



**RICARDO LARA**  
CALIFORNIA INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

August 25, 2023

The Honorable John T. Savrnoch  
District Attorney  
Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office  
1112 Santa Barbara Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**RE: Grant Award for Automobile Insurance Fraud Program Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

Dear District Attorney Savrnoch:

I am very pleased to report that, for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, \$15,259,000 is available in Automobile Insurance Fraud Program grant funds to distribute to 35 District Attorney Offices, of which **Santa Barbara County** has been awarded **\$143,455** for this important Program. This grant award is to be used for the investigation and prosecution of automobile insurance fraud.

The appropriation for this Program is based on projected revenues, including the amount of restitution collected. Grant disbursements are contingent on actual revenues; therefore, if the amount of revenue collected is less than the projected amount, grant disbursements to counties will be adjusted accordingly.

It is my continuing intent that these funds be used effectively to pursue and investigate automobile insurance fraud across California. It is also important to focus these finite resources on combating fraud committed by individuals, businesses, providers, and others who prey upon the system. Additionally, a coordinated and aggressive outreach program to all communities by your office, including to diverse and underserved communities, with measurable outcomes remains a priority of mine.

As you know, this Program is a highly competitive annual grant program. Based on the information submitted by your county, I am concerned that Santa Barbara is not meeting all my goals and objectives for the program with regard to the Outreach component. Should you apply for grant funds again in FY 2024-25, it is imperative that you include your FY 2023-24 Outreach activities to ensure that your county continues to be eligible for consideration of grant funds.

Please feel free to contact Felicia Lieb, CDI Deputy Chief, Fraud Division, at (916) 854-5766 should you have any questions regarding your award. The Local Assistance Unit will reach out to you regarding your budget approvals in the new post award system.

Thank you for submitting your application for grant funding and, moreover, congratulations on your award. I look forward to working together with you in our continuing pursuit against automobile insurance fraud.

Sincerely,

**RICARDO LARA**  
Insurance Commissioner

cc: Sean Brunton, Deputy District Attorney

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