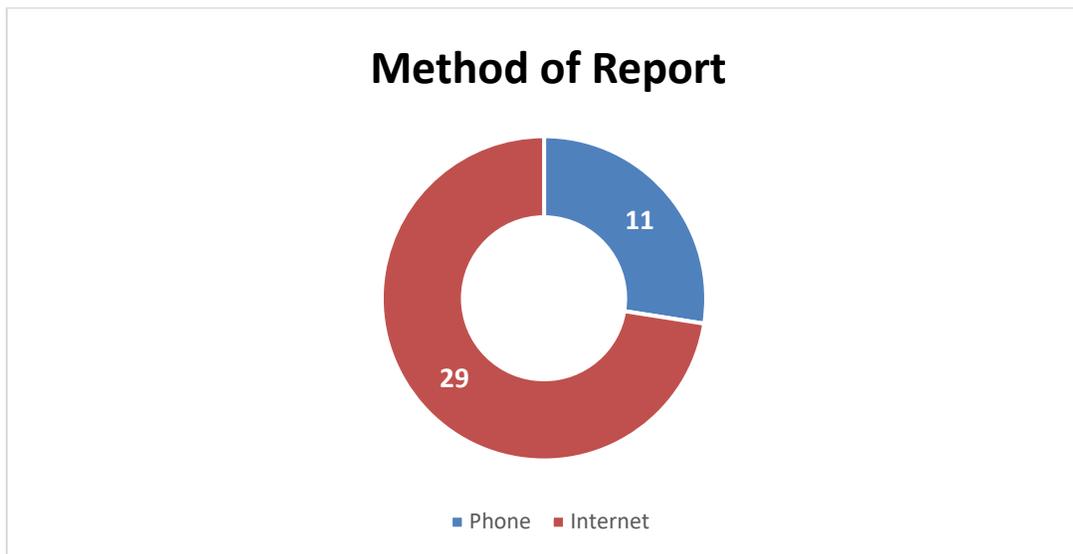
The San Luis Obispo County Whistleblower Program improves controls and promotes accountability and oversight throughout the County through the identification of potential fraud, waste, and abuse.



For Fiscal Year 2019-20, in total, the Whistleblower Hotline received 40 reports, a 11% decrease from the prior year's 45 reports. The majority of the reports related to a violation of a Federal, State, or County regulation.



All of the reports were received through the Whistleblower Hotline, with 73% of the reports submitted online. Also, 73% of reports were submitted anonymously.





Most of the reports were addressed through referral to Department Heads (53%).

