



Department of Justice

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JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SETTLES WITH SISKIYOU COUNTY FOR MORE THAN \$695,000 IN IMPROPER REIMBURSEMENTS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — United States Attorney Benjamin Wagner and Department of Justice Inspector General Glenn A. Fine announced today that the County of Siskiyou has agreed to repay the United States Department of Justice more than \$695,000 for grant funds that it improperly received through the Department's Southwest Border Prosecution Initiative.

The Southwest Border Prosecution Initiative (SWBPI) is a program in which the U.S. Justice Department reimburses the four Southwest Border states and local jurisdictions for the prosecution and pretrial detention costs of federally initiated cases that are declined for prosecution by the U.S. Attorneys' offices.

Between fiscal years 2005 and 2007, the Justice Department awarded Siskiyou County more than \$700,000 in SWBPI funds based on that county's submissions for cases that it claimed were eligible for reimbursement. An audit by the Office of the Inspector General found that Siskiyou County incorrectly submitted claims for \$695,080 because the claimed amounts were based upon cases that did not meet SWBPI's requirements for reimbursement. The Department of Justice has agreed that Siskiyou County may repay the money it improperly received over time: \$200,000 by December 1, 2009, and the remainder in three equal annual installments at three percent annual interest.

This is the seventh settlement the Department of Justice has reached with county and local jurisdictions in Northern California related to improper claims submitted for reimbursement under SWBPI. In total, the Department of Justice has recovered more than \$10 million through the seven settlements. The agreements to repay SWBPI funds are as follows:

October 2008: City and County of San Francisco agreed to repay \$5.2 million

December 2008: Lake County agreed to repay \$989,605

Humboldt County agreed to repay \$416,986

January 2009: San Mateo County agreed to repay \$1.5 million

San Benito County agreed to repay \$397,984

June 2009: Mendocino County agreed to repay \$1.7 million

Assistant United States Attorney Kendall Newman handled the matter on behalf of the United States Attorney's Office, together with Rebecca Quinson, Assistant Regional Audit Manager, Office of the Inspector General, Audit Division.

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