

MONTEREY COUNTY

AUDITOR - CONTROLLER

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RUPA SHAH, CPA

AUDITOR - CONTROLLER



The Honorable Stephanie E. Hulse
Judge of the Superior Court
County of Monterey
240 Church Street
Salinas, CA 93901

July 3, 2019

Dear Judge Hulse:

Pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05(f), please consider this letter as the formal response from the Monterey County Auditor-Controller to the 2018-19 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Final Report entitled "Disclosing Public Employee Salary Compensation Data in Monterey County," transmitted on May 10, 2019.

FINDINGS

Finding No 1: Monterey County taxpayers should have an accurate accounting of public employee salary and pension compensation.

Response:

Agree

Finding No 2: Monterey County Office of Auditor-Controller did not submit salary information to the State Controller's Office as required by law thereby depriving the public of timely information.

Response:

Agree

As the newly elected Auditor-Controller, having taken Office in January 2019, and based on this report, I was made aware that 2015, 2016, 2017 salary information reports were filed late, subsequent to the April 30 deadline.

Finding No. 3: Monterey County did not proactively address salary anomalies identified by the SCO.

Response:

Disagree

The Monterey County Auditor-Controller (ACO) was not presented with any anomalies by the SCO. SCO acknowledged receipt of our report but failed to include Monterey County data in their aggregate report. Upon the realization that Monterey County information had not been published the ACO contacted the SCO. SCO then followed through with pending questions and updated their publication to include Monterey County data.

Finding No. 4: Monterey County could have been penalized up to \$5,000 for missing the filing deadline.

Response:

Agree

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 1: By fiscal year 2019-2020, the Monterey County Auditor-Controller should create written policies and procedures for the timely filing of public employee salary compensation data to the SCO.

Response:

Agree

The Monterey County Auditor-Controller is in the process, and expects to complete by December 31, 2019, written policies and procedures for the timely filing of public employee salary compensation data to the SCO.

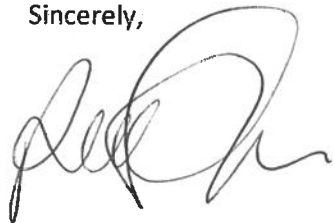
Recommendation No. 2: The Monterey County Auditor-Controller should file the data required by law to the State Controller's Office, by the deadline each year, in a manner and format specified in the law.

Response:

Agree

The Monterey County Auditor-Controller intends to comply with all laws, applicable standards, and deadlines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rupa Shah', with a stylized, flowing script.

Rupa Shah, CPA
Auditor-Controller

CC: Monterey County Board of Supervisors