

# Natural Resources Agency

## Improper Travel Expenses (Case I2009-1321)

### REPORT NUMBER I2012-1, CHAPTER 6, ISSUED DECEMBER 2012

This report concludes that from January 2009 through June 2011, an executive with the Natural Resources Agency (Resources) circumvented state travel regulations by improperly reimbursing an official and an employee \$47,944 in state funds for commutes between their homes and headquarters. In addition, Resources improperly reimbursed the official \$209 for lodging and meal expenses incurred near the Resources' headquarters. The official left employment with the State in September 2011.

In the report, the California State Auditor (state auditor) made the following recommendations to Resources. The state auditor's determination regarding the current status of recommendations is based on Resources' response to the state auditor as of October 2012.

#### **Recommendation 1—See pages 37—40 of the investigative report for information on the related finding.**

Resources should designate the employee's headquarters as Resources headquarters in Sacramento.

#### ***Resources' Action: Fully implemented.***

Resources reported that previously it had designated the employee's headquarters in Sacramento.

#### **Recommendation 2—See pages 37—40 of the investigative report for information on the related finding.**

Resources should discontinue reimbursing employees improperly for their commute-related expenses and lodging and for meal expenses incurred within 50 miles of their headquarters.

#### ***Resources' Action: Fully implemented.***

Resources reported that it had stopped all commute-related expense reimbursements to the employee and it stated that it has directed that no employees will be headquartered at a location other than Sacramento.

