



CALIFORNIA STATE AUDITOR

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FACT SHEET

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Report: 2010-041

The California State Auditor released the following report today:

Recommendations Not Fully Implemented After One Year

The Omnibus Audit Accountability Act of 2006

BACKGROUND

The California State Auditor offers government decision makers solutions for streamlining processes which, if implemented, could ultimately save taxpayers millions of dollars. It also offers transparent findings that are free from outside influence, including that of the Legislature, governor, and the subjects of our audits and investigations. As the independent external auditor, we ensure that public programs are delivered in the most efficient and effective manner and that public funds are spent wisely, benefiting all Californians.

Each year our recommendations result in meaningful changes to government operations and the opportunity for agencies to save the State millions of dollars. For example, in a report regarding state mandates issued in 2003, we recommended that the State Controller's Office (Controller) audit claims already paid under the Peace Officers Procedural Bill of Rights program. In 2009 we conducted a follow-up audit of the state mandates program and determined that the Controller had initiated such audits and in August 2010 the Controller reported that it had identified \$194 million in unallowable costs.

The Omnibus Audit Accountability Act of 2006 (Accountability Act) requires state agencies to report to us their status in implementing the recommendations we make in our audit reports. Further, the Accountability Act requires the California State Auditor to annually report to the Legislature the recommendations that have been outstanding for a year and that state agencies have yet to fully implement.

RESULTS

From January 2005 through October 2009, the bureau issued 78 reports for audits of state agencies requested through the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, legislation, or as a result of an investigation. Based on the most recent responses from state agencies, we reported the following:

- There were 770 recommendations to the audited state agencies in those reports. Although state agencies implemented approximately 82 percent of those recommendations, we identified 137 recommendations made to 28 state agencies that had been outstanding at least one year—we reported 91 of these recommendations in last year's Accountability Act report published in January 2010.
- Based on the most recent responses obtained from state agencies, 41 of the 137 recommendations outstanding at least one year have now been fully implemented.
- Although some agencies reported that they will begin or continue fully implementing the recommendations within 90 days, others did not provide an implementation date. Still other agencies reported that they will not implement the recommendation or they do not plan to fully implement for several years. For example, in one case, the Department of Veterans Affairs stated that it would fully implement the recommendation in five to 10 years.

