

Department of Fish and Game

Misuse of a State Vehicle, Improper Travel Reimbursements (Case I2009-0601)

REPORT NUMBER I2011-1, CHAPTER 5, ISSUED AUGUST 2011

This investigation found that a manager at the Department of Fish and Game (Fish and Game) improperly directed an employee under his supervision to use a state vehicle for commuting between her home and work locations at a cost to the State of \$8,282 during a nine-month period. In addition, the employee improperly requested—and the manager improperly approved—reimbursement for \$595 in lodging and meal expenses incurred by the employee near her headquarters.

In the report, the California State Auditor (state auditor) made the following recommendations to Fish and Game. The state auditor's determination regarding the current status of recommendations is based on Fish and Game's response to the state auditor as of October 2011.

Recommendation 1.a—See pages 35 and 36 of the investigative report for information on the related finding.

To recover the cost of the improper use of the state vehicle, Fish and Game should follow the guidelines established in state regulations and initiate repayment from the manager for the costs associated with the misuse of the state vehicle.

Fish and Game's Action: No action taken.

In June 2011 Fish and Game reported that it would follow the guidelines established in state regulations and allow the manager to respond to our findings; however, it has not provided us with an update regarding its actions.

Recommendation 1.b—See page 36 of the investigative report for information on the related finding.

To recover the cost of the improper travel reimbursements, Fish and Game should seek recovery of the \$595 in lodging and meal reimbursements that were paid to the employee.

Fish and Game's Action: No action taken.

Fish and Game reported in June 2011 that it would follow the appropriate process to collect the improper reimbursements made to the employee; however, it has not provided us with an update regarding its actions.

Recommendation 1.c—See pages 35 and 36 of the investigative report on the related finding.

Fish and Game should take appropriate disciplinary action against the manager for directing the misuse of a state vehicle.

Fish and Game's Action: No action taken.

Fish and Game stated in June 2011 that it planned to prepare a corrective counseling memorandum for the manager detailing the improper direction he provided to the employee; however, it has not provided us with any updated information regarding its actions.

Recommendation 1.d—See pages 33—36 of the investigative report for information about the related finding.

Fish and Game should provide training to the manager and the employee about state rules for the payment of employee travel expenses.

Fish and Game's Action: No action taken.

Fish and Game informed us that it would provide training to all senior staff in the manager's region. However, it did not indicate whether it intended to provide any training to the employee. Moreover, Fish and Game has not provided us with any updated information regarding its implementation of this recommendation since June 2011.

