



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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THIRD DISTRICT

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FIFTH DISTRICT

January 30, 2009

Jack Gordon, Chair
Civil Service Commission
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Mr. Gordon:

Thank you for your letter dated January 26, 2009, regarding the County's Whistleblower Hotline. A copy of your letter has been circulated to all members of the Board.

While I appreciate the comments conveyed in your letter, given that the Board approved changes to the Whistleblower program in September, I believe it would be appropriate to wait for a year to see if the changes are sufficient to address the problems identified by the Grand Jury and others. Therefore, I would invite the Commission to contact the Board again in a year to provide an update on the effectiveness of these changes. Based on your findings at that time, it may be appropriate to explore the option of having an independent body investigate complaints to the Whistleblower Hotline.

Again, thank you for transmitting the Commission's request. I look forward to receiving future recommendations from the Commission on this issue as you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

NEAL COONERTY, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

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cc: Clerk of the Board
County Administrative Officer
Auditor-Controller

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