



**RICARDO LARA**  
CALIFORNIA INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

July 17, 2023

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

**RE: Grant Award for Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud Program  
Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

Dear District Attorney Savrnock,

I am very pleased to report that, for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, a total of \$50,545,239 is available in Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud Program grant funds to be distributed to 34 District Attorney Offices representing 44 counties, of which **Santa Barbara** has been awarded **\$304,994** for this important Program. This grant award is to be used for the investigation and prosecution of workers' compensation insurance fraud.

The decision to grant these funds was made by my Department staff, in consultation with the California Fraud Assessment Commission. Each application received for grant funding was thoroughly reviewed, with careful consideration given to the applicant's plan to achieve the goals and objectives set by me and the Fraud Assessment Commission earlier this year.

It is my continuing intent that these funds be used effectively to pursue and investigate fraud across California. It is also important to focus these finite resources on combating fraud that continues to increase costs on the workers' compensation system, including medical provider insurance fraud, employer premium fraud, insider fraud, and claimant fraud, among others. 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.

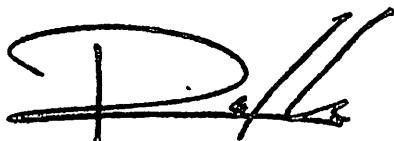
As you know, this Program is a highly competitive annual grant program. Based on the information submitted by your county, I am concerned that **Santa Barbara** is not meeting all my goals and objectives for the program with regard to the Outreach component. Should you apply for grant funds again in 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.

**PROTECT • PREVENT • PRESERVE**  
300 CAPITOL MALL, 17TH FLOOR  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814  
TEL: (916) 492-3500 • FAX: (916) 445-5280  
COMMISSIONERLARA@INSURANCE.CA.GOV

Please feel free to contact Victoria Martinez, CDI Deputy Chief, Fraud Division, at (323) 278-5062 should you have any questions regarding your award. The Local Assistance Unit will contact you regarding 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 workers' compensation insurance fraud.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ricardo Lara', with a large, stylized initial 'R' and 'L'.

**RICARDO LARA**  
Insurance Commissioner

cc: Brian Cota, Supervising Deputy District Attorney