

## Department of Consumer Affairs, Contractors State License Board

### Investigations of Improper Activities by State Employees, January 2008 Through June 2008

#### ALLEGATION I2007-1046 (REPORT I2008-2), OCTOBER 2008

##### *Contractors State License Board's response as of October 2009*

An employee with the Contractors State License Board (board) used a state vehicle for personal reasons and falsified board records to hide her actual activities when she was supposed to be performing field inspections for the board. The State incurred an estimated \$1,896 loss due to her personal use of a state vehicle from April 2007 to August 2007.

**Finding: An employee used a state vehicle for purposes unrelated to her state employment and falsified board records to hide her engaging in activities unrelated to her board work during state time.**

From April 2007 to August 2007, a board employee drove her assigned state vehicle 1,922 miles more than her job required. Using the standard mileage reimbursement rate applicable to state employees at the time, we estimate that this difference of 1,922 unauthorized miles cost the State \$932. In addition, the employee improperly claimed 29 hours of excess travel time for which she received compensation. Based on the employee's salary for that period, we estimate that this travel time, which the employee incorrectly reported, cost the State \$872. The employee also drove her state vehicle 189 miles during three days that she was on medical leave, at a cost to the State of \$92. Finally, in her daily activity log, the employee regularly misrepresented her physical location and work activities in order to hide that she was apparently engaging in activities not related to her job with the board.

##### ***Board's Action: Partial corrective action taken.***

At the time of our report, the board informed us that it gave the employee a counseling memorandum and a copy of the current departmental policy pertaining to incompatible work activities. The board subsequently informed the employee that she owed the State \$1,896. The employee filed an appeal of the board's attempt to collect \$1,896, particularly regarding her inappropriate use of a state vehicle while on medical leave. She later submitted a letter to Department of Consumer Affairs (Consumer Affairs) disputing the board's position that she received an overpayment. Consumer Affairs concluded in March 2009 that \$94 of the \$1,896 owed to the State for misuse of her state vehicle was appropriate. Therefore, Consumer Affairs determined that the employee must reimburse the State \$1,802 for her state vehicle misuse. In April 2009 Consumer Affairs notified the employee to make payment arrangements for the \$1,802 she owed the State. However, as of October 2009, the employee had not paid back any of the money she owed. Consequently, Consumer Affairs intends to garnish the employee's wages.

##### ***Investigative Highlight . . .***

*An employee of the Contractors State License Board (board) used a state vehicle for personal reasons when she was supposed to be performing field inspections for the board, at a loss to the State of \$1,896.*