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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY

2008 NOV 13 AM 11:12

November 13, 2008

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
Attention: Cindy Johnson

VIA FAX 530-622-3645 AND MAIL

Re: Welfare fraud investigator positions should not be eliminated

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing as a concerned citizen to recommend that the Board reject a proposal to eliminate all welfare fraud investigator positions in the county (the county welfare department's Special Investigations Unit or SIU).

I understand that a proposal has been made to eliminate the entire SIU by eliminating all of the 3.5 investigator positions and reassigning the SIU support staff to other support staff jobs in the county welfare office.

I strongly recommend that the Board reject this proposal. I think it would be unwise for the county to attempt to economize by eliminating SIU when the function of this unit is to monitor and reduce public spending on aid programs.

Fraud investigation serves an important law enforcement function by ensuring the fiscal soundness and integrity of public aid programs. Fraud investigation is crucial to ensure that benefits are provided only to eligible persons; to recover benefits that were fraudulently obtained; and to disqualify a recipient who has lied to the county to get benefits from receiving benefits in the future.

It is likely that welfare fraud will increase if the county has no mechanism in place to investigate or deter fraud.

I urge the Board to protect this important law enforcement function and not allow the county welfare department's Special Investigations Unit to be eliminated.

Sincerely,

Mary P. Wagoner
Mary P. Wagoner

TO: Cindy Johnson
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

RE: Board meeting this Tuesday, November 18, 2008

FAX NO.: 530-622-3645

DATE: November 13, 2008

NUMBER OF PAGES WITH COVER SHEET: 2

MESSAGE:

Ms. Johnson, attached is a letter I would like to be provided to Board members for the Board meeting this Tuesday, November 18, in connection with a proposal to eliminate the county welfare department Special Investigations Unit.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mary Wagoner

