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TRANSCRIPTION OF RECORDED INTERVIEW

OF

Becky Brown

August 28, 2012

Sacramento, California

Investigation of Department of Parks &  
Recreation - Financial Irregularities

Interviewed by: Thomas M. Patton  
Deputy Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney  
General  
State of California

Transcribed by: David Rutt,  
eScribers, Inc.  
September 7, 2012  
New York, New York

(SA201210710)

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BECKY BROWN

1 MR. PATTON: All right. We're on  
2 the record. This is Deputy Attorney General  
3 Thomas M. Patton. It is 3:35 on Tuesday,  
4 August 28, 2012. And we are here today to  
5 interview Ms. Becky Brown. And also in the  
6 interview room is Investigator Michael Mattson  
7 with the Department of Justice. I'll fill out  
8 this form. And you received my letter  
9 scheduling this and giving a little bit of  
10 information, right, Ms. Brown?

11 MS. BROWN: Yes, I did.

12 MR. PATTON: So you understand that  
13 this is an administrative investigation. And  
14 I want to read -- the letter indicated you had  
15 the right to bring a representative if you  
16 wanted to. I see you came by yourself.

17 MS. BROWN: Yes, I did.

18 MR. PATTON: Okay. And we're  
19 recording this, as you can see, and you were  
20 invited to bring -- to record it as well if  
21 you wanted. I see you haven't brought a  
22 recorder, so that's fine also. And as I  
23 indicated in the letter, should you desire at  
24 some point after this is concluded to have a  
25 copy of the interview tape, you could ask for

1 that. And I know you're set to retire here  
2 very shortly, I guess on Thursday, August 30,  
3 correct?

4 MS. BROWN: Correct.

5 MR. PATTON: So this -- we have an  
6 admonition we give for current employees in an  
7 administrative setting like this, so it's  
8 just -- it's kind of a form admonition which  
9 I'm going to go ahead and read even though  
10 you're within two days of no longer being an  
11 employee, but there's a couple cases, and  
12 basically they stand for this proposition, and  
13 this is the admonishment we give which is that  
14 this is strictly an administrative  
15 investigation.

16 While you would have the right to  
17 remain silent with regard to any criminal  
18 investigation, I don't know of any, this is  
19 not a criminal investigation, this is an  
20 administrative interview, you do not have the  
21 right to refuse to answer administrative  
22 questions. Neither your statement nor any  
23 information or evidence that is gained by  
24 reason of such statements could be used  
25 against you in any criminal proceeding. It's

1 only usable as part of this administrative  
2 investigation, and any subsequent  
3 administrative or related noncriminal  
4 proceeding. Therefore, you're instructed to  
5 discuss this matter with me and answer all  
6 questions honestly and completely. And a  
7 refusal to do or any evasion, deception could  
8 constitute insubordination or neglect of duty  
9 or other failure of good behavior that could  
10 result in disciplinary action.

11 So you understand that admonishment?

12 MS. BROWN: Yes, I do.

13 MR. PATTON: Okay. We appreciate  
14 you coming down and talking with us.

15 As I indicated in the letter, we are  
16 investigating matters relating to financial  
17 reporting by the Department of Parks and  
18 Recreation to the State Controller's Office  
19 and to the Department of Finance. And I've  
20 been assigned the primary responsibility for  
21 conducting such interviews. And so we've --  
22 we're talking with anybody who's been involved  
23 with the Parks administration, particularly  
24 anything relating to budgets and accounting.

25 And so I've been given organization

BECKY BROWN

1 charts going back a number of years, and I've  
2 received some information which is how your  
3 name came up because as I'm now going to let  
4 you take the floor and basically give us a  
5 run-down on your background and State history  
6 and start by just saying your name and  
7 spelling your last name for the regard.

8 MS. BROWN: My name is Becky Brown.  
9 Last name is B-R-O-W-N. I worked for the  
10 State starting in 1972. I retired in 2005.  
11 And the bulk of my State career was spent in  
12 the budget offices of various places.

13 MR. PATTON: So where did you start  
14 with the State in '72?

15 MS. BROWN: DMV.

16 MR. PATTON: Okay.

17 MS. BROWN: Department of Motor  
18 Vehicles.

19 MR. PATTON: And then you worked for  
20 DMV for how long?

21 MS. BROWN: Just a couple of months.  
22 It was a part-time job, and I got a full-time  
23 job at PERS. This is an office assistant-type  
24 clerk --

25 MR. PATTON: Uh-huh.

BECKY BROWN

1 MS. BROWN: -- Clerk 1 work.

2 MR. PATTON: Yeah.

3 MS. BROWN: So it was a long time  
4 ago.

5 MR. PATTON: So early '70s. You  
6 then went quickly over to PERS?

7 MS. BROWN: Um-hum.

8 MR. PATTON: And after PERS, where  
9 did you go?

10 MS. BROWN: Then I went to Parks.

11 MR. PATTON: When did you go to  
12 Parks?

13 MS. BROWN: Approximately 1974.

14 MR. PATTON: Okay. So you started  
15 in Parks in about 1974. What was your first  
16 job at Parks?

17 MS. BROWN: It was working in the  
18 accounting office.

19 MR. PATTON: Okay. And what was  
20 your job title?

21 MS. BROWN: I was a Clerk 1.

22 MR. PATTON: Okay. So tell me about  
23 your career history at Parks. You started as  
24 a Clerk 1, and then just walk me through the  
25 progression.

BECKY BROWN

1 MS. BROWN: It's a lot of years. I  
2 was -- it was -- I don't have any of the dates  
3 specific, but I was in Accounting for about  
4 two years or so, two or three year. Then I  
5 moved to Budgets, and I was in the budget  
6 section at Parks until '79 or '80.

7 MR. PATTON: So around 1976, you  
8 went from Accounting over to the budget side?

9 MS. BROWN: About then.

10 MR. PATTON: Until about 1980 or so.

11 MS. BROWN: Yeah. And then I went  
12 to Finance for a couple years.

13 MR. PATTON: Finance? What is that?  
14 In 1980 -- in or about 1980? What do you mean  
15 by "Finance."

16 MS. BROWN: I worked at the  
17 Department of Finance --

18 MR. PATTON: Okay.

19 MS. BROWN: -- on the -- we were  
20 working on a process to reformat the Budget  
21 Act and the Budget Bill.

22 MR. PATTON: Okay.

23 MS. BROWN: It was a project work  
24 there. From there I went to Cal Expo for  
25 about three years.

BECKY BROWN

1 MR. PATTON: How long were you at  
2 DOF, Finance?

3 MS. BROWN: About two years.

4 MR. PATTON: And then you went to  
5 Cal Expo?

6 MS. BROWN: Um-hum, yes.

7 MR. PATTON: And how long were you  
8 at Cal Expo?

9 MS. BROWN: About three years.

10 MR. PATTON: What did you do at Cal  
11 Expo?

12 MS. BROWN: Budget work, accounting  
13 work.

14 MR. PATTON: So you must have a  
15 background in budget or did you learn all  
16 this --

17 MS. BROWN: I learned it all --

18 MR. PATTON: -- on the job.

19 MS. BROWN: -- on the job.

20 MR. PATTON: Did you -- you have a  
21 college degree?

22 MS. BROWN: In business  
23 administration.

24 MR. PATTON: Okay. And where did  
25 you get that?

BECKY BROWN

1 MS. BROWN: Sac State.

2 MR. PATTON: What year?

3 MS. BROWN: '78.

4 MR. PATTON: Do you have a  
5 bachelor's in -- I'm sorry -- business  
6 administration?

7 MS. BROWN: Business administration.

8 MR. PATTON: 1978. All right. So  
9 the employers found a bright person, and  
10 they --

11 MS. BROWN: I would hope so.

12 MR. PATTON: So you were at Cal Expo  
13 for about three years. That ought to take us  
14 to about 1985, something like that. You  
15 think?

16 MS. BROWN: Sounds about right. And  
17 then I went back to Parks and Recreation, and  
18 then I worked there until I retired in 2005.

19 MR. PATTON: Do you remember what  
20 year you went back to Parks?

21 MS. BROWN: '85-ish.

22 MR. PATTON: Okay. And where did  
23 you go in Parks?

24 MS. BROWN: In the budget section.

25 MR. PATTON: Back to Budget.

1 MS. BROWN: Back to Budgets.

2 MR. PATTON: And just so our  
3 record's clear, so when you say "Budget and  
4 Parks," there's -- my understanding is that  
5 there's an Administrative Services Division?

6 MS. BROWN: Um-hum.

7 MR. PATTON: Correct?

8 MS. BROWN: And Budgets -- the  
9 budget section is within Administrative  
10 Services.

11 MR. PATTON: Okay. And Accounting  
12 is a separate section within Administrative  
13 Services?

14 MS. BROWN: Yes, yes, it is.

15 MR. PATTON: Okay. So you go back  
16 to the Parks budget office in '85, and how  
17 long were you back at that Parks Budget?

18 MS. BROWN: I was there until I  
19 retired in 2005.

20 MR. PATTON: Wow, twenty years. So  
21 you went back in '85 as -- in what position as  
22 Budget?

23 MS. BROWN: I was a manager -- Staff  
24 Services Manager 1.

25 MR. PATTON: '85, Staff Services

1 Manager 1. And then tell me about your  
2 progression up the ladder.

3 MS. BROWN: I was Manager 1 and  
4 worked in various assignments within the  
5 office for several years and was promoted to a  
6 Manager 2 sometime in the '90s. I don't have  
7 any recollection of the dates.

8 MR. PATTON: Okay.

9 MS. BROWN: And then Manager 3 a  
10 couple of years before I retired.

11 MR. PATTON: And I see on the Orrick  
12 chart that you're listed as having been the  
13 Budget Officer.

14 MS. BROWN: Yes.

15 MR. PATTON: When you say "Manager  
16 3," does that mean Budget Officer?

17 MS. BROWN: Well, I'm Manager 2.  
18 When I became a Manager 2, I think, is when I  
19 became the Budget Officer.

20 MR. PATTON: And that's -- so that's  
21 the person in charge of that budget section?

22 MS. BROWN: Correct.

23 MR. PATTON: Okay. And so sometime  
24 in the '90s when you became a Manager 2 is  
25 when you took over as --

1 MS. BROWN: Mid '90s.

2 MR. PATTON: Okay. And that seems  
3 to -- okay. So it was sometime in the mid  
4 '90s. Okay. So tell me about what the budget  
5 manager -- that's the title?

6 MS. BROWN: Budget Officer.

7 MR. PATTON: Budget Officer. So the  
8 informal title is Budget Officer; your  
9 classified title is your budget manager 2 or  
10 3?

11 MS. BROWN: Staff Services Manager 2  
12 or 3.

13 MR. PATTON: Oh, okay.

14 MS. BROWN: And Budget Officer was  
15 the working title.

16 MR. PATTON: Okay. So you became  
17 Budget Officer, the working title, in the mid  
18 '90s. And then what's the responsibilities  
19 then of the Budget Officer?

20 MS. BROWN: There was a lot of  
21 coordination with the Department of Finance,  
22 with the legislative analyst's office, working  
23 with Resources Agency, is overseeing the  
24 building of the department's budget for  
25 presentation into the governor's budget,

1 working on budget change proposals, requesting  
2 funding for various projects the department  
3 needs, reconciling the salaries and wages, all  
4 the positions every year, working with the  
5 staff, assigning allotments out to the  
6 different units, keep -- assigning program  
7 cost account for tracking expenditures.  
8 Basically, it was, in a nutshell, building the  
9 department's budget based upon the requests  
10 and needs of the department, and doing  
11 monitoring during the year.

12 MR. PATTON: So the Budget Officer  
13 and that budget section, they -- that's the  
14 unit then that, as you just described, builds  
15 the budget that is transmitted to the  
16 Department of Finance --

17 MS. BROWN: Correct.

18 MR. PATTON: -- for consideration by  
19 them and then by the governor?

20 MS. BROWN: Correct.

21 MR. PATTON: And ultimately by the  
22 legislature.

23 MS. BROWN: Yes.

24 MR. PATTON: And then that, in  
25 whatever modified form, becomes what you end

1 up getting appropriated as funding in order to  
2 run the operation?

3 MS. BROWN: Yes.

4 MR. PATTON: Okay. To close your  
5 loop on your job history, so you said you  
6 retired in 2005. You were the Budget Officer  
7 when you retired?

8 MS. BROWN: Yes, I was.

9 MR. PATTON: And then you came back  
10 to work at some point?

11 MS. BROWN: I was given the  
12 opportunity to work on the FisCal Project for  
13 the Department of Finance, started there about  
14 the end of 2006.

15 MR. PATTON: As -- and you've been  
16 doing that as a retired annuitant?

17 MS. BROWN: Yes.

18 MR. PATTON: Okay. And so you're  
19 working a part-time -- so you started on the  
20 FisCal Project in 2006?

21 MS. BROWN: The end of -- it was end  
22 of 2006. And I've been there working  
23 part-time usually about half-time assisting  
24 with -- at this point with administrative  
25 work.

1 MR. PATTON: And you've been doing  
2 that continuously to the present?

3 MS. BROWN: Um-hum, yes.

4 MR. PATTON: Okay. So that's the  
5 retired annuitant post that you're about to  
6 discontinue this week?

7 MS. BROWN: Yes.

8 MR. PATTON: Okay. Around the year  
9 2000, 2001, 2002, did you become aware at some  
10 point that there was -- well, let me back up,  
11 ask a couple of foundational questions.  
12 You're familiar -- you started off on the  
13 accounting side, and I imagine you're familiar  
14 with the reports that go to the Controller's  
15 office.

16 MS. BROWN: I am familiar -- I  
17 started in Accounting, but it was at a Clerk  
18 position just processing claim schedules, and  
19 it was a very low-level position. But I am  
20 aware of the reports that go to the  
21 Controllers. I have, over the years, in  
22 working with the Accounting office, we do --  
23 Budgets does get copies of the year-end  
24 financial statements because part of what goes  
25 in the statements is what we use to post

1 information on past year actual expenditures  
2 and revenues.

3 MR. PATTON: So year-end financial  
4 statements. And I'm not much of an  
5 accountant, but based on the conversations  
6 I've had, I understand that financial  
7 statements are given to the Controller's  
8 office which represent the status of the  
9 accounts.

10 MS. BROWN: Yes. Each  
11 appropriation.

12 MR. PATTON: So it's money in the  
13 bank essentially and, as I understand it,  
14 pending accounts receivable and payable?

15 MS. BROWN: Yes. It summarizes all  
16 the amounts that have been expended for the  
17 year from each appropriation and what has been  
18 obligated that has not been liquidated and  
19 then what would revert.

20 MR. PATTON: And the budget is  
21 different -- you indicated that the financial  
22 statement that the Controller receives kind of  
23 forms the base for working up a budget. Am I  
24 correct?

25 MS. BROWN: Yes. Within the year-

1 end statements, there's expenditures by each  
2 schedule in the budget by each appropriation  
3 that lists how much has been expended, how  
4 much would revert, and how much potentially  
5 would be carryover. Some of the  
6 appropriations within Cap Outlay and local  
7 systems were good for more than one year.

8 MR. PATTON: Okay.

9 MS. BROWN: But we would take the  
10 expenditures off of the year-end report and  
11 put them on the schedule 10s which is the  
12 supplementary schedule of -- which was the  
13 expenditure schedule that would go to Finance.  
14 And then also take the revenue information and  
15 put it on the schedule 10Rs which is a revenue  
16 statement. And we would provide copies of our  
17 year-end statement of both expenditures and  
18 revenue as part of our backup to go to the  
19 Department of Finance.

20 MR. PATTON: Now, you became aware  
21 at some point that there was some amount of  
22 money that was being reported in the financial  
23 statements that go to the Controller's office  
24 that were not reflected in the annual -- I  
25 think it's called the fund condition statement

1 that goes to the Department of Finance?

2 MS. BROWN: Well, within the fund  
3 condition, we report based upon what's on the  
4 year-end. So I'm not aware of how money could  
5 have been reported to the Controller and not  
6 been on the year-end statements.

7 MR. PATTON: The year-end statement  
8 is what statement?

9 MS. BROWN: The Accounting provides  
10 a year-end -- statements for the --

11 MR. PATTON: That's the financial  
12 statement --

13 MS. BROWN: The financial  
14 statements, yeah.

15 MR. PATTON: -- the year-end  
16 financial statement. That's what Accounting  
17 produces?

18 MS. BROWN: Um-hum. And based upon  
19 what they produce and send to the Controllers,  
20 we get a copy of that report, and that's  
21 what's used for -- was used for preparation of  
22 budget documents.

23 MR. PATTON: Right. And then -- but  
24 the budget report has some different things in  
25 it. It's not the same. It's not just the

1 financial year-end statement, right?

2 MS. BROWN: It's taken -- we take  
3 the numbers out of the year-end financial  
4 statements and put them into the budget  
5 document -- the governor's budget document,  
6 which is actual past-year expenditures or  
7 revenues.

8 MR. PATTON: Now, when you -- so in  
9 the early 2000s, who was the person in charge  
10 of the accounting side?

11 MS. BROWN: The Accounting Officer?

12 MR. PATTON: Um-hum.

13 MS. BROWN: Was Freda Luanne Dunne.

14 MR. PATTON: Okay. And you two had  
15 worked together for a while then?

16 MS. BROWN: Yes.

17 MR. PATTON: So you knew her pretty  
18 well?

19 MS. BROWN: Yes.

20 MR. PATTON: And do you happen to  
21 know -- she is retired also, I think.

22 MS. BROWN: Yes, she is.

23 MR. PATTON: Do you happen to know  
24 what she's doing now?

25 MS. BROWN: She's retired and

1 enjoying her life.

2 MR. PATTON: Do you have -- do you  
3 stay in touch with her?

4 MS. BROWN: No, I don't.

5 MR. PATTON: When was the last time  
6 you heard from her?

7 MS. BROWN: It was over a year ago.  
8 I had asked her a question about some  
9 background on some -- what -- we were trying  
10 to hire somebody at FisCal, and I was asking  
11 her for some background information on what  
12 type of classification I should look for.

13 MR. PATTON: How were you able to  
14 locate her? You have contact information for  
15 her?

16 MS. BROWN: I had sent her an  
17 e-mail, and she e-mailed back she was in  
18 Hawaii.

19 MR. PATTON: Do you know where she  
20 lives now?

21 MS. BROWN: I -- last I heard, she  
22 lived in Carmichael.

23 MR. PATTON: Okay. And who did you  
24 report to in the early 2000s?

25 MS. BROWN: The Assistant Division

1 Chief, Tom Domich.

2 MR. PATTON: Okay. And who else?  
3 Who was above Tom Domich?

4 MS. BROWN: Denzil Verardo was the  
5 chief of admin for many years.

6 MR. PATTON: Okay. And so in  
7 discussing budget matters, you would normally  
8 communicate with who? Who was your go-to  
9 person, supervisor?

10 MS. BROWN: I would normally talk  
11 through -- with Tom and Denzil, and then we  
12 would elevate it to the Director as needed.

13 MR. PATTON: And who was that?

14 MS. BROWN: Ruth was the Director  
15 for the last couple years I was there.

16 MR. PATTON: And before that?

17 MS. BROWN: Ruth Coleman. I think  
18 Rusty Areias --

19 MR. PATTON: Okay.

20 MS. BROWN: -- was the Director  
21 before then. And Patricia Megison (ph.) maybe  
22 before then.

23 MR. PATTON: So when you would  
24 communicate with Tom -- you said you'd go to  
25 Tom Domich and Denzil Verardo?

BECKY BROWN

1 MS. BROWN: Yes.

2 MR. PATTON: And they were the  
3 Director and Assistant Director for Admin  
4 Services?

5 MS. BROWN: Yes.

6 MR. PATTON: And so you would  
7 communicate regularly with both of them?

8 MS. BROWN: Yes.

9 MR. PATTON: And did you have much  
10 contact with the Director, Rusty Areias?

11 MS. BROWN: Not with Rusty so much  
12 but -- unless he had a question or issue on  
13 budget matters.

14 MR. PATTON: And did he?

15 MS. BROWN: Yes.

16 MR. PATTON: So was he -- did you  
17 consider Rusty Areias fairly well versed in  
18 the budget?

19 MS. BROWN: It was -- I was  
20 educating Rusty on budgets from a department  
21 standpoint. So it was an experience working  
22 with him, trying to explain how departments do  
23 budgets, him being from the legislature.

24 MR. PATTON: Um-hum. Did he -- so  
25 you were teaching him how -- as I understand

1 it, it's a fairly technical -- the State  
2 budgeting process is a fairly technical field,  
3 right?

4 MS. BROWN: Yes, it is. And it's a  
5 process -- an annual process, so a lot of it  
6 is just trying to establish some records and  
7 being able to track what you can do year to  
8 year and having the background and the  
9 information to be able to go back and look at  
10 your history and how things were done so you  
11 know how to do it for the next time.

12 MR. PATTON: So what kind of things  
13 were you trying to explain to Rusty Areias  
14 when he was Director?

15 MS. BROWN: There was -- as I  
16 recall, there was a new bond issue that was  
17 being proposed, and we were working on trying  
18 to be -- have Parks included in the bonds. We  
19 were looking at -- and he wanted to provide  
20 information to the legislature on some of the  
21 department activities and just trying to --  
22 what was really -- trying to establish what  
23 really was public information that we could  
24 release to the legislature and what wasn't.

25 MR. PATTON: Okay. So I'm -- the

1 impression I get is it takes some amount of  
2 time to really understand all the intricacies  
3 of how a budget works and all the different  
4 line items.

5 MS. BROWN: It is -- it does take  
6 time, yes.

7 MR. PATTON: And I guess I'm just  
8 trying to get a feel for how expert Rusty  
9 Areias became in that, and then I'm going to  
10 ask you the same thing as to Director Coleman.

11 MS. BROWN: I don't remember Rusty  
12 being there -- I don't remember how long he  
13 was there, just a couple years so -- but it  
14 was working through the annual budget process  
15 with him, explaining when budget change  
16 proposals were prepared, going over the list  
17 of what was being requested, getting his  
18 approval to which ones we want to develop and  
19 send forth to Finance. There was prepping him  
20 for budget hearings and different budget  
21 reviews that were necessary and just keep him  
22 up to date on any issues that -- from a budget  
23 standpoint that he needed to be aware of.

24 MR. PATTON: Did you have the same  
25 kind of communication with former Director

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1 Coleman?

2 MS. BROWN: Yes.

3 MR. PATTON: And how well versed was  
4 she in how the budget worked?

5 MS. BROWN: Very well versed. She  
6 worked at the legislative analyst's office and  
7 also the legislature, a very sharp person.

8 MR. PATTON: Do you know if her --  
9 had she worked with budget-related matters  
10 previously then?

11 MS. BROWN: Oh, yes. She worked as  
12 a legislative analyst. She was an analyst  
13 that reviewed, among other budgets, Parks'  
14 budget.

15 MR. PATTON: Okay.

16 MS. BROWN: And the legislature,  
17 you -- and the -- not sure who she worked for,  
18 but it would have been involved with -- there  
19 was always something budget-wise in the  
20 legislature she would have been involved in,  
21 I'm sure.

22 MR. PATTON: So -- and I assume  
23 that -- well, I'll just maybe let you explain  
24 to me that Mr. Domich, was it? What was the  
25 immediate supervisor's name?

1 MS. BROWN: Tom Domich, yes.

2 MR. PATTON: Tom Domich. And then  
3 above him the Admin Services Director and  
4 Chief Deputy Director Denzil Verardo.

5 MS. BROWN: Yes.

6 MR. PATTON: They, I assume, were  
7 fairly well versed in how the budget worked?

8 MS. BROWN: Yes, very much so.

9 MR. PATTON: Okay. And had either  
10 of them been in your position as Budget  
11 Officer before?

12 MS. BROWN: Tom Domich was Budget  
13 Officer when I first started working in the  
14 budget section.

15 MR. PATTON: Okay. And what about  
16 Mr. Verardo?

17 MS. BROWN: He was -- as I recall,  
18 he was not in the Budget Officer position --

19 MR. PATTON: Okay.

20 MS. BROWN: -- during his career.

21 MR. PATTON: Now, I'm going to show  
22 you a couple of memos that I was given. One  
23 is from April 8, 2002, another from June 5,  
24 2003. And these have been represented to me  
25 as -- and the subject line is from someone at

1 Department of Finance. Have you ever seen  
2 this name, Yvonne Stewart?

3 MS. BROWN: No, I haven't.

4 MR. PATTON: These are addressed to  
5 Budget Operations which, I'm told, was a group  
6 of e-mail recipients which consisted of all  
7 the different agencies' Budget Officers.

8 MS. BROWN: Correct.

9 MR. PATTON: Can you take a look at  
10 these and tell me if you'd ever seen these  
11 memos.

12 MS. BROWN: I have never seen these  
13 memos.

14 MR. PATTON: So let's look at this  
15 one that's -- go ahead. Take a minute and  
16 take a look at that one.

17 MS. BROWN: They do not look  
18 familiar to me at all.

19 MR. PATTON: Does this name look  
20 familiar to you at the top here, Cheryl Kaiser  
21 is it?

22 MS. BROWN: Kilzer, yes.

23 MR. PATTON: Kilzer?

24 MS. BROWN: Uh-huh.

25 MR. PATTON: Who was she?

1 MS. BROWN: She worked at -- she  
2 was -- worked in the accounting office at  
3 Parks.

4 MR. PATTON: Okay.

5 MS. BROWN: And I'm sure somebody  
6 showed them to me, but boy, they don't look  
7 familiar at all.

8 MR. PATTON: So we're going to study  
9 these a little bit. And as you read the front  
10 page which Budget -- the Finance Department is  
11 indicating that a recent State Controller's  
12 Office review revealed many differences  
13 between corresponding prior year fund balances  
14 and the Controller's office annual report and  
15 the governor's budget, departments are  
16 responsible for reconciling these differences.  
17 For the general fund, the Department of  
18 Finance compares governor's budget review and  
19 expenditure amounts to Controller's office  
20 corresponding data from year-end reports and  
21 asks departments -- asks department to explain  
22 differences.

23 When I look at this and as it's been  
24 explained to me, the memo issued April 8,  
25 2002, has a line -- there's numerous special

1 funds and disparities listed here between what  
2 was in the annual report going to the  
3 Controller's office versus what was reported  
4 to Finance for budgeting purposes. Do you see  
5 what I'm referring to here?

6 MS. BROWN: Yes, I do.

7 MR. PATTON: And this memo in '02  
8 indicates two special funds relating to Parks  
9 and Recreation. One is the Fund 0392, State  
10 Parks and Recreation Fund, and the other is  
11 the Fund 0263, Off Highway Vehicle Trust Fund.  
12 See those?

13 MS. BROWN: Yes, I do.

14 MR. PATTON: And this report is  
15 indicating that, for the State Parks and Rec  
16 Fund, 41,861,000 has been reported in the  
17 report going to the Controller as the annual  
18 ending fund balance report and 19,096,000  
19 reported to the governor as the ending fund  
20 balance. Do you see that?

21 MS. BROWN: Yes, I do.

22 MR. PATTON: For a difference of  
23 22,765,000. In other words, 22,765,000 more  
24 was reported at Controller than to the  
25 Department of Finance, correct?

1 MS. BROWN: That's what it shows.

2 MR. PATTON: And then for -- in the  
3 memo dated June 5, '03, concerning fund  
4 balance reports as of June 30, 2002, we see  
5 the State Parks and Rec Fund with 26,825,000  
6 more reported to the Controller than to  
7 Finance, correct?

8 MS. BROWN: That's what it -- it  
9 shows that difference, yes.

10 MR. PATTON: Were you aware that  
11 there was a discrepancy between what was  
12 reported to the Controller's office in these  
13 years and what was reported to the Department  
14 of Finance?

15 MS. BROWN: No. I don't ever  
16 remember seeing these.

17 MR. PATTON: Well, I understand you  
18 don't remember seeing this -- these memos. So  
19 let me just shut this down. Were you aware  
20 that there was a difference in those years or  
21 any other years between what had been reported  
22 to the Controller's office and what had been  
23 reported to the Department of Finance?

24 MS. BROWN: No, I was not aware of  
25 any difference. And maybe to clarify a little

1 bit, the fund condition that appears in the  
2 governor's budget is kind of like a running  
3 checking account.

4 MR. PATTON: Um-hum.

5 MS. BROWN: So -- which you start --  
6 you open your checking account and you start  
7 with a balance, and every year you have  
8 additional -- you get revenues and  
9 expenditures. So it's a running account that  
10 has -- in this case, has been in existence  
11 since around 1980 or early '80s somewhere.  
12 So -- and when reports are made to the  
13 Controllers -- the year-end statements are  
14 prepared to the Controller, and Budgets use  
15 the same information as the governor's office  
16 as far as the amount of expenditures and  
17 revenues, I don't know how -- using the same  
18 documents that go both places, I don't -- not  
19 aware of how a difference like that could  
20 happen. We report the same information.

21 MR. PATTON: You say you report the  
22 same information.

23 MS. BROWN: Yes.

24 MR. PATTON: You report the same  
25 information to both the Controller's office

1 and to the Department of Finance.

2 MS. BROWN: The County prepares the  
3 year-end financial statements and sends those  
4 to the Controllers. Budgets takes the  
5 accounting year-end financial reports, puts  
6 the -- take it is numbers and the information  
7 out of the reports, puts it on finance reports  
8 and sends it to the Department of Finance and  
9 ultimately to the governor's budget. So we're  
10 using the same information in both cases  
11 reporting.

12 MR. PATTON: Would you have looked  
13 at the reports that are going to the  
14 Controller's office then?

15 MS. BROWN: I would look at the  
16 reports. There's a lot of information on the  
17 year-end financial reports and also accounting  
18 reports with codes that I don't understand,  
19 but the information -- we'd take the revenue  
20 report and the expenditure reports out of the  
21 year-end statements and use those to build the  
22 governor's budget.

23 MR. PATTON: So you're given that  
24 information.

25 MS. BROWN: Um-hum, yes.

1 MR. PATTON: You're given the bottom  
2 line.

3 MS. BROWN: Yes.

4 MR. PATTON: You're given this  
5 number which is the ending fund balance as  
6 reported by Accounting to the Controller's  
7 office, right?

8 MS. BROWN: No. We are -- what we  
9 look at in the County -- what I looked at in  
10 the County year-end reports was how much  
11 revenue had been earned for the year and is  
12 reported as revenue.

13 MR. PATTON: You're not concerned in  
14 building the budget with what the ending fund  
15 balance is? You're only concerned with  
16 revenue?

17 MS. BROWN: In the governor's  
18 budget, you start out with the year-end  
19 balance from the previous year.

20 MR. PATTON: Right.

21 MS. BROWN: And then you build on  
22 that. So if there was an error in the way  
23 that the fund condition was done early on,  
24 that error would have carried through the  
25 entire -- it would carry until today. Do you

1 have a --

2 MR. PATTON: An error in what?

3 MS. BROWN: Do you have a copy of a  
4 fund condition?

5 MR. PATTON: I don't know that I  
6 have a whole fund condition statement, but  
7 you -- the fund condition is the budget  
8 report.

9 MS. BROWN: It's -- the fund  
10 condition is an ongoing report, and it's kind  
11 of, like I said, a checking account balance  
12 where you start year one with this is your --  
13 this is how much money you have. It's -- you  
14 start with a zero balance. You deposit  
15 revenues, you make expenditures, and you come  
16 up with an ending balance which you start the  
17 next year with. So it's a running total.

18 MR. PATTON: Yeah. No, I understand  
19 that.

20 MS. BROWN: And the -- when the fund  
21 conditions -- when the governor's budget is  
22 done on the subsequent -- the next year, the  
23 starting number on the fund condition is what  
24 the -- is built off the previous budget.

25 MR. PATTON: Okay. Here's a fund

1 condition statement for the State Parks and  
2 Recreation Fund for the period ending June 30,  
3 2011.

4 MS. BROWN: Okay. That looks like  
5 something that might have been in an  
6 accounting year-end report. This is probably  
7 something that would have gone to the  
8 Controllers. But we would take -- from a  
9 budget standpoint, we would look at all of  
10 these items and build them into the fund  
11 condition statement that's in the governor's  
12 budget.

13 MR. PATTON: Okay. So you look at  
14 what's going in the report to the Controller.

15 MS. BROWN: We use that as the basis  
16 for what we report to the --

17 MR. PATTON: Right.

18 MS. BROWN: -- Department of  
19 Finance. We attach the statement of revenue  
20 to our fund condition reports and -- or to our  
21 schedule -- our revenue schedules. And if  
22 there's any differences between what we are  
23 showing on the information for the governor's  
24 budget and what's been reported to the  
25 Controllers, we need to explain it.

1           MR. PATTON: Well, I would think so.  
2 I would tend to agree. So you're looking  
3 there. I showed you memos from the Department  
4 of Finance that are telling us that the ending  
5 fund balance component reported in the annual  
6 fund statement -- fund condition statement to  
7 the Controller's office is different than the  
8 ending fund balance reflected in the budget  
9 report to Finance. And you can see that  
10 they're indicating there's a different ending  
11 fund balance reported to the two entities,  
12 right?

13           MS. BROWN: Yes.

14           MR. PATTON: And you're telling me  
15 you've never seen these memos; you've never  
16 seen this chart of disparities?

17           MS. BROWN: I don't remember seeing  
18 them.

19           MR. PATTON: And you've told me that  
20 the numbers that go in the fund condition  
21 statement that are provided to the  
22 Controller's office form the basis for the  
23 budget.

24           MS. BROWN: Correct, that's correct.

25           MR. PATTON: And I'm at a loss then

1 to understand how you would not be aware that  
2 there's a different amount shown, an amount  
3 different to the tune of, in this year,  
4 twenty-two million.

5 MS. BROWN: It's not just that year;  
6 it's a cumulative total. It's a running  
7 total.

8 MR. PATTON: What is? The  
9 difference?

10 MS. BROWN: The amount -- the  
11 governor's budget fund condition is a running  
12 total. So at this point in time, at the end  
13 of the year, the fund balance on June 30,  
14 2001, was nineteen million, per the governor's  
15 budget fund condition. And that is a running  
16 balance that has started since the fund was  
17 first authorized by legislation, and money has  
18 gone in and out. There's revenues that are  
19 posted as receipts into the fund, transfers go  
20 into the fund, and expenditures come out of  
21 the fund. And it's a running balance that has  
22 started from when the fund was first  
23 established. So this is -- this difference,  
24 it didn't happen in just one year; it happened  
25 over several years, would be my guess.

1           MR. PATTON: Well, let's show you a  
2 chart that Finance has put together that  
3 stretches from 1998 through the fiscal year  
4 ending June 30, 2011. And the Department of  
5 Finance has done a comparison between the  
6 amounts that have been reported in the annual  
7 year-end report to the Controller and in the  
8 governor's proposed budget as the year-end  
9 amount. And after adjustments at the  
10 Controller's office, we then end up comparing  
11 this adjusted Controller balance to what's  
12 reported in the governor's proposed budget.

13           (Phone ringing)

14           MR. PATTON: Just ignore that.

15           MR. MATTSON: Okay.

16           MR. PATTON: And in 1998, its  
17 reported to be a nine and -- 9,482,000 dollar  
18 difference. It grows to 14,108,000 difference  
19 in '99, and you can see the numbers to  
20 19,949,000.

21           (Phone ringing)

22           MR. PATTON: Just hold on one  
23 second.

24           Back on to this now.

25           This number kind of shocks me. It

1 shows a forty-nine million dollar disparity  
2 between the two reports. And then you can  
3 read the numbers, twenty-six, twenty-nine,  
4 twenty-six, twenty-three, and over the last  
5 six years somewhere around twenty million  
6 dollars is the difference. Twenty million  
7 more has been reported over the last six years  
8 to the Controller, then is reported in the  
9 governor's finance budget report. Now, you're  
10 telling me something about these are  
11 cumulative.

12 MS. BROWN: The fund condition in  
13 the governor's budget is a running total. In  
14 year one, you post -- you start out with a  
15 zero balance. The fund is new, had just been  
16 established. You start with a zero balance.  
17 You have revenues that are posted into the  
18 company, received into the account. You may  
19 have transfers in or out, and you have  
20 expenditures. So you have an ending balance,  
21 which is the start for the next year. So the  
22 next year, you start with -- if you had a  
23 million dollars left, that would be your  
24 starting point for the next year, and then you  
25 posted your revenues and expenses and

1 transfers.

2 MR. PATTON: Well, that would also  
3 be the amount -- your fund balance for  
4 purposes of reporting to the Controller,  
5 right?

6 MS. BROWN: The -- I'm not sure with  
7 the statements -- like Finance -- or the  
8 accounting office does statements of various  
9 types for the Controllers. I -- just within  
10 their statements, I took out the revenue  
11 statement and the expenditure statements. I  
12 didn't look at the other statements they had.

13 MR. PATTON: You took out -- say  
14 that again. You took out what?

15 MS. BROWN: The revenue statement,  
16 the statement of revenue that is in -- was for  
17 each of the funds that -- where the Department  
18 of Parks and Receptions received revenues or  
19 transfers. We would use those to build the --  
20 for information for the revenue statements,  
21 and we would use -- and that would -- the  
22 information would go into the fund condition  
23 within the governor's budget. And then the  
24 like side, all of the expenditure reports were  
25 detailed out on the schedule -- it was called

1 the schedule 10s reported expenditures by  
2 appropriation, by project, and that  
3 information was summarized and used as the  
4 expenditure line item on the fund conditions.

5 MR. PATTON: So you see these two  
6 memos from Finance back in '02 and '03 points  
7 out the 22,765,000 dollar discrepancy in State  
8 Parks and Rec Fund and the next year a  
9 26,825,000 dollar discrepancy, and those, at  
10 least the 26,825,000 dollar discrepancy is  
11 reflected here in this long-term -- I think  
12 this is a thirteen-year view, and this  
13 forty-nine million dollars appears to me to be  
14 something that does not correspond to this  
15 twenty-two million.

16 But anyways, I'm -- I've been given  
17 a report that shows there's a difference to  
18 the tune of twenty million dollars or more,  
19 except in the first two years, approximately  
20 twenty million or more between what's reported  
21 in the governor's budget report and what's  
22 reported to the Controller. And I guess I'm  
23 not understanding your answer. If the  
24 response is, that's okay, that could be  
25 normal --

1 MS. BROWN: No. I don't know why --  
2 I don't think it's normal. It shouldn't be  
3 normal. I would expect them to agree. I just  
4 don't know why they don't agree. I use the  
5 information for as many years as I did the  
6 fund condition and the Park Department's  
7 budget. We used the accounting year -- the  
8 information out of the accounting year in the  
9 reports.

10 MR. PATTON: And nobody ever brought  
11 to your attention that Finance had reported  
12 there was a discrepancy that's not normal?

13 MS. BROWN: I don't remember seeing  
14 these.

15 MR. PATTON: Okay.

16 MS. BROWN: I'm not --

17 MR. PATTON: Did anybody ever report  
18 to you that there was a discrepancy?

19 MS. BROWN: I don't remember hearing  
20 that just -- there was -- that there was a  
21 discrepancy. I was looking at all fund  
22 balances at one point. Just before I retired,  
23 I was looking at fund balances. Obviously,  
24 Parks needed money, and I was looking to  
25 see -- started with the old bond funds to see

1 if there was any available money left in the  
2 bond funds that we could use for projects, and  
3 I was working my way through the funds when I  
4 retired.

5 So I -- when I first heard about  
6 this was -- when it first came out in the  
7 news, I was very shocked on the differences,  
8 and I have no -- my first thought was, what  
9 happened, why don't -- why didn't they agree  
10 since we used the statements that Accounting  
11 provided to Budgets were the same that were  
12 provided to the Controllers, and I have no  
13 idea why they don't agree.

14 MR. PATTON: So the first you ever  
15 learned that there was disparities between  
16 what was being reported to the Controller's  
17 office and the Finance Department is this year  
18 when the news stories broke?

19 MS. BROWN: I don't remember seeing  
20 these. I -- like, we reported -- we used what  
21 Accounting gave us and what Accounting gave  
22 the Controllers were the same information. I  
23 don't know why these numbers are different.  
24 And I would have to -- to really understand it  
25 myself, I would have to go back and look at

1 budget documents as well as accounting  
2 documents to see how it -- to try to get a  
3 better understanding of what happened. I'm at  
4 a loss.

5 MR. PATTON: When I first came in  
6 here, you indicated that you had saved a  
7 number of file cabinets' worth of documents;  
8 you were a recordkeeper.

9 MS. BROWN: Yes, I was.

10 MR. PATTON: And you said that -- I  
11 think I heard you say you heard that they've  
12 all been tossed.

13 MS. BROWN: It's my -- as somebody  
14 mentioned along the way that all the files  
15 that I had, they were -- had tossed them.

16 MR. PATTON: Who mentioned that to  
17 you and when?

18 MS. BROWN: It was just a group of  
19 people one time. We were talking about old  
20 times, and somebody just happened to mention,  
21 I don't remember who.

22 MR. PATTON: When was this?

23 MS. BROWN: I -- it was in passing  
24 over the years.

25 MR. PATTON: This year? Last year?

BECKY BROWN

1 Five years ago? Ten years ago?

2 MS. BROWN: Past couple years  
3 sometime.

4 MR. PATTON: Within the last couple  
5 years?

6 MS. BROWN: Yep. We also --

7 MR. PATTON: Wait, wait, wait. It  
8 was a group of people, you said? Former  
9 coworkers at Parks Department?

10 MS. BROWN: It was a group of  
11 people, and there were some Parks people  
12 there.

13 MR. PATTON: There were people not  
14 related to Parks?

15 MS. BROWN: Yes. It was a group of  
16 people mixed of some former coworkers as well  
17 as other friends.

18 MR. PATTON: People not associated  
19 with the Parks Department?

20 MS. BROWN: Um-hum.

21 MR. PATTON: And so the discussion  
22 then, in this mixed group of people,  
23 started -- became -- there was a discussion  
24 about what happened with your old records at  
25 the Parks Department?

BECKY BROWN

1 MS. BROWN: It was a comment  
2 somebody just made: remember how you were  
3 always such a recordkeeper of everything, and  
4 that they heard that the files were no longer  
5 there.

6 MR. PATTON: That comment would have  
7 then come from someone with the Parks  
8 Department?

9 MS. BROWN: That used to be at Parks  
10 also.

11 MR. PATTON: Yeah.

12 MS. BROWN: It was -- I don't  
13 remember who said it. It was a group of  
14 people and a bunch of old coworkers and  
15 friends so --

16 MR. PATTON: So you don't remember  
17 who told you that your records --

18 MS. BROWN: No.

19 MR. PATTON: -- were no longer  
20 available. Did they indicate at whose request  
21 they had been tossed out?

22 MS. BROWN: I just heard that  
23 they -- my files were no longer -- my file  
24 cabinets had been emptied. And I just -- it  
25 was too bad because a lot of good history in

1 there.

2 MR. PATTON: So a couple years ago.  
3 Where was this mixed group of people meeting?

4 MS. BROWN: I have no idea. I don't  
5 even remember that.

6 MR. PATTON: Was it here in  
7 California?

8 MS. BROWN: It was in California.

9 MR. PATTON: Was it here in the  
10 Sacramento area?

11 MS. BROWN: Probably.

12 MR. PATTON: Do you remember where  
13 this --

14 MS. BROWN: I have no --

15 MR. PATTON: -- group met?

16 MS. BROWN: No, I don't.

17 MR. PATTON: Was it over a meal?

18 MS. BROWN: I don't remember.

19 MR. PATTON: Don't member?

20 MS. BROWN: I don't remember. All I  
21 remember is my files -- somebody just said my  
22 files were gone, and I was devastated. I kept  
23 a lot of information in the files.

24 MR. PATTON: So I'm curious. You  
25 had a meeting with a mixed group of former

1 Parks or current Parks employees. Was it a  
2 current Parks employee that told you this?

3 MS. BROWN: I don't even remember.  
4 There was a -- all I remember is along the way  
5 somewhere somebody had mentioned my file --  
6 all my files were tossed.

7 MR. PATTON: And you don't remember  
8 where that meeting occurred?

9 MS. BROWN: No, I don't.

10 MR. PATTON: So you're having a  
11 meeting with a mixed group of non-Park  
12 employees and some former or maybe current  
13 employees of Parks, and you can't recall what  
14 sort of a setting that was in?

15 MS. BROWN: No.

16 MR. PATTON: Do you meet -- have you  
17 had very many meetings that involved former  
18 Parks people or current Parks people?

19 MS. BROWN: We have a lot of  
20 friends, and we get together frequently with  
21 them, different places.

22 MR. PATTON: "We" who?

23 MS. BROWN: My husband and myself.

24 MR. PATTON: Okay. As a group?

25 MS. BROWN: As a group.

BECKY BROWN

1 MR. PATTON: And what kind -- where  
2 would -- what kind of places will you meet at?

3 MS. BROWN: Restaurants, golf  
4 courses, houses.

5 MR. PATTON: Okay.

6 MS. BROWN: But I don't remember  
7 when this was said to me. All I remember is  
8 somewhere along the way, somebody in passing  
9 mentioned that my -- the file cabinets were  
10 all gone, or the contents.

11 MR. MATTSON: Becky, is your husband  
12 a prior Parks employee?

13 MS. BROWN: He worked at Parks part  
14 of his career.

15 MR. MATTSON: What did he do there?

16 MS. BROWN: He was a civil engineer.

17 MR. MATTSON: Civil engineer for the  
18 Parks Department. Was he -- is he a retired  
19 State employee also?

20 MS. BROWN: Yes, he is.

21 MR. MATTSON: Where else has he  
22 worked at?

23 MS. BROWN: Caltrans.

24 MR. MATTSON: Caltrans. How long  
25 did he work at Caltrans?

BECKY BROWN

1 MS. BROWN: He worked about half his  
2 career at Parks and half at Caltrans.

3 MR. MATTSON: Which one was which?  
4 Did he do the first half at Parks or the  
5 second half at Parks?

6 MS. BROWN: It was back and forth.

7 MR. MATTSON: Back and forth. As an  
8 engineer in both?

9 MS. BROWN: Yes.

10 MR. MATTSON: Okay. What was his  
11 position when he retired?

12 MS. BROWN: He was at Caltrans as  
13 Chief of Equipment -- or the equipment --  
14 yeah, he was chief of the Equipment Division.

15 MR. MATTSON: So having worked at  
16 Parks with you, he knew a lot of the same  
17 people you knew?

18 MS. BROWN: Yes, he did.

19 MR. MATTSON: Okay.

20 MS. BROWN: Yes, he does.

21 MR. PATTON: Okay. Ms. Brown, it's  
22 been reported to us by -- you know who Dorothy  
23 Kroll is, correct?

24 MS. BROWN: Yes, I do.

25 MR. PATTON: She's the accounting

1 chief currently. And it's been reported to us  
2 that back in 2001 and 2002 that Ms. Kroll  
3 spoke with both her supervisor, Freda Luanne  
4 Dunne, and with you about these very  
5 disparities in the Controller's report and the  
6 Department of Finance report.

7 MS. BROWN: If Dorothy said that,  
8 I'm sure it happened. I just don't remember  
9 it.

10 MR. PATTON: And in fact, the note I  
11 have and the transcript I have indicates that  
12 Becky Brown knew there was a problem with the  
13 Department of Finance fund condition statement  
14 not matching the fund balance statement to the  
15 Controller's office, and Becky did not  
16 understand why.

17 MS. BROWN: That was probably -- I'm  
18 sure that happened; I'm sure I said that. I  
19 don't remember it. I worked on a lot of  
20 things at Parks and a lot -- and this was a  
21 long time ago. I don't remember it.

22 MR. PATTON: Other people do.

23 MS. BROWN: I -- they got better  
24 memories than me.

25 MR. PATTON: I got to tell you, I

1 find it troubling that a twenty million dollar  
2 disparity in reports that the chief Budget  
3 Officer doesn't have a recollection of having  
4 a concern and wanting to understand why there  
5 was that disparity. That seems to me like a  
6 big issue. Doesn't that sound like a big  
7 issue?

8 MS. BROWN: It sounds like a big  
9 issue, but until I had the information -- or  
10 until I was aware of what was going on and how  
11 it got to that point, I really couldn't do  
12 anything. I may have been aware of it. I  
13 mean --

14 MR. PATTON: Say that -- say that  
15 again. Until I became aware and had an  
16 understanding of how it got to that point you  
17 couldn't do anything.

18 MS. BROWN: I -- looking at the  
19 fund -- I don't remember seeing these. I  
20 don't remember talking to Dorothy about it. I  
21 do -- like I say, I was -- I tried to -- was  
22 trying to understand the fund balances.

23 MR. PATTON: So now you are  
24 remembering you were trying to understand.

25 MS. BROWN: And I was looking at

1 the -- starting with the bond funds trying to  
2 figure out if there was money available. And  
3 the State Parks and Recreation Fund, I did not  
4 have a chance to go through and really  
5 reconcile the fund like I wanted to do because  
6 I retired. But there was --

7 MR. PATTON: Let me stop you right  
8 here and help you out some more because Ms.  
9 Kroll tells us that in 2001 and 2002 she went  
10 about dissecting these reports, and she  
11 determined that the discrepancy was due to the  
12 numbers provided in the prior year adjustment  
13 and that the prior year adjustment number in  
14 the budget report to Finance was the number  
15 that was twenty million dollars different than  
16 the report that went to the Controller. So  
17 she identified in 2001-2002, and she tells us  
18 she reported this back to you and to Freda.

19 MS. BROWN: I honestly don't  
20 remember it.

21 MR. PATTON: Well, you were starting  
22 to remember.

23 MS. BROWN: I was concerned about  
24 the fund balance. I did not know the  
25 magnitude of the --

1 MR. PATTON: Why were you --

2 MS. BROWN: -- discrepancy.

3 MR. PATTON: -- concerned about the  
4 fund balance?

5 MS. BROWN: I was starting to look  
6 at the Controller's reports in my review of  
7 all the funds, and there was -- and I don't  
8 even remember what I was looking at, but there  
9 was something that just didn't sit right. But  
10 I don't remember pursuing it at that point in  
11 time. I didn't -- I was busy. I didn't have  
12 time to delve into this like I wanted to. And  
13 I don't honestly remember a lot of what  
14 happened, what you're talking about.

15 MR. PATTON: It's also been reported  
16 to us that you reported back, along with  
17 Freda, Ms. Kroll was informed by both of you  
18 that this issue has been reported up the chain  
19 of command, and it's a political problem and  
20 not to worry about it, that the people up  
21 above had made a decision that nothing, at  
22 least at that time, was going to be done about  
23 it.

24 MS. BROWN: Okay.

25 MR. PATTON: Okay what?

1 MS. BROWN: I don't remember that  
2 either. I honestly --

3 MR. PATTON: Is it possible that you  
4 had a communication with somebody above you  
5 about this?

6 MS. BROWN: It's possible. I don't  
7 remember talking about it. I seriously --  
8 until I had a chance to really understand what  
9 was going on with anything, I would not have  
10 raised the issue above me. I would need to  
11 know what was happened and why it was  
12 happening in order to raise the issue. I'm  
13 sorry. I don't --

14 MR. PATTON: You don't remember  
15 getting the explanation from Ms. Kroll that  
16 there was an error in reporting the prior year  
17 adjustment?

18 MS. BROWN: I do not remember that,  
19 and I don't remember talking to anybody  
20 subsequent about it.

21 MR. PATTON: See, it's just a little  
22 bit interesting because we've talked to a  
23 number of people, and nobody has really, for a  
24 minute, denied understanding and knowledge  
25 that this exists. The story we've been

1 consistently told is, yeah, we were aware of  
2 it. And this wasn't just Ms. Kroll. We've  
3 talked to a number of people, and everybody  
4 we've talked to so far says, yeah, we became  
5 aware of it early on in the early part of the  
6 decade 2000 --

7 MS. BROWN: Um-hum.

8 MR. PATTON: -- and it got reported  
9 up and we were told it's under control, don't  
10 worry about it. You're the first person we've  
11 talked to, and you were in a very prominent  
12 position there, who doesn't have a memory of  
13 this.

14 MS. BROWN: I don't remember this,  
15 period.

16 MR. PATTON: Well, you kind of do.  
17 You indicated that you went to work trying to  
18 understand --

19 MS. BROWN: I was looking at fund  
20 balances, and I was trying to figure out -- or  
21 look at fund balances to see where there might  
22 have been some money that we could use, but I  
23 don't --

24 MR. PATTON: And what year was that?

25 MS. BROWN: I don't remember that

1 either. I retired in 2000 -- I just quit work  
2 in 2005 -- early 2005, and prior to that, the  
3 couple years prior to that, but I honestly  
4 don't -- when this came up, it's like I was --  
5 it -- whatever happened back in 2001 or 2002  
6 or whenever, I don't honestly remember.

7 MR. PATTON: You're backing away  
8 from what you told me just a few minutes ago  
9 which was that you were trying to understand  
10 differences.

11 MS. BROWN: But I wasn't -- I don't  
12 remember this conversation or this information  
13 or meetings with -- where --

14 MR. PATTON: But you indicated to me  
15 you were aware of differences.

16 MS. BROWN: I was looking at -- into  
17 differences and balances, but I --

18 MR. PATTON: Well, when did you --  
19 there had been differences since 1998, I would  
20 inform you.

21 MS. BROWN: Well, I --

22 MR. PATTON: When did you start  
23 looking at them?

24 MS. BROWN: I would imagine it was  
25 before 1998. This, I'm sure, just didn't

1 appear in 1998, would have to go back further  
2 to really --

3 MR. PATTON: Okay.

4 MS. BROWN: It was early 2000s when  
5 I was looking at fund balances or just before  
6 I retired, but I was looking at bond funds at  
7 that point in time. I --

8 MR. PATTON: What do you mean you're  
9 looking at bond funds? You confuse me when  
10 you say you're looking at fund balances --

11 MS. BROWN: Okay.

12 MR. PATTON: -- but then you say,  
13 but I was looking at bond funds.

14 MS. BROWN: Okay. Parks and  
15 Recreation had many bond funds that were  
16 authorized over the years, '64, '70, '74, '76,  
17 so forth, that were still -- there was many  
18 still showing on the reports from the  
19 Controller, and I was looking at those to find  
20 out -- to try to see if there was any  
21 available funding within those bond funds or  
22 how we could close them out so we didn't have  
23 to keep carrying them on our books.

24 MR. PATTON: Okay. So you're  
25 looking at bond funds. That doesn't -- you're

1 not ignoring the entire budget and the --

2 MS. BROWN: And it was just

3 something --

4 MR. PATTON: -- budget fund balance,

5 are you?

6 MS. BROWN: -- that it was -- no. I

7 was doing -- that was -- I -- my time was very

8 stretched. It was something I was doing just

9 when I found time to do it. I don't honestly

10 remember any balances -- or any big

11 differences like this in --

12 MR. PATTON: You --

13 MS. BROWN: I --

14 MR. PATTON: Ms. Brown, stop for a

15 minute. You started telling me you were

16 trying to understand differences; you were

17 trying to understand differences in these fund

18 balances, okay?

19 MS. BROWN: Um-hum.

20 MR. PATTON: Now, I understand

21 you're telling me you hadn't seen these

22 reports, maybe you didn't know it was a twenty

23 million dollar plus fund balance difference,

24 but you told me you were trying to understand

25 differences in fund balances.

BECKY BROWN

1 MS. BROWN: I was looking --

2 MR. PATTON: And then you tell me, I  
3 was looking at bond funds.

4 MS. BROWN: I started with the bond  
5 funds, but I was looking at the Controller's  
6 monthly reports, the fund reports, and there's  
7 a monthly report that comes for each fund that  
8 we -- that Parks is in charge of, and the one  
9 for the State Parks and Recreation Fund -- and  
10 I don't even know what it was that -- but it  
11 didn't -- the money they had there I had a  
12 hard -- I wasn't sure how to reconcile that to  
13 my fund condition.

14 MR. PATTON: There was a  
15 reconciliation issue?

16 MS. BROWN: I was -- but I didn't  
17 know how -- I didn't --

18 MR. PATTON: You saw a disparity.

19 MS. BROWN: I thought there might  
20 be, but I didn't know how to go about  
21 reconciling it.

22 MR. PATTON: Do you remember when  
23 you first started seeing these disparities?

24 MS. BROWN: No, I don't.

25 MR. PATTON: How -- for what period

1 of time were you grappling with trying to  
2 understand?

3 MS. BROWN: I don't remember.

4 MR. PATTON: A month? --

5 MS. BROWN: This is --

6 MR. PATTON: A year? Five years?  
7 Ten years?

8 MS. BROWN: This was over -- you're  
9 talking --

10 MR. PATTON: Now, let me just ask  
11 you, was it an issue you struggled with just  
12 for a month and then you retired?

13 MS. BROWN: It was a couple -- a  
14 couple years maybe, couple months. It was --

15 MR. PATTON: Couple years, couple  
16 months?

17 MS. BROWN: I don't remember. It  
18 was --

19 MR. PATTON: You don't deny that  
20 it's possible you had this conversation with  
21 Dorothy Kroll, which was geared towards trying  
22 to understand the reason for this discrepancy?

23 MS. BROWN: I don't deny it, but I  
24 don't recall it.

25 MR. PATTON: Well, I mean, I got to

1 tell you I'm troubled by your inability to  
2 recall. And you start to recall and then you  
3 seem to move away from the recollection like  
4 you really don't want to talk about it.

5 MS. BROWN: I don't honestly  
6 recall.

7 MR. PATTON: Yeah, but you do  
8 recall. You told me you recall there was a  
9 discrepancy issue you started to look into,  
10 and then you don't want -- you don't seem to  
11 want to talk about it, and you don't -- you're  
12 not comfortable trying to remember if it was  
13 something that you dealt with for a month or  
14 two years or five years. You immediately say,  
15 I just don't remember.

16 MS. BROWN: That's true. I really  
17 don't remember.

18 MR. PATTON: But then when I ask you  
19 further questions, you are able to remember  
20 some more because you didn't -- you wouldn't  
21 settle on just a month, you said, well, maybe  
22 a couple years. So you're -- I mean, your  
23 recollection is -- it's bouncing around.

24 MS. BROWN: And it's because I --  
25 for -- I don't remember what happened during

1 this period of time with the fund condition  
2 and these conversations.

3 MR. PATTON: Did you ever get any  
4 answers to why there were discrepancies?

5 MS. BROWN: I don't remember even  
6 that. And I know it's hard to believe, but I  
7 don't recall this issue. And I should have,  
8 but I don't. If I was in these meetings and  
9 this information was given to me, you think I  
10 would have, but I don't really remember it.

11 MR. PATTON: What meetings? The one  
12 the conversations that I --

13 MS. BROWN: Um-hum.

14 MR. PATTON: -- recited to you?

15 MS. BROWN: Um-hum.

16 MR. PATTON: You don't recall them,  
17 but you don't deny that they existed, that  
18 they occurred?

19 MS. BROWN: That's correct. Do  
20 you --

21 MS. BROWN: I -- Dorothy is a very  
22 outstanding person; I trust her.

23 MR. PATTON: Do you have -- is there  
24 any condition that's affecting your memory?

25 MS. BROWN: No. I've been retired

1 over seven years, and I just don't remember a  
2 lot of what happened. I walked out the door  
3 and out of mind.

4 MR. PATTON: Well, I don't know what  
5 else to ask you, but you will stand out as a  
6 unique person with a very limited recollection  
7 about this.

8 MR. MATTSON: Becky, how come you  
9 kept all those file cabinets?

10 MS. BROWN: I -- there was a lot of  
11 issues that kept coming up, and I was kind of  
12 the -- became the depository of information.

13 MR. MATTSON: Like what kind of  
14 issues?

15 MS. BROWN: Well, let me -- a lot of  
16 that was -- what I had in there was back  
17 before the Internet, so a lot of information  
18 wasn't readily available. And one of the  
19 things I always put in there was the list of  
20 propositions from the -- all the elections  
21 because there was different propositions that  
22 impacted Parks, and just so I had it readily  
23 available, I would have a proposition  
24 pamphlet. I kept brochures on the different  
25 units, maps, information. There was -- oh, LA

1 County beaches was a big one when they were  
2 eventually turned over to the county to -- the  
3 deed was turned over to them, had a lot of  
4 issues going on with LA County. A lot of the  
5 particular projects.

6 MR. MATTSON: So basic -- you were  
7 kind of the go-to person.

8 MS. BROWN: Yes.

9 MR. PATTON: And just in my  
10 experience working with people in government  
11 agencies, when you have someone like that that  
12 keeps those kind of detailed records, those  
13 kind of file cabinets, so to speak, it's  
14 somebody that cares about their job, somebody  
15 that is invested in their job. You seem like  
16 you were very invested in what you did there.

17 MS. BROWN: Yes.

18 MR. PATTON: When you have a go-to  
19 person, it's not the person that just shows up  
20 for the paycheck; it's somebody that cares  
21 about what they do. I mean, would you agree?

22 MS. BROWN: Yes.

23 MR. MATTSON: Do you feel that  
24 you're that kind of person?

25 MS. BROWN: Yes.

1           MR. PATTON: That's why it's -- we  
2 talked about this, and it's just hard for me  
3 to imagine, and I'm sure Tom kind of feels the  
4 same way, that when you have a discrepancy,  
5 for lack of a better term, of twenty million  
6 dollars plus in these reportings that, you  
7 being the Budget Officer, you being the person  
8 in charge of the budget, that you wouldn't,  
9 first off, know about it and secondly have a  
10 recollection of it.

11           I mean -- and I can understand. I  
12 mean, I know that this is a very politically  
13 charged investigation, and I know that there's  
14 a lot of things that are going on all over the  
15 place with the media, with politics,  
16 everything else, but for somebody -- from what  
17 I understand, my limited knowledge of you and  
18 your -- what I perceive is your care for the  
19 job and your being a go-to person that this is  
20 something I just can't imagine you wouldn't  
21 know about --

22           MS. BROWN: Well --

23           MR. MATTSON: -- or at least recall.

24           MS. BROWN: The differences are  
25 because, looking at the Controller's records

1 and looking at the fund condition --

2 MR. MATTSON: Um-hum.

3 MS. BROWN: -- I did not look at the  
4 Controller's records. I looked at the fund  
5 condition. I built the fund condition and  
6 I --

7 MR. MATTSON: Well, hold on for just  
8 a second. You said you didn't look at the  
9 Controller's records, but if Accounting is  
10 preparing these for the Controllers and also  
11 for you to do your budget, you are looking at  
12 those records; you're looking at the exact  
13 same thing.

14 MS. BROWN: The Controller -- I  
15 think these -- yeah, yeah, the Budgetary Legal  
16 Basis Annual Report. This is what this line  
17 is from.

18 MR. MATTSON: Uh-huh.

19 MS. BROWN: I didn't look at that; I  
20 didn't use that report.

21 MR. PATTON: You told us that you  
22 used the report that goes to Accounting as the  
23 basis.

24 MR. MATTSON: Yeah.

25 MS. BROWN: I do, I did.

BECKY BROWN

1 MR. PATTON: But why are you --

2 MR. MATTSON: So that's --

3 MR. PATTON: -- trying to tell us  
4 that you don't look at the Controller's  
5 report.

6 MS. BROWN: No. This is an annual  
7 report that the Controller puts out. I did  
8 not --

9 MR. PATTON: Okay. We're only  
10 interested in the bottom line number --

11 MS. BROWN: Yeah, but --

12 MR. PATTON: -- reported by Parks to  
13 the Controller --

14 MS. BROWN: But --

15 MR. PATTON: -- as the funding  
16 balance.

17 MS. BROWN: Yeah, but to get to that  
18 number, here is the number that is used by the  
19 Controller and is use -- to their annual  
20 report. These are probably things that are  
21 reported by --

22 MR. PATTON: Becky, Becky, we know  
23 that a bottom line fund balance is reported to  
24 the Controller every year. We know that that  
25 information is provided to the Budget Officer.

1 We know that those two numbers are twenty  
2 million dollars apart.

3 MS. BROWN: I did not see a bottom  
4 line fund balance -- well, if it was in the  
5 Controller's -- I did not use that report. I  
6 used the revenue report to build the --

7 MR. MATTSON: But you must have been  
8 aware of it though, even if you didn't use it.  
9 They're giving you that information, the  
10 accounting section is.

11 MS. BROWN: But they give me -- gave  
12 me a stack of year-end reports like that every  
13 year. We would pull out --

14 MR. MATTSON: But Becky, as a  
15 person, again -- and I know I'm going back to  
16 this, but as a person that keeps four file  
17 cabinets full of documents, you seem like the  
18 type of person to me that would go through all  
19 of these reports to generate your report  
20 that's going to the Department of Finance, to  
21 your Director.

22 MS. BROWN: I just needed the one  
23 page that had the revenue information on it.

24 MR. PATTON: Just the revenue?

25 MS. BROWN: That had the --

1 MR. PATTON: You're not interested  
2 in the ending fund balance? You're only  
3 interested in the revenue?

4 MS. BROWN: The revenue is what --  
5 the annual revenue is what we needed to report  
6 on the fund condition.

7 MR. PATTON: But that --

8 MR. MATTSON: So --

9 MR. PATTON: Wait, wait, wait.  
10 Wait, wait, wait. I'm not a big budget  
11 person, but I know that in order to build a  
12 budget -- I keep a checkbook, and in order to  
13 build a budget for what I'm going to spend  
14 over the next month, I've got to look at how  
15 much I've got in the bank, how much I expect  
16 to bring in, how much I expect to spend. What  
17 you're telling me is you're ignoring how much  
18 is existing and only looking at revenue.

19 MS. BROWN: But the amount that's  
20 existing on the fund condition is a pre-posted  
21 amount that comes from the Department of  
22 Finance based upon the previous year's fund  
23 condition.

24 MR. PATTON: So you rely only what's  
25 posted by the Finance Department, not what's

1 being provided to you through the Accounting  
2 Department. You're relying on what the  
3 Finance Department's telling you you have?

4 MS. BROWN: That's the starting  
5 point of the fund condition.

6 MR. PATTON: But the Finance  
7 Department, I understand, doesn't have a  
8 number until they get it from the Parks  
9 Department.

10 MS. BROWN: But the starting point  
11 on a fund condition for the past year in the  
12 governor's budget is generated off the  
13 previous year's governor's budget. And that's  
14 what our starting point was, and we built on  
15 that, adding in the revenues and the --  
16 taking -- and showing the expenditures and the  
17 transfers as our -- in updating our fund  
18 balance.

19 MR. PATTON: But you --

20 MS. BROWN: And maybe we didn't do  
21 it right, but that's how we were taught.

22 MR. MATTSON: It just doesn't seem  
23 logical to me though -- I mean, to build a  
24 budget, you have to have the starting numbers,  
25 what's in the account. And if --

1 MS. BROWN: But the number -- I'm  
2 sorry. Go ahead.

3 MR. MATTSON: No. Go ahead, go  
4 ahead.

5 MS. BROWN: The numbers in the  
6 Controller's account would not necessarily  
7 reflect what's on my report because I have  
8 accruals.

9 MR. PATTON: You know what, I don't  
10 even want to have this debate anymore. You've  
11 already told me that you were aware of  
12 discrepancies. You didn't understand how they  
13 happened, how they got there, you were trying  
14 to learn. And this discussion is evading,  
15 it's moving away from that, and now you're  
16 telling me, I just relied on what Finance had  
17 and it's just -- it's the same. So we're not  
18 really making any progress. What we're doing  
19 is we're getting obfuscated, okay? You've  
20 already confided in me that you were aware of  
21 a discrepancy.

22 And I mean, I hate to tell you, but  
23 I feel like you're not forthcoming. I've had  
24 people tell me that you were well aware and  
25 you were specifically trying to look into

1 this. You don't deny that, and you do  
2 indicate to me that you were aware of a  
3 discrepancy, but then you keep saying things  
4 that are just geared to moving it away from  
5 that because you -- it's apparent to me you  
6 don't want to discuss it.

7 MS. BROWN: I would discuss it. I  
8 honestly don't remember.

9 MR. PATTON: Okay.

10 MS. BROWN: And that's the truth. I  
11 don't --

12 MR. PATTON: Well, we've got --

13 MS. BROWN: -- remember what  
14 happened.

15 MR. PATTON: -- we've got the record  
16 of what you do say you remember, so you do  
17 remember something.

18 MS. BROWN: I remember that there  
19 was -- I was concerned about -- I was trying  
20 to understand why the balance was -- on the  
21 monthly report why it didn't agree with my --  
22 with the budget report, but I did not pursue  
23 it. I did not -- was not able to reconcile  
24 it.

25 MR. PATTON: So you were aware that

BECKY BROWN

1 these reports -- that these balances, these  
2 bottom line balances were not in sync?

3 MS. BROWN: I suspected it. I did  
4 not know for sure. I didn't --

5 MR. PATTON: Either the numbers were  
6 the same or not.

7 MS. BROWN: They were not the same,  
8 but there's reasons that they would not be the  
9 same because of --

10 MR. PATTON: So you knew you saw  
11 different numbers?

12 MS. BROWN: Yes.

13 MR. PATTON: You weren't sure why.

14 MS. BROWN: Correct.

15 MR. PATTON: You wanted to  
16 understand why.

17 MS. BROWN: Correct.

18 MR. PATTON: Now, that's consistent  
19 with what Dorothy Kroll's told us, that you  
20 wanted to understand why there's this  
21 discrepancy. That make sense?

22 MS. BROWN: That makes sense.

23 MR. PATTON: It does. And you don't  
24 have any recollection of any feedback that you  
25 were given in response to that inquiry?

1 MS. BROWN: I have no recollection  
2 whatsoever, and I'm --

3 MR. PATTON: Don't remember anybody  
4 telling you there is a difference in the  
5 numbers being plugged in for prior year  
6 adjustments?

7 MS. BROWN: No, I don't. And I  
8 would have -- if I had -- it would have been  
9 nice to know -- or I guess I did know, I guess  
10 somebody told me. I don't remember doing  
11 anything at that point in time or remembering  
12 it or what happened from there.

13 MR. PATTON: Okay.

14 MS. BROWN: And as -- like I say,  
15 when I saw the numbers in the paper, it's --  
16 how did it happen and when did it start.

17 MR. PATTON: Well, I guess you're  
18 not going to be giving us answers to help us  
19 understand that.

20 MS. BROWN: And I don't know the  
21 answers.

22 MR. PATTON: Okay.

23 MS. BROWN: I reported in the fund  
24 condition what Accounting gave me for revenues  
25 and expenditures. We used -- and it wasn't --

1 it was different people over the years. It  
2 just -- there was other people in Budgets that  
3 were working on this prior to me.

4 MR. PATTON: Yeah.

5 MS. BROWN: So it's a cumulative --

6 MR. PATTON: Well, I would represent  
7 to you it's the same underreported twenty  
8 million dollars each year. It grew -- in a  
9 few years, it grew a little bit, but that  
10 twenty million dollars over the last six  
11 years, which had previously reached about  
12 thirty million at one point, that's not  
13 growing each year. It's not that additional  
14 monies are being added. I'll tell you right  
15 now that the reason why is because the prior  
16 year adjustment number used in the  
17 Controller's report is different than the  
18 prior year adjustment number -- the prior year  
19 adjustment number that's been going into the  
20 finance report has not truly reflected the  
21 prior year adjust. That's where the  
22 difference is.

23 MS. BROWN: Okay.

24 MR. PATTON: Okay. And we've had  
25 people tell us they knew flat out, Dorothy

1 figured this out, that's where the disparity  
2 was, figured that out in 2001, reported it  
3 back, and it's never been corrected. And it's  
4 a pretty plain black-and-white resolution.  
5 It's not a complicated thing.

6 MS. BROWN: Okay. That's correct.

7 MR. PATTON: Now, you were the  
8 Budget Officer, and budget's a detailed thing,  
9 right?

10 MS. BROWN: Yes, it is.

11 MR. PATTON: You're a detail person.

12 MS. BROWN: Yes, I am.

13 MR. PATTON: So it's very difficult  
14 to fathom how, when one person's telling me  
15 that they discovered this is where the  
16 discrepancy -- a twenty million dollar  
17 discrepancy, another person saying, I have no  
18 recollection, although you do recall being  
19 aware that there was a discrepancy and wanting  
20 to understand why.

21 MS. BROWN: Yes. And I don't know,  
22 I just don't remember any of this.

23 MR. PATTON: Well, you do remember  
24 something.

25 MS. BROWN: I don't remember these.

1           MR. PATTON: Well, you can close  
2 these. I understand you tell me you didn't  
3 see DOF's memos addressed to Budget  
4 Operations. And I see that the e-mail line  
5 are to the accounting people. They were  
6 sharing.

7           All right. Would there be anything  
8 else you want to tell us?

9           MS. BROWN: No.

10          MR. PATTON: Were you aware of any  
11 other discrepancies, irregularities during  
12 your tenure?

13          MS. BROWN: No, I wasn't.

14          MR. PATTON: Everything else was  
15 just shipshape?

16          MS. BROWN: As much as I can make it  
17 shipshape, it was shipshape.

18          MR. PATTON: Okay. Well, I'm going  
19 to give you my card, and if you decide -- if  
20 you have an improved memory as you reflect on  
21 this and would like to discuss it with me  
22 further, I encourage you to do so. And you  
23 already have my direct line because I gave  
24 that to you before, but there's my card with  
25 the direct line again.

BECKY BROWN

1 MS. BROWN: Okay.

2 MR. PATTON: And we thank you for  
3 your time.

4 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

5 MR. PATTON: We'll go off the  
6 record.

7 MR. MATTSON: Going to the time, it  
8 is 4:56 in the p.m.

9 (End of audio)

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TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE  
Becky Brown interview on 8-28-12

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[& - areias]

<b>&amp;</b>	<b>21st</b> 81:17	<b>able</b> 20:13 23:7,9 63:19 74:23	<b>agency</b> 12:23
<b>&amp;</b> 1:10	<b>22,765,000</b> 30:23,23 42:7	<b>account</b> 13:7 32:3,6 32:9 35:11 40:18 72:25 73:6	<b>ago</b> 6:4 20:7 46:1,1 48:2 52:21 58:8
<b>0</b>	<b>26,825,000</b> 31:5 42:9,10	<b>accountant</b> 16:5	<b>agree</b> 37:2 43:3,4 44:9,13 66:21 74:21
<b>02</b> 30:7 42:6	<b>28</b> 1:7 2:4	<b>accounting</b> 4:24 6:18 7:3,8 8:12 10:11 15:13,17,22 18:9,16 19:10,11 29:2 33:5,17 34:6 36:6 41:8 43:7,8 44:10,21,21 45:1 51:25 68:9,22 70:10 72:1 76:24 79:5	<b>ahead</b> 3:9 28:15 73:2,3,4
<b>0263</b> 30:11	<b>3</b>	<b>accounts</b> 16:9,14	<b>allotments</b> 13:5
<b>03</b> 31:3 42:6	<b>3</b> 11:9,16 12:10,12	<b>accruals</b> 73:8	<b>amount</b> 17:21 24:1 32:16 38:2,2,10 39:9 41:3 71:19,21
<b>0392</b> 30:9	<b>30</b> 3:2 31:4 36:2 38:13 39:4	<b>act</b> 7:21	<b>amounts</b> 16:16 29:19 39:6
<b>1</b>	<b>3:35</b> 2:3	<b>action</b> 4:10	<b>analyst</b> 26:12,12
<b>1</b> 6:1,21,24 10:24 11:1,3 81:11	<b>4</b>	<b>activities</b> 23:21	<b>analyst's</b> 12:22 26:6
<b>10rs</b> 17:15	<b>41,861,000</b> 30:16	<b>actual</b> 16:1 19:6	<b>annual</b> 17:24 23:5 24:14 29:14 30:2,17 37:5 39:6 68:16 69:6,19 71:5
<b>10s</b> 17:11 42:1	<b>4:56</b> 80:8	<b>added</b> 77:14	<b>annuitant</b> 14:16 15:5
<b>14,108,000</b> 39:18	<b>5</b> 27:23 31:3	<b>adding</b> 72:15	<b>answer</b> 3:21 4:5 42:23
<b>19,096,000</b> 30:18	<b>6</b>	<b>additional</b> 32:8 77:13	<b>answers</b> 64:4 76:18 76:21
<b>19,949,000</b> 39:20	<b>64</b> 59:16	<b>addressed</b> 28:4 79:3	<b>anybody</b> 4:22 43:17 56:19 76:3
<b>1972</b> 5:10	<b>7</b>	<b>adjust</b> 77:21	<b>anymore</b> 73:10
<b>1974</b> 6:13,15	<b>7</b> 1:21	<b>adjusted</b> 39:11	<b>anyways</b> 42:16
<b>1976</b> 7:7	<b>70</b> 59:16	<b>adjustment</b> 54:12 54:13 56:17 77:16 77:18,19	<b>apart</b> 70:2
<b>1978</b> 9:8	<b>70s</b> 6:5	<b>adjustments</b> 39:9 76:6	<b>apparent</b> 74:5
<b>1980</b> 7:10,14,14 32:11	<b>72</b> 5:14	<b>admin</b> 21:5 22:3 27:3	<b>appear</b> 59:1
<b>1985</b> 9:14	<b>74</b> 59:16	<b>administration</b> 4:23 8:23 9:6,7	<b>appears</b> 32:1 42:13
<b>1998</b> 39:3,16 58:19 58:25 59:1	<b>76</b> 59:16	<b>administrative</b> 2:13 3:7,14,20,21 4:1,3 10:5,9,12 14:24	<b>appreciate</b> 4:13
<b>2</b>	<b>78</b> 9:3	<b>admonishment</b> 3:13 4:11	<b>appropriated</b> 14:1
<b>2</b> 11:6,17,18,24 12:9 12:11	<b>79</b> 7:6 81:11	<b>admonition</b> 3:6,8	<b>appropriation</b> 16:11,17 17:2 42:2
<b>2000</b> 15:9 57:6 58:1	<b>8</b>	<b>agencies</b> 28:7 66:11	<b>appropriations</b> 17:6
<b>2000s</b> 19:9 20:24 59:4	<b>8</b> 27:23 29:24		<b>approval</b> 24:18
<b>2001</b> 15:9 38:14 52:2 54:9 58:5 78:2	<b>8-28-12</b> 81:3		<b>approximately</b> 6:13 42:19
<b>2001-2002</b> 54:17	<b>80</b> 7:6		<b>april</b> 27:23 29:24
<b>2002</b> 15:9 27:23 29:25 31:4 52:2 54:9 58:5	<b>80s</b> 32:11		<b>area</b> 48:10
<b>2003</b> 27:24	<b>85</b> 9:21 10:16,21,25		<b>areias</b> 21:18 22:10 22:17 23:13 24:9
<b>2005</b> 5:10 9:18 10:19 14:6 58:2,2	<b>9</b>		
<b>2006</b> 14:14,20,22	<b>9,482,000</b> 39:17		
<b>2011</b> 36:3 39:4	<b>90s</b> 11:6,24 12:1,4 12:18		
<b>2012</b> 1:7,21 2:4 81:18	<b>99</b> 39:19		
	<b>a</b>		
	<b>ability</b> 81:12		

[asked - budget]

<p><b>asked</b> 20:8  <b>asking</b> 20:10  <b>asks</b> 29:21,21  <b>assigned</b> 4:20  <b>assigning</b> 13:5,6  <b>assignments</b> 11:4  <b>assistant</b> 5:23 20:25  22:3  <b>assisting</b> 14:23  <b>associated</b> 46:18  <b>assume</b> 26:22 27:6  <b>attach</b> 36:19  <b>attention</b> 43:11  <b>attorney</b> 1:14,15 2:2  <b>audio</b> 80:9 81:12  <b>august</b> 1:7 2:4 3:2  <b>authorized</b> 38:17  59:16  <b>available</b> 44:1 47:20  54:2 59:21 65:18,23  <b>aware</b> 15:9,20 17:20  18:4 24:23 31:10,19  31:24 32:19 38:1  53:10,12,15 57:1,5  58:15 70:8 73:11,20  73:24 74:2,25 78:19  79:10</p>	<p>34:19 35:11,14,16  37:5,8,11 38:13,16  38:21 39:11 40:15  40:16,20 41:3 52:14  54:24 55:4 60:4,23  69:16,23 70:4 71:2  72:18 74:20  <b>balances</b> 29:13  43:22,23 53:22  57:20,21 58:17 59:5  59:10 60:10,18,25  75:1,2  <b>bank</b> 16:13 71:15  <b>base</b> 16:23  <b>based</b> 13:9 16:5  18:3,18 71:22  <b>basic</b> 66:6  <b>basically</b> 3:12 5:4  13:8  <b>basis</b> 36:15 37:22  68:16,23  <b>beaches</b> 66:1  <b>becky</b> 1:5 2:5 5:8  50:11 52:12,15 65:8  69:22,22 70:14 81:3  <b>behavior</b> 4:9  <b>believe</b> 64:6  <b>best</b> 81:12  <b>better</b> 45:3 52:23  67:5  <b>big</b> 53:6,6,8 60:10  66:1 71:10  <b>bill</b> 7:21  <b>bit</b> 2:9 29:9 32:1  56:22 77:9  <b>black</b> 78:4  <b>bond</b> 23:16 43:25  44:2 54:1 59:6,9,13  59:15,21,25 61:3,4  <b>bonds</b> 23:18  <b>books</b> 59:23  <b>bottom</b> 34:1 69:10  69:23 70:3 75:2  <b>bouncing</b> 63:23</p>	<p><b>boy</b> 29:6  <b>bright</b> 9:9  <b>bring</b> 2:15,20 71:16  <b>brochures</b> 65:24  <b>broke</b> 44:18  <b>brought</b> 2:21 43:10  <b>brown</b> 1:5 2:5,10,11  2:17 3:4 4:12 5:8,8  5:15,17,21 6:1,3,7  6:10,13,17,21 7:1,9  7:11,16,19,23 8:3,6  8:9,12,17,19,22 9:1  9:3,7,11,16,21,24  10:1,6,8,14,18,23  11:3,9,14,17,22  12:1,6,11,14,20  13:17,20,23 14:3,8  14:11,17,21 15:3,7  15:16 16:10,15,25  17:9 18:2,9,13,18  19:2,11,13,16,19,22  19:25 20:4,7,16,21  20:25 21:4,10,14,17  21:20 22:1,5,8,11  22:15,19 23:4,15  24:5,11 26:2,5,11  26:16 27:1,5,8,12  27:17,20 28:3,8,12  28:17,22,24 29:1,5  30:6,13,21 31:1,8  31:15,24 32:5,23  33:2,15,25 34:3,8  34:17,21 35:3,9,20  36:4,15,18 37:13,17  37:24 38:5,10 40:12  41:6,15 43:1,13,16  43:19 44:19 45:9,13  45:18,23 46:2,6,10  46:15,20 47:1,9,12  47:18,22 48:4,8,11  48:14,16,18,20 49:3  49:9,15,19,23,25  50:3,6,13,16,20,23  51:1,6,9,12,18,20,21  51:24 52:7,12,17,23</p>	<p>53:8,18,25 54:19,23  55:2,5,24 56:1,6,18  57:7,14,19,25 58:11  58:16,21,24 59:4,11  59:14 60:2,6,13,14  60:19 61:1,4,16,19  61:24 62:3,5,8,13  62:17,23 63:5,16,24  64:5,13,15,19,21,25  65:10,15 66:8,17,22  66:25 67:22,24 68:3  68:14,19,25 69:6,11  69:14,17 70:3,11,22  70:25 71:4,19 72:4  72:10,20 73:1,5  74:7,10,13,18 75:3  75:7,12,14,17,22  76:1,7,14,20,23  77:5,23 78:6,10,12  78:21,25 79:9,13,16  80:1,4 81:3  <b>budget</b> 5:12 7:5,8,20  7:21 8:12,15 9:24  9:25 10:3,9,16,17  10:22 11:13,16,19  11:21 12:4,6,7,8,9  12:14,17,19,24,25  13:1,9,12,13,15  14:6 16:20,23 17:2  18:22,24 19:4,5  21:7 22:13,18 24:3  24:14,15,20,20,22  26:4,9,14,19 27:7  27:10,12,14,18 28:5  28:7 29:10,15,18  32:2 33:9,22 34:14  34:18 35:7,21,24  36:9,12,24 37:8,23  38:11,15 39:8,12  40:9,13 41:23 42:21  43:7 45:1 53:2  54:14 60:1,4 67:7,8  68:11 69:25 71:10  71:12,13 72:12,13  72:24 74:22 78:8</p>
<p><b>b</b></p>			
<p><b>b</b> 5:9  <b>bachelor's</b> 9:5  <b>back</b> 5:1 9:17,20,25  10:1,15,17,21 14:9  15:10 20:17 23:9  39:24 42:6 44:25  51:6,7 52:2 54:18  55:16 58:5 59:1  65:16 70:15 78:3  <b>background</b> 5:5  8:15 20:9,11 23:8  <b>backing</b> 58:7  <b>backup</b> 17:18  <b>bad</b> 47:25  <b>balance</b> 30:18,20  31:4 32:7 34:5,15</p>			

[budget - current]

<p>79:3  <b>budget's</b> 78:8  <b>budgetary</b> 68:15  <b>budgeting</b> 23:2 30:4  <b>budgets</b> 4:24 7:5  10:1,8 15:23 22:20  22:23 26:13 32:14  33:4 44:11 77:2  <b>build</b> 33:21 34:21  36:10 41:19 70:6  71:11,13 72:23  <b>building</b> 12:24 13:8  34:14  <b>builds</b> 13:14  <b>built</b> 35:24 68:5  72:14  <b>bulk</b> 5:11  <b>bunch</b> 47:14  <b>business</b> 8:22 9:5,7  <b>busy</b> 55:11</p>	<p><b>cases</b> 3:11 33:10  <b>certificate</b> 81:2,16  <b>certify</b> 81:10  <b>chain</b> 55:18  <b>chance</b> 54:4 56:8  <b>change</b> 13:1 24:15  <b>charge</b> 11:21 19:9  61:8 67:8  <b>charged</b> 67:13  <b>chart</b> 11:12 37:16  39:2  <b>charts</b> 5:1  <b>checkbook</b> 71:12  <b>checking</b> 32:3,6  35:11  <b>cheryl</b> 28:20  <b>chief</b> 21:1,5 27:4  51:13,14 52:1 53:2  <b>civil</b> 50:16,17  <b>claim</b> 15:18  <b>clarify</b> 31:25  <b>classification</b> 20:12  <b>classified</b> 12:9  <b>clear</b> 10:3  <b>clerk</b> 5:24 6:1,21,24  15:17  <b>close</b> 14:4 59:22  79:1  <b>codes</b> 33:18  <b>coleman</b> 21:17  24:10 26:1  <b>college</b> 8:21  <b>come</b> 35:15 38:20  47:7 65:8  <b>comes</b> 61:7 71:21  <b>comfortable</b> 63:12  <b>coming</b> 4:14 65:11  <b>command</b> 55:19  <b>comment</b> 47:1,6  <b>communicate</b> 21:8  21:24 22:7  <b>communication</b>  24:25 56:4  <b>company</b> 40:18</p>	<p><b>compares</b> 29:18  <b>comparing</b> 39:10  <b>comparison</b> 39:5  <b>completely</b> 4:6  <b>complicated</b> 78:5  <b>component</b> 37:5  <b>concern</b> 53:4  <b>concerned</b> 34:13,15  54:23 55:3 74:19  <b>concerning</b> 31:3  <b>concluded</b> 2:24  <b>condition</b> 17:25  18:3 32:1 34:23  35:4,6,7,10,23 36:1  36:11,20 37:6,20  38:11,15 40:12  41:22 43:6 52:13  61:13 64:1,24 68:1  68:5,5 71:6,20,23  72:5,11 76:24  <b>conditions</b> 35:21  42:4  <b>conducting</b> 4:21  <b>confided</b> 73:20  <b>confuse</b> 59:9  <b>consider</b> 22:17  <b>consideration</b> 13:18  <b>consisted</b> 28:6  <b>consistent</b> 75:18  <b>consistently</b> 57:1  <b>constitute</b> 4:8  <b>contact</b> 20:14 22:10  <b>contents</b> 50:10  <b>continuously</b> 15:2  <b>control</b> 57:9  <b>controller</b> 16:22  18:5 30:17,24 31:6  32:14 36:14 39:7,11  40:8 41:4 42:22  54:16 59:19 68:14  69:7,13,19,24  <b>controller's</b> 4:18  15:14 16:7 17:23  29:11,14,19 30:3  31:12,22 32:25</p>	<p>33:14 34:6 37:7,22  39:10 44:16 52:5,15  55:6 61:5 67:25  68:4,9 69:4 70:5  73:6 77:17  <b>controllers</b> 15:21  18:19 32:13 33:4  36:8,25 41:9 44:12  44:22 68:10  <b>conversation</b> 58:12  62:20  <b>conversations</b> 16:5  64:2,12  <b>coordination</b> 12:21  <b>copies</b> 15:23 17:16  <b>copy</b> 2:25 18:20  35:3  <b>correct</b> 3:3,4 10:7  11:22 13:17,20  16:24 28:8 30:25  31:7 37:24,24 51:23  64:19 75:14,17 78:6  <b>corrected</b> 78:3  <b>correspond</b> 42:14  <b>corresponding</b>  29:13,20  <b>cost</b> 13:7  <b>county</b> 33:2 34:9,10  66:1,2,4 81:8  <b>couple</b> 3:11 5:21  7:12 11:10 15:11  21:15 24:13 27:22  46:2,4 48:2 58:3  62:13,14,14,15,15  63:22  <b>courses</b> 50:4  <b>coworkers</b> 46:9,16  47:14  <b>criminal</b> 3:17,19,25  <b>cumulative</b> 38:6  40:11 77:5  <b>curious</b> 48:24  <b>current</b> 3:6 49:1,2  49:12,18</p>
<p><b>c</b></p>			
<p><b>cabinets</b> 45:7 47:24  50:9 65:9 66:13  70:17  <b>cal</b> 7:24 8:5,8,10  9:12  <b>california</b> 1:8,17  48:7,8 81:6,13,15  <b>called</b> 17:25 41:25  <b>caltrans</b> 50:23,24,25  51:2,12  <b>cap</b> 17:6  <b>card</b> 79:19,24  <b>care</b> 67:18  <b>career</b> 5:11 6:23  27:20 50:14 51:2  <b>cares</b> 66:14,20  <b>carmichael</b> 20:22  <b>carried</b> 34:24  <b>carry</b> 34:25  <b>carrying</b> 59:23  <b>carryover</b> 17:5  <b>case</b> 32:10</p>			

[currently - expenditures]

<b>currently</b> 52:1	<b>described</b> 13:14	<b>discussion</b> 46:21,23	<b>elections</b> 65:20
<b>d</b>	<b>desire</b> 2:23	73:14	<b>elevate</b> 21:12
<b>data</b> 29:20	<b>detail</b> 78:11	<b>disparities</b> 30:1	<b>employee</b> 3:11 49:2
<b>date</b> 24:22	<b>detailed</b> 41:25 66:12	37:16 44:15 52:5	50:12,19
<b>dated</b> 31:3	78:8	61:23	<b>employees</b> 3:6 49:1
<b>dates</b> 7:2 11:7	<b>determined</b> 54:11	<b>disparity</b> 40:1 53:2	49:12,13
<b>david</b> 1:19 81:21	<b>devastated</b> 48:22	53:5 61:18 78:1	<b>employers</b> 9:9
<b>day</b> 81:17	<b>develop</b> 24:18	<b>dissecting</b> 54:10	<b>emptied</b> 47:24
<b>days</b> 3:10	<b>difference</b> 30:22	<b>division</b> 10:5 20:25	<b>encourage</b> 79:22
<b>dealt</b> 63:13	31:9,20,25 32:19	51:14	<b>engineer</b> 50:16,17
<b>debate</b> 73:10	38:9,23 39:18,18	<b>dmv</b> 5:15,20	51:8
<b>decade</b> 57:6	40:6 42:17 60:23	<b>document</b> 19:5,5	<b>enjoying</b> 20:1
<b>deception</b> 4:7	76:4 77:22	<b>documents</b> 18:22	<b>entire</b> 34:25 60:1
<b>decide</b> 79:19	<b>differences</b> 29:12,16	32:18 45:1,2,7	<b>entities</b> 37:11
<b>decision</b> 55:21	29:22 36:22 44:7	70:17	<b>equipment</b> 51:13,13
<b>deed</b> 66:3	58:10,15,17,19	<b>dof</b> 8:2	51:14
<b>degree</b> 8:21	60:11,16,17,25	<b>dof's</b> 79:3	<b>error</b> 34:22,24 35:2
<b>delve</b> 55:12	67:24	<b>doing</b> 13:10 14:16	56:16
<b>denied</b> 56:24	<b>different</b> 13:6 16:21	15:1 19:24 60:7,8	<b>escribers</b> 1:20 81:22
<b>deny</b> 62:19,23 64:17	18:24 24:3,20 28:7	73:18 76:10	<b>essentially</b> 16:13
74:1	37:7,10 38:2,3	<b>dollar</b> 39:17 40:1	<b>establish</b> 23:6,22
<b>denzil</b> 21:4,11,25	44:23 49:21 54:15	42:7,9,10 53:1	<b>established</b> 38:23
27:4	65:21,24 75:11 77:1	60:23 78:16	40:16
<b>department</b> 1:10	77:17	<b>dollars</b> 40:6,23	<b>evading</b> 73:14
2:7 4:17,19 5:17	<b>difficult</b> 78:13	42:13,18 54:15 67:6	<b>evasion</b> 4:7
7:17 12:21 13:2,10	<b>direct</b> 79:23,25	70:2 77:8,10	<b>eventually</b> 66:2
13:16 14:13 17:19	<b>director</b> 21:12,14,20	<b>domich</b> 21:1,3,25	<b>everybody</b> 57:3
18:1 22:20 23:21	22:3,3,10 23:14	26:24 27:1,2,12	<b>evidence</b> 3:23
28:1 29:10,17,21	24:10,25 27:3,4	<b>door</b> 65:2	<b>exact</b> 68:12
30:25 31:13,23 33:1	70:21	<b>dorothy</b> 51:22 52:7	<b>existed</b> 64:17
33:8 36:18 37:3	<b>disciplinary</b> 4:10	53:20 62:21 64:21	<b>existence</b> 32:10
39:4 41:17 44:17	<b>discontinue</b> 15:6	75:19 77:25	<b>existing</b> 71:18,20
46:9,19,25 47:8	<b>discovered</b> 78:15	<b>due</b> 54:11	<b>exists</b> 56:25
50:18 52:6,13 70:20	<b>discrepancies</b> 64:4	<b>dunne</b> 19:13 52:4	<b>expect</b> 43:3 71:15,16
71:21,25 72:2,7,9	73:12 79:11	<b>duty</b> 4:8	<b>expended</b> 16:16
81:14	<b>discrepancy</b> 31:11	<b>e</b>	17:3
<b>department's</b> 12:24	42:7,9,10 43:12,18	<b>e</b> 20:17,17 28:6 79:4	<b>expenditure</b> 17:13
13:9 43:6 72:3	43:21 54:11 55:2	<b>early</b> 6:5 19:9 20:24	29:19 33:20 41:11
<b>departments</b> 22:22	62:22 63:9 67:4	32:11 34:23 57:5,5	41:24 42:4
29:15,21	73:21 74:3 75:21	58:2 59:4	<b>expenditures</b> 13:7
<b>deposit</b> 35:14	78:16,17,19	<b>earned</b> 34:11	16:1 17:1,10,17
<b>depository</b> 65:12	<b>discuss</b> 4:5 74:6,7	<b>educating</b> 22:20	19:6 32:9,16 35:15
<b>deputy</b> 1:14 2:2	79:21	<b>either</b> 27:9 56:2	38:20 40:20 42:1
27:4	<b>discussing</b> 21:7	58:1 75:5	72:16 76:25

[expenses - hard]

<p><b>expenses</b> 40:25  <b>experience</b> 22:21  66:10  <b>expert</b> 24:8  <b>explain</b> 22:22 23:13  26:23 29:21 36:25  <b>explained</b> 29:24  <b>explaining</b> 24:15  <b>explanation</b> 56:15  <b>expo</b> 7:24 8:5,8,11  9:12</p>	<p>72:6 73:16 77:20  <b>financial</b> 1:11 4:16  15:24 16:3,6,21  17:22 18:11,13,16  19:1,3 33:3,5,17  <b>find</b> 53:1 59:19  <b>fine</b> 2:22  <b>first</b> 6:15 27:13  38:17,22 42:19 44:5  44:6,8,14 45:5 51:4  57:10 61:23 67:9  <b>fiscal</b> 14:12,20  20:10 39:3  <b>five</b> 46:1 62:6 63:14  <b>flat</b> 77:25  <b>floor</b> 5:4  <b>foregoing</b> 81:11  <b>form</b> 2:8 3:8 13:25  37:22  <b>former</b> 24:25 46:8  46:16 48:25 49:12  49:17  <b>forms</b> 16:23  <b>forth</b> 24:19 51:6,7  59:17  <b>forthcoming</b> 73:23  <b>forty</b> 40:1 42:13  <b>found</b> 9:9 60:9  <b>foundational</b> 15:11  <b>four</b> 70:16  <b>freda</b> 19:13 52:3  54:18 55:17  <b>frequently</b> 49:20  <b>friends</b> 46:17 47:15  49:20  <b>front</b> 29:9  <b>full</b> 5:22 70:17  <b>fund</b> 17:25 18:2  29:13,17 30:9,10,11  30:11,16,18,19 31:3  31:5 32:1 34:5,14  34:23 35:4,6,7,9,20  35:23,25 36:2,10,20  37:5,6,6,8,11,20  38:11,13,15,16,19</p>	<p>38:20,21,22 40:12  40:15 41:3,22 42:4  42:8 43:6,21,23  52:13,14 53:19,22  54:3,5,24 55:4  57:19,21 59:5,10  60:4,17,23,25 61:6  61:7,9,13 64:1 68:1  68:4,5 69:23 70:4  71:2,6,20,22 72:5  72:11,17 76:23  <b>funding</b> 13:2 14:1  59:21 69:15  <b>funds</b> 30:1,8 41:17  43:25 44:2,3 54:1  55:7 59:6,9,13,15  59:21,25 61:3,5  <b>further</b> 59:1 63:19  79:22</p>	<p><b>goes</b> 15:24 18:1  68:22  <b>going</b> 3:9 5:1,3 24:9  24:16 27:21 29:8  30:2,17 33:13 36:14  53:10 55:22 56:9  66:4 67:14 70:15,20  71:13 76:18 77:19  79:18 80:7  <b>golf</b> 50:3  <b>good</b> 4:9 17:7 47:25  <b>government</b> 66:10  <b>governor</b> 13:19  30:19  <b>governor's</b> 12:25  19:5 29:15,18 32:2  32:15 33:9,22 34:17  35:21 36:11,23  38:11,14 39:8,12  40:9,13 41:23 42:21  72:12,13  <b>grappling</b> 62:1  <b>grew</b> 77:8,9  <b>group</b> 28:5 45:18  46:8,10,15,22 47:13  48:3,15,25 49:11,24  49:25  <b>growing</b> 77:13  <b>grows</b> 39:18  <b>guess</b> 3:2 24:7 38:25  42:22 76:9,9,17</p>
<p><b>f</b></p>			
<p><b>fact</b> 52:10  <b>failure</b> 4:9  <b>fairly</b> 22:17 23:1,2  27:7  <b>familiar</b> 15:12,13,16  28:18,20 29:7  <b>far</b> 32:16 57:4  <b>fathom</b> 78:14  <b>feedback</b> 75:24  <b>feel</b> 24:8 66:23  73:23  <b>feels</b> 67:3  <b>field</b> 23:2  <b>figure</b> 54:2 57:20  <b>figured</b> 78:1,2  <b>file</b> 45:7 47:23 49:5  50:9 65:9 66:13  70:16  <b>files</b> 45:14 47:4,23  48:21,22,23 49:6  <b>fill</b> 2:7  <b>finance</b> 4:19 7:12,13  7:15,17 8:2 12:21  13:16 14:13 17:13  17:19 18:1 24:19  28:1 29:10,18 30:4  30:25 31:7,14,23  33:1,7,8 36:19 37:4  37:9 39:2,5 40:9  41:7 42:6 43:11  44:17 52:6,13 54:14  70:20 71:22,25 72:3</p>			
		<p><b>g</b></p>	
		<p><b>gained</b> 3:23  <b>geared</b> 62:21 74:4  <b>general</b> 1:14,16 2:2  29:17  <b>generate</b> 70:19  <b>generated</b> 72:12  <b>getting</b> 14:1 24:17  56:15 73:19  <b>give</b> 3:6,13 5:4  70:11 79:19  <b>given</b> 4:25 14:11  16:7 27:22 33:23  34:1,4 42:16 64:9  75:25  <b>giving</b> 2:9 70:9  76:18  <b>go</b> 3:9 6:9,11 9:23  10:15 15:14,20  17:13,18,23 21:8,24  23:9 28:15 32:18  37:20 38:19 41:22  44:25 54:4 59:1  61:20 66:7,18 67:19  70:18 73:2,3,3 80:5</p>	
			<p><b>h</b></p>
			<p><b>half</b> 14:23 51:1,2,4,5  <b>happen</b> 19:20,23  32:20 38:24 76:16  <b>happened</b> 38:24  44:9 45:3,20 46:24  52:8,18 55:14 56:11  58:5 63:25 65:2  73:13 74:14 76:12  <b>happening</b> 56:12  <b>hard</b> 61:12 64:6  67:2</p>

[hate - look]

<p><b>hate</b> 73:22  <b>hawaii</b> 20:18  <b>heard</b> 20:6,21 44:5  45:11,11 47:4,22  <b>hearing</b> 43:19  <b>hearings</b> 24:20  <b>heidi</b> 81:13  <b>help</b> 54:8 76:18  <b>highway</b> 30:11  <b>hire</b> 20:10  <b>history</b> 5:5 6:23  14:5 23:10 47:25  <b>hold</b> 39:22 68:7  <b>honestly</b> 4:6 54:19  55:13 56:2 58:3,6  60:9 63:5 74:8  <b>hope</b> 9:11  <b>houses</b> 50:4  <b>huh</b> 5:25 28:24  68:18  <b>hum</b> 6:7 8:6 10:6  15:3 18:18 19:12  22:24 32:4 33:25  46:20 57:7 60:19  64:13,15 68:2  <b>husband</b> 49:23  50:11</p>	<p>57:17 58:14  <b>indicates</b> 30:8 52:11  <b>indicating</b> 29:11  30:15 37:10  <b>inform</b> 58:20  <b>informal</b> 12:8  <b>information</b> 2:10  3:23 5:2 16:1 17:14  20:11,14 23:9,20,23  32:15,20,22,25 33:6  33:10,16,19,24  36:23 41:20,22 42:3  43:5,8 44:22 48:23  53:9 58:12 64:9  65:12,17,25 69:25  70:9,23  <b>informed</b> 55:17  <b>inquiry</b> 75:25  <b>instructed</b> 4:4  <b>insubordination</b> 4:8  <b>interested</b> 69:10  71:1,3  <b>interesting</b> 56:22  <b>internet</b> 65:17  <b>interview</b> 1:1 2:5,6  2:25 3:20 81:3  <b>interviewed</b> 1:13  <b>interviews</b> 4:21  <b>intricacies</b> 24:2  <b>invested</b> 66:15,16  <b>investigating</b> 4:16  <b>investigation</b> 1:10  2:13 3:15,18,19 4:2  67:13  <b>investigator</b> 2:6  <b>invited</b> 2:20  <b>involved</b> 4:22 26:18  26:20 49:17  <b>irregularities</b> 1:11  79:11  <b>ish</b> 9:21  <b>issue</b> 22:12 23:16  53:6,7,9 55:18  56:10,12 61:15  62:11 63:9 64:7</p>	<p><b>issued</b> 29:24  <b>issues</b> 24:22 65:11  65:14 66:4  <b>item</b> 42:4  <b>items</b> 24:4 36:10</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>j</b></p> <p><b>job</b> 5:22,23 6:16,20  8:18,19 14:5 66:14  66:15 67:19  <b>june</b> 27:23 31:3,4  36:2 38:13 39:4  <b>justice</b> 2:7 81:14</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>k</b></p> <p><b>kaiser</b> 28:20  <b>keep</b> 13:6 24:21  59:23 71:12 74:3  <b>keeps</b> 66:12 70:16  <b>kept</b> 48:22 65:9,11  65:24  <b>kilzer</b> 28:22,23  <b>kind</b> 3:8 16:22  23:12 24:25 32:2  35:10 39:25 50:1,2  57:16 65:11,13 66:7  66:12,13,24 67:3  <b>knew</b> 19:17 51:16  51:17 52:12 75:10  77:25  <b>know</b> 3:1,18 19:21  19:23 20:19 23:11  26:8 32:17 35:5  43:1,4 44:23 51:22  54:24 56:11 60:22  61:10,17,20 64:6  65:4 67:9,12,13,21  69:22,24 70:1,15  71:11 73:9 75:4  76:9,9,20 78:21  <b>knowledge</b> 56:24  67:17  <b>kroll</b> 51:23 52:2  54:9 55:17 56:15  57:2 62:21</p>	<p><b>kroll's</b> 75:19</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>l</b></p> <p><b>la</b> 65:25 66:4  <b>lack</b> 67:5  <b>ladder</b> 11:2  <b>learn</b> 8:15 73:14  <b>learned</b> 8:17 44:15  <b>left</b> 40:23 44:1  <b>legal</b> 68:15  <b>legislation</b> 38:17  <b>legislative</b> 12:22  26:6,12  <b>legislature</b> 13:22  22:23 23:20,24 26:7  26:16,20  <b>letter</b> 2:8,14,23 4:15  <b>level</b> 15:19  <b>life</b> 20:1  <b>limited</b> 65:6 67:17  <b>line</b> 24:4 27:25  29:25 34:2 42:4  68:16 69:10,23 70:4  75:2 79:4,23,25  <b>liquidated</b> 16:18  <b>list</b> 24:16 65:19  <b>listed</b> 11:12 30:1  <b>lists</b> 17:3  <b>little</b> 2:9 29:9 31:25  56:21 77:9  <b>lived</b> 20:22  <b>lives</b> 20:20  <b>local</b> 17:6  <b>locate</b> 20:14  <b>logical</b> 72:23  <b>long</b> 5:20 6:3 8:1,7  10:17 24:12 42:11  50:24 52:21  <b>longer</b> 3:10 47:4,19  47:23  <b>look</b> 20:12 23:9 28:9  28:14,16,17,19 29:6  29:23 33:15 34:9  36:9,13 41:12 44:25  55:5 57:21 63:9</p>
<b>i</b>			
<p><b>idea</b> 44:13 48:4  <b>identified</b> 54:17  <b>ignore</b> 39:14  <b>ignoring</b> 60:1 71:17  <b>imagine</b> 15:13 58:24  67:3,20  <b>immediate</b> 26:25  <b>immediately</b> 63:14  <b>impacted</b> 65:22  <b>impression</b> 24:1  <b>improved</b> 79:20  <b>inability</b> 63:1  <b>included</b> 23:18  <b>indicate</b> 47:20 74:2  <b>indicated</b> 2:14,23  4:15 16:21 45:6</p>			

[look - okay]

<p>68:3,8,19 69:4 71:14 73:25 <b>looked</b> 33:12 34:9 68:4 <b>looking</b> 23:19 37:2 43:21,23,24 53:18 53:25 55:8 57:19 58:16,23 59:5,6,9 59:10,13,19,25 61:1 61:3,5 67:25 68:1 68:11,12 71:18 <b>looks</b> 36:4 <b>loop</b> 14:5 <b>loss</b> 37:25 45:4 <b>lot</b> 7:1 12:20 23:5 33:16 47:25 48:23 49:19 51:16 52:19 52:20 55:13 65:2,10 65:15,17 66:3,4 67:14 <b>low</b> 15:19 <b>luanne</b> 19:13 52:3</p>	<p><b>meal</b> 48:17 <b>mean</b> 7:14 11:16 53:13 59:8 62:25 63:22 66:21 67:11 67:12 72:23 73:22 <b>media</b> 67:15 <b>meet</b> 49:16 50:2 <b>meeting</b> 48:3,25 49:8,11 <b>meetings</b> 49:17 58:13 64:8,11 <b>megison</b> 21:21 <b>member</b> 48:19 <b>memo</b> 29:24 30:7 31:3 <b>memories</b> 52:24 <b>memory</b> 57:12 64:24 79:20 <b>memos</b> 27:22 28:11 28:13 31:18 37:3,15 42:6 79:3 <b>mention</b> 45:20 <b>mentioned</b> 45:14,16 49:5 50:9 <b>met</b> 48:15 <b>michael</b> 2:6 <b>mid</b> 12:1,3,17 <b>million</b> 38:4,14 40:1 40:5,6,23 42:13,15 42:18,20 53:1 54:15 60:23 67:5 70:2 77:8,10,12 78:16 <b>mind</b> 65:3 <b>minute</b> 28:15 56:24 60:15 <b>minutes</b> 58:8 <b>mixed</b> 46:16,22 48:3 48:25 49:11 <b>modified</b> 13:25 <b>money</b> 16:12 17:22 18:4 35:13 38:17 43:24 44:1 54:2 57:22 61:11 <b>monies</b> 77:14</p>	<p><b>monitoring</b> 13:11 <b>month</b> 62:4,12 63:13,21 71:14 <b>monthly</b> 61:6,7 74:21 <b>months</b> 5:21 62:14 62:16 <b>motor</b> 5:17 <b>move</b> 63:3 <b>moved</b> 7:5 <b>moving</b> 73:15 74:4</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>n</b></p> <p><b>n</b> 5:9 <b>name</b> 5:3,6,7,8,9 26:25 28:2,19 <b>necessarily</b> 73:6 <b>necessary</b> 24:21 <b>need</b> 36:25 56:10 <b>needed</b> 21:12 24:23 43:24 70:22 71:5 <b>needs</b> 13:3,10 <b>neglect</b> 4:8 <b>neither</b> 3:22 <b>never</b> 28:12 37:15 37:15 78:3 <b>new</b> 1:22,22 23:16 40:15 81:17,17 <b>news</b> 44:7,18 <b>nice</b> 76:9 <b>nine</b> 39:17 40:1,3 42:13 <b>nineteen</b> 38:14 <b>non</b> 49:11 <b>noncriminal</b> 4:3 <b>normal</b> 42:25 43:2,3 43:12 <b>normally</b> 21:7,10 <b>note</b> 52:10 <b>number</b> 5:1 34:5 35:23 39:25 45:7 54:13,14 56:23 57:3 69:10,18,18 72:8 73:1 77:16,18,19</p>	<p><b>numbers</b> 19:3 33:6 37:20 39:19 40:3 44:23 54:12 70:1 72:24 73:5 75:5,11 76:5,15 <b>numerous</b> 29:25 <b>nutshell</b> 13:8</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>o</b></p> <p><b>o</b> 5:9 <b>o0o</b> 1:25 81:23 <b>obfuscated</b> 73:19 <b>obligated</b> 16:18 <b>obviously</b> 43:23 <b>occurred</b> 49:8 64:18 <b>office</b> 1:15 4:18 5:23 6:18 10:16 11:5 12:22 15:15,22 16:8 17:23 26:6 29:2,12 29:14,19 30:3 31:12 31:22 32:15,25 33:14 34:7 37:7,22 39:10 41:8 44:17 52:15 <b>officer</b> 11:13,16,19 12:6,7,8,14,17,19 13:12 14:6 19:11 27:11,13,18 53:3 67:7 69:25 78:8 <b>officers</b> 28:7 <b>offices</b> 5:12 <b>oh</b> 12:13 26:11 65:25 <b>okay</b> 2:18 4:13 5:16 6:14,19,22 7:18,22 8:24 9:22 10:11,15 11:8,23 12:2,3,4,13 12:16 14:4,18 15:4 15:8 17:8 19:14 20:23 21:2,6,19 23:25 26:15 27:9,15 27:19 29:4 35:25 36:4,13 39:15 42:24 43:15 49:24 50:5 51:10,19,21 55:24</p>
<b>m</b>			
<p><b>m</b> 1:13 2:3 <b>magnitude</b> 54:25 <b>mail</b> 20:17 28:6 79:4 <b>mailed</b> 20:17 <b>making</b> 73:18 <b>manager</b> 10:23,24 11:1,3,6,9,15,17,18 11:24 12:5,9,11 <b>maps</b> 65:25 <b>matching</b> 52:14 <b>matter</b> 4:5 <b>matters</b> 4:16 21:7 22:13 26:9 <b>mattson</b> 2:6 39:15 50:11,15,17,21,24 51:3,7,10,15,19 65:8,13 66:6,23 67:23 68:2,7,18,24 69:2 70:7,14 71:8 72:22 73:3 80:7</p>			

[okay - probably]

55:25 59:3,11,14,24 60:18 69:9 73:19 74:9 76:13,22 77:23 77:24 78:6 79:18 80:1 <b>old</b> 43:25 45:19 46:24 47:14 <b>ones</b> 24:18 <b>ongoing</b> 35:10 <b>open</b> 32:6 <b>operation</b> 14:2 <b>operations</b> 28:5 79:4 <b>opportunity</b> 14:12 <b>order</b> 14:1 56:12 71:11,12 <b>organization</b> 4:25 <b>orrick</b> 11:11 <b>ought</b> 9:13 <b>outlay</b> 17:6 <b>outstanding</b> 64:22 <b>overseeing</b> 12:23	<b>part</b> 4:1 5:22 14:19 14:23 15:24 17:18 50:13 57:5 <b>particular</b> 66:5 <b>particularly</b> 4:23 <b>passing</b> 45:23 50:8 <b>patricia</b> 21:21 <b>patton</b> 1:13 2:1,3,12 2:18 3:5 4:13 5:13 5:16,19,25 6:2,5,8 6:11,14,19,22 7:7 7:10,13,18,22 8:1,4 8:7,10,14,18,20,24 9:2,4,8,12,19,22,25 10:2,7,11,15,20,25 11:8,11,15,20,23 12:2,7,13,16 13:12 13:18,21,24 14:4,9 14:15,18 15:1,4,8 16:3,12,20 17:8,20 18:7,11,15,23 19:8 19:12,14,17,20,23 20:2,5,13,19,23 21:2,6,13,16,19,23 22:2,6,9,14,16,24 23:12,25 24:7,24 26:3,8,15,22 27:2,6 27:9,15,19,21 28:4 28:9,14,19,23,25 29:4,8 30:7,14,22 31:2,10,17 32:4,21 32:24 33:12,23 34:1 34:4,13,20 35:2,5 35:18,25 36:13,17 37:1,14,19,25 38:8 39:1,14,16,22 41:2 41:13 42:5 43:10,15 43:17 44:14 45:5,10 45:16,22,25 46:4,7 46:13,18,21 47:6,11 47:16,19 48:2,6,9 48:12,15,17,19,24 49:7,10,16,22,24 50:1,5 51:21,25 52:10,22,25 53:14	53:23 54:7,21 55:1 55:3,15,25 56:3,14 56:21 57:8,16,24 58:7,14,18,22 59:3 59:8,12,24 60:4,12 60:14,20 61:2,14,18 61:22,25 62:4,6,10 62:15,19,25 63:7,18 64:3,11,14,16,23 65:4 66:9,18 67:1 68:21 69:1,3,9,12 69:15,22 70:24 71:1 71:7,9,24 72:6,19 73:9 74:9,12,15,25 75:5,10,13,15,18,23 76:3,13,17,22 77:4 77:6,24 78:7,11,13 78:23 79:1,10,14,18 80:2,5 <b>payable</b> 16:14 <b>paycheck</b> 66:20 <b>pending</b> 16:14 <b>people</b> 45:19 46:8 46:11,11,13,16,18 46:22 47:14 48:3 49:18,18 51:17 52:22 55:20 56:23 57:3 66:10 73:24 77:1,2,25 79:5 <b>perceive</b> 67:18 <b>period</b> 36:2 57:15 61:25 64:1 <b>pers</b> 5:23 6:6,8 <b>person</b> 9:9 11:21 19:9 21:9 26:7 57:10 64:22 65:6 66:7,19,19,24 67:7 67:19 70:15,16,18 71:11 78:11,17 <b>person's</b> 78:14 <b>ph</b> 21:21 <b>phone</b> 39:13,21 <b>place</b> 67:15 <b>places</b> 5:12 32:18 49:21 50:2	<b>plain</b> 78:4 <b>plugged</b> 76:5 <b>plus</b> 60:23 67:6 <b>point</b> 2:24 14:10,24 15:10 17:21 38:12 40:24 43:22 53:11 53:16 55:10 59:7 72:5,10,14 76:11 77:12 <b>points</b> 42:6 <b>political</b> 55:19 <b>politically</b> 67:12 <b>politics</b> 67:15 <b>position</b> 10:21 15:18 15:19 27:10,18 51:11 57:12 <b>positions</b> 13:4 <b>possible</b> 56:3,6 62:20 <b>post</b> 15:5,25 40:14 <b>posted</b> 38:19 40:17 40:25 71:20,25 <b>potentially</b> 17:4 <b>pre</b> 71:20 <b>preparation</b> 18:21 <b>prepared</b> 24:16 32:14 <b>prepares</b> 33:2 <b>preparing</b> 68:10 <b>prepping</b> 24:19 <b>present</b> 15:2 <b>presentation</b> 12:25 <b>pretty</b> 19:17 78:4 <b>previous</b> 34:19 35:24 71:22 72:13 <b>previously</b> 26:10 77:11 <b>primary</b> 4:20 <b>prior</b> 29:13 50:12 54:12,13 56:16 58:2 58:3 76:5 77:3,15 77:18,18,21 <b>probably</b> 36:6 48:11 52:17 69:20
<b>p</b>			
<b>p.m.</b> 80:8 <b>page</b> 29:10 70:23 <b>pages</b> 81:11 <b>pamphlet</b> 65:24 <b>paper</b> 76:15 <b>park</b> 43:6 49:11 <b>parks</b> 1:10 4:17,23 6:10,12,15,16,23 7:6 9:17,20,23 10:4 10:16,17 23:18 26:13 29:3 30:8,10 30:15 31:5 36:1 41:18 42:8 43:24 46:9,11,14,19,25 47:7,9 49:1,1,2,13 49:18,18 50:12,13 50:18 51:2,4,5,16 52:20 54:3 59:14 61:8,9 65:22 69:12 72:8			

[problem - resources]

<p><b>problem</b> 52:12 55:19</p> <p><b>proceeding</b> 3:25 4:4</p> <p><b>process</b> 7:20 23:2,5 23:5 24:14</p> <p><b>processing</b> 15:18</p> <p><b>produce</b> 18:19</p> <p><b>produces</b> 18:17</p> <p><b>program</b> 13:6</p> <p><b>progress</b> 73:18</p> <p><b>progression</b> 6:25 11:2</p> <p><b>project</b> 7:23 14:12 14:20 42:2</p> <p><b>projects</b> 13:2 44:2 66:5</p> <p><b>prominent</b> 57:11</p> <p><b>promoted</b> 11:5</p> <p><b>proposals</b> 13:1 24:16</p> <p><b>proposed</b> 23:17 39:8 39:12</p> <p><b>proposition</b> 3:12 65:23</p> <p><b>propositions</b> 65:20 65:21</p> <p><b>provide</b> 17:16 23:19</p> <p><b>provided</b> 37:21 44:11,12 54:12 69:25 72:1</p> <p><b>provides</b> 18:9</p> <p><b>public</b> 23:23</p> <p><b>pull</b> 70:13</p> <p><b>purposes</b> 30:4 41:4</p> <p><b>pursue</b> 74:22</p> <p><b>pursuing</b> 55:10</p> <p><b>put</b> 17:11,15 19:4 39:2 65:19</p> <p><b>puts</b> 33:5,7 69:7</p>	<p><b>quickly</b> 6:6</p> <p><b>quit</b> 58:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>r</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>r</b> 5:9</p> <p><b>raise</b> 56:12</p> <p><b>raised</b> 56:10</p> <p><b>reached</b> 77:11</p> <p><b>read</b> 2:14 3:9 29:9 40:3</p> <p><b>readily</b> 65:18,22</p> <p><b>really</b> 23:22,23 24:2 44:24 53:11 54:4 56:8,23 59:2 63:4 63:16 64:10 73:18</p> <p><b>reason</b> 3:24 62:22 77:15</p> <p><b>reasons</b> 75:8</p> <p><b>rec</b> 30:15 31:5 42:8</p> <p><b>recall</b> 23:16 27:17 49:13 62:24 63:2,2 63:6,8,8 64:7,16 67:23 78:18</p> <p><b>receipts</b> 38:19</p> <p><b>receivable</b> 16:14</p> <p><b>received</b> 2:8 5:2 40:18 41:18</p> <p><b>receives</b> 16:22</p> <p><b>recipients</b> 28:6</p> <p><b>recited</b> 64:14</p> <p><b>recollection</b> 11:7 53:3 63:3,23 65:6 67:10 75:24 76:1 78:18</p> <p><b>reconcile</b> 54:5 61:12 74:23</p> <p><b>reconciliation</b> 61:15</p> <p><b>reconciling</b> 13:3 29:16 61:21</p> <p><b>record</b> 2:2,20 74:15 80:6</p> <p><b>record's</b> 10:3</p> <p><b>recorded</b> 1:1</p> <p><b>recorder</b> 2:22</p>	<p><b>recording</b> 2:19 81:12</p> <p><b>recordkeeper</b> 45:8 47:3</p> <p><b>records</b> 23:6 46:24 47:17 66:12 67:25 68:4,9,12</p> <p><b>recreation</b> 1:11 4:18 9:17 30:9,10 36:2 54:3 59:15 61:9</p> <p><b>recreations</b> 41:18</p> <p><b>referring</b> 30:5</p> <p><b>reflect</b> 73:7 79:20</p> <p><b>reflected</b> 17:24 37:8 42:11 77:20</p> <p><b>reformat</b> 7:20</p> <p><b>refusal</b> 4:7</p> <p><b>refuse</b> 3:21</p> <p><b>regard</b> 3:17 5:7</p> <p><b>regularly</b> 22:7</p> <p><b>related</b> 4:3 26:9 46:14</p> <p><b>relating</b> 4:16,24 30:8</p> <p><b>release</b> 23:24</p> <p><b>relied</b> 73:16</p> <p><b>rely</b> 71:24</p> <p><b>relying</b> 72:2</p> <p><b>remain</b> 3:17</p> <p><b>remember</b> 9:19 24:11,12 31:16,18 37:17 43:13,19 44:19 45:21 47:2,13 47:16 48:5,12,18,20 48:21 49:3,4,7 50:6 50:7 52:8,19,21 53:19,20 54:20,22 55:8,10,13 56:1,7 56:14,18,19 57:14 57:25 58:6,12 60:10 61:22 62:3,17 63:12 63:15,17,19,25 64:5 64:10 65:1 74:8,13 74:16,17,18 76:3,10 78:22,23,25</p>	<p><b>remembering</b> 53:24 76:11</p> <p><b>report</b> 17:10 18:3,20 18:24 20:24 29:14 30:2,14,17,18 32:20 32:21,24 33:20 35:8 35:10 36:6,14,16 37:9 39:7 40:9 42:17,21 43:17 52:5 52:6 54:14,16 61:7 68:16,20,22 69:5,7 69:20 70:5,6,19 71:5 73:7 74:21,22 77:17,20</p> <p><b>reported</b> 17:22 18:5 30:3,16,19,24 31:6 31:12,13,21,23 34:6 34:12 36:24 37:5,11 39:6,12,17 40:7,8 42:1,20,22 43:11 44:16,20 51:22 52:1 54:18 55:15,16,18 57:8 69:12,21,23 76:23 78:2</p> <p><b>reporting</b> 4:17 33:11 41:4 56:16</p> <p><b>reportings</b> 67:6</p> <p><b>reports</b> 15:14,20 29:20 31:4 32:12 33:5,7,7,13,16,17,18 33:20 34:10 36:20 40:2 41:24 43:9 53:2 54:10 55:6 59:18 60:22 61:6,6 70:12,19 75:1</p> <p><b>represent</b> 16:8 77:6</p> <p><b>representative</b> 2:15</p> <p><b>represented</b> 27:24</p> <p><b>request</b> 47:20</p> <p><b>requested</b> 24:17</p> <p><b>requesting</b> 13:1</p> <p><b>requests</b> 13:9</p> <p><b>resolution</b> 78:4</p> <p><b>resources</b> 12:23</p>
<b>q</b>			
<p><b>question</b> 20:8 22:12</p> <p><b>questions</b> 3:22 4:6 15:11 63:19</p>			

[response - stretched]

<p><b>response</b> 42:24 75:25</p> <p><b>responsibilities</b> 12:18</p> <p><b>responsibility</b> 4:20</p> <p><b>responsible</b> 29:16</p> <p><b>restaurants</b> 50:3</p> <p><b>result</b> 4:10</p> <p><b>retire</b> 3:1</p> <p><b>retired</b> 5:10 9:18 10:19 11:10 14:6,7 14:16 15:5 19:21,25 43:22 44:4 50:18 51:11 54:6 58:1 59:6 62:12 64:25</p> <p><b>revealed</b> 29:12</p> <p><b>revenue</b> 17:14,15,18 33:19 34:11,12,16 36:19,21 41:10,15 41:16,20 70:6,23,24 71:3,4,5,18</p> <p><b>revenues</b> 16:2 19:7 32:8,17 35:15 38:18 40:17,25 41:18 72:15 76:24</p> <p><b>revert</b> 16:19 17:4</p> <p><b>review</b> 29:12,18 55:6</p> <p><b>reviewed</b> 26:13</p> <p><b>reviews</b> 24:21</p> <p><b>right</b> 2:1,10,15 3:16 3:21 9:8,16 18:23 19:1 23:3 34:7,20 36:17 37:12 41:5 54:7 55:9 72:21 77:14 78:9 79:7</p> <p><b>ringing</b> 39:13,21</p> <p><b>room</b> 2:6</p> <p><b>run</b> 5:5 14:2</p> <p><b>running</b> 32:2,9 35:17 38:6,11,15,21 40:13</p> <p><b>rusty</b> 21:18 22:10,11 22:17,20 23:13 24:8 24:11</p>	<p><b>ruth</b> 21:14,17</p> <p><b>rutt</b> 1:19 81:21</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>s</b></p> <p><b>sa</b>201210710 1:24</p> <p><b>sac</b> 9:1</p> <p><b>sacramento</b> 1:8 48:10 81:8,14</p> <p><b>salaries</b> 13:3</p> <p><b>saved</b> 45:6</p> <p><b>saw</b> 61:18 75:10 76:15</p> <p><b>saying</b> 5:6 74:3 78:17</p> <p><b>says</b> 57:4</p> <p><b>schedule</b> 17:2,11,12 17:13,15 36:21 41:25 42:1</p> <p><b>schedules</b> 15:18 36:21</p> <p><b>scheduling</b> 2:9</p> <p><b>second</b> 39:23 51:5 68:8</p> <p><b>secondly</b> 67:9</p> <p><b>section</b> 7:6 9:24 10:9 10:12 11:21 13:13 27:14 70:10</p> <p><b>see</b> 2:16,19,21 11:11 30:4,12,20 31:4 37:9 39:19 42:5 43:25,25 45:2 56:21 57:21 59:20 70:3 79:3,4</p> <p><b>seeing</b> 31:16,18 37:17 43:13 44:19 53:19 61:23</p> <p><b>seen</b> 28:1,10,12 37:15,16 60:21</p> <p><b>send</b> 18:19 24:19</p> <p><b>sends</b> 33:3,8</p> <p><b>sense</b> 75:21,22</p> <p><b>sent</b> 20:16</p> <p><b>separate</b> 10:12</p> <p><b>september</b> 1:21 81:18</p>	<p><b>seriously</b> 56:7</p> <p><b>services</b> 10:5,10,13 10:24,25 12:11 22:4 27:3</p> <p><b>set</b> 3:1</p> <p><b>setting</b> 3:7 49:14</p> <p><b>settle</b> 63:21</p> <p><b>seven</b> 65:1</p> <p><b>sharing</b> 79:6</p> <p><b>sharp</b> 26:7</p> <p><b>shipshape</b> 79:15,17 79:17</p> <p><b>shocked</b> 44:7</p> <p><b>shocks</b> 39:25</p> <p><b>shortly</b> 3:2</p> <p><b>show</b> 27:21 39:1</p> <p><b>showed</b> 29:6 37:3</p> <p><b>showing</b> 36:23 59:18 72:16</p> <p><b>shown</b> 38:2</p> <p><b>shows</b> 31:1,9 40:1 42:17 66:19</p> <p><b>shut</b> 31:19</p> <p><b>side</b> 7:8 15:13 19:10 41:24</p> <p><b>silent</b> 3:17</p> <p><b>sit</b> 55:9</p> <p><b>six</b> 40:3,4,5,7 77:10</p> <p><b>somebody</b> 20:10 29:5 45:13,20 47:2 48:21 49:5 50:8 56:4 66:14,14,20 67:16 76:10</p> <p><b>sorry</b> 9:5 56:13 73:2</p> <p><b>sort</b> 49:14</p> <p><b>sound</b> 53:6</p> <p><b>sounds</b> 9:16 53:8</p> <p><b>speak</b> 66:13</p> <p><b>special</b> 29:25 30:8</p> <p><b>specific</b> 7:3</p> <p><b>specifically</b> 73:25</p> <p><b>spelling</b> 5:7</p> <p><b>spend</b> 71:13,16</p> <p><b>spent</b> 5:11</p>	<p><b>spoke</b> 52:3</p> <p><b>ss</b> 81:7</p> <p><b>stack</b> 70:12</p> <p><b>staff</b> 10:23,25 12:11 13:5</p> <p><b>stand</b> 3:12 65:5</p> <p><b>standpoint</b> 22:21 24:23 36:9</p> <p><b>start</b> 5:6,13 32:5,6 34:18 35:12,14,16 40:14,16,21,22 58:22 63:2 76:16</p> <p><b>started</b> 6:14,23 14:13,19 15:12,17 27:13 38:16,22 43:25 46:23 60:15 61:4,23 63:9</p> <p><b>starting</b> 5:10 35:23 40:24 54:1,21 55:5 72:4,10,14,24</p> <p><b>state</b> 1:17 4:18 5:5 5:10,11,14 9:1 23:1 29:11 30:9,15 31:5 36:1 42:7 50:19 54:3 61:9 81:6</p> <p><b>statement</b> 3:22 16:22 17:16,17,25 18:7,8,12,16 19:1 35:6 36:1,11,19 37:6,6,21 41:11,15 41:16 52:13,14</p> <p><b>statements</b> 3:24 15:24,25 16:4,7 17:1,23 18:6,10,14 19:4 32:13 33:3,21 41:7,8,10,11,12,20 44:10</p> <p><b>status</b> 16:8</p> <p><b>stay</b> 20:3</p> <p><b>stewart</b> 28:2</p> <p><b>stop</b> 54:7 60:14</p> <p><b>stories</b> 44:18</p> <p><b>story</b> 56:25</p> <p><b>stretched</b> 60:8</p>
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[stretches - verardo]

<p><b>stretches</b> 39:3  <b>strictly</b> 3:14  <b>struggled</b> 62:11  <b>study</b> 29:8  <b>subject</b> 27:25  <b>submitted</b> 81:13  <b>subscribed</b> 81:16  <b>subsequent</b> 4:2  35:22 56:20  <b>summarized</b> 42:3  <b>summarizes</b> 16:15  <b>supervisor</b> 21:9  52:3  <b>supervisor's</b> 26:25  <b>supplementary</b>  17:12  <b>sure</b> 26:17,21 29:5  41:6 52:8,18,18  58:25 61:12 67:3  75:4,13  <b>suspected</b> 75:3  <b>sync</b> 75:2  <b>systems</b> 17:7</p>	<p><b>telling</b> 37:4,14 40:10  60:15,21 71:17 72:3  73:16 76:4 78:14  <b>tells</b> 54:9,17  <b>ten</b> 46:1 62:7  <b>tend</b> 37:2  <b>tenure</b> 79:12  <b>term</b> 42:11 67:5  <b>thank</b> 80:2,4  <b>thing</b> 24:10 68:13  78:5,8  <b>things</b> 18:24 23:10  23:12 52:20 65:19  67:14 69:20 74:3  <b>think</b> 9:15 11:18  17:25 19:21 21:17  37:1 42:11 43:2  45:11 64:9 68:15  <b>thirteen</b> 42:12  <b>thirty</b> 77:12  <b>thomas</b> 1:13 2:3  <b>thought</b> 44:8 61:19  <b>three</b> 7:4,25 8:9  9:13 40:4  <b>thursday</b> 3:2  <b>time</b> 5:22,22 6:3  14:19,23,23 20:5  23:11 24:2,6 38:12  45:19 52:21 55:11  55:12,22 59:7 60:7  60:9 62:1 64:1  76:11 80:3,7  <b>times</b> 45:20  <b>title</b> 6:20 12:5,8,9,15  12:17  <b>today</b> 2:4 34:25  <b>told</b> 28:5 37:19  47:17 49:2 57:1,9  58:8 60:24 63:8  68:21 73:11 75:19  76:10  <b>tom</b> 21:1,3,11,24,25  27:1,2,12 67:3  <b>top</b> 28:20</p>	<p><b>tossed</b> 45:12,15  47:21 49:6  <b>total</b> 35:17 38:6,7,12  40:13  <b>touch</b> 20:3  <b>track</b> 23:7  <b>tracking</b> 13:7  <b>transcribed</b> 1:19  81:11  <b>transcriber's</b> 81:2  <b>transcript</b> 52:11  <b>transcription</b> 1:1  <b>transfers</b> 38:19  40:19 41:1,19 72:17  <b>transmitted</b> 13:15  <b>tried</b> 53:21  <b>troubled</b> 63:1  <b>troubling</b> 53:1  <b>true</b> 63:16  <b>truly</b> 77:20  <b>trust</b> 30:11 64:22  <b>truth</b> 74:10  <b>try</b> 45:2 59:20  <b>trying</b> 20:9 22:22  23:6,13,17,21,22  24:8 53:22,24 54:1  57:17,20 58:9 60:16  60:17,24 62:1,21  63:12 69:3 73:13,25  74:19  <b>tuesday</b> 2:3  <b>tune</b> 38:3 42:18  <b>turned</b> 66:2,3  <b>twenty</b> 10:20 38:4  40:3,3,4,4,5,6 42:15  42:18,20 53:1 54:15  60:22 67:5 70:1  77:7,10 78:16  <b>two</b> 3:10 7:4,4 8:3  19:14 30:8 37:11  38:4 40:2 42:5,15  42:19 63:14 70:1  <b>type</b> 5:23 20:12  70:18</p>	<p><b>types</b> 41:9</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>u</b></p> <p><b>uh</b> 5:25 28:24 68:18  <b>ultimately</b> 13:21  33:9  <b>um</b> 6:7 8:6 10:6 15:3  18:18 19:12 22:24  32:4 33:25 46:20  57:7 60:19 64:13,15  68:2  <b>underreported</b> 77:7  <b>understand</b> 2:12  4:11 16:6,13 22:25  24:2 31:17 33:18  35:18 38:1 44:24  52:16 53:4,22,24  56:8 57:18 58:9  60:16,17,20,24 62:2  62:22 67:11,17 72:7  73:12 74:20 75:16  75:20 76:19 78:20  79:2  <b>understanding</b> 10:4  42:23 45:3 53:16  56:24  <b>unique</b> 65:6  <b>unit</b> 13:14  <b>units</b> 13:6 65:25  <b>updating</b> 72:17  <b>usable</b> 4:1  <b>use</b> 15:25 32:14  33:21 36:15 41:19  41:21 43:4 44:2  57:22 68:20 69:19  70:5,8  <b>usually</b> 14:23</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>v</b></p> <p><b>various</b> 5:12 11:4  13:2 41:8  <b>vehicle</b> 30:11  <b>vehicles</b> 5:18  <b>verardo</b> 21:4,25  27:4,16</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>t</b></p> <p><b>take</b> 5:4 9:13 17:9  17:14 19:2 24:5  28:9,15,16 33:6,19  36:8  <b>taken</b> 19:2  <b>takes</b> 24:1 33:4  <b>talk</b> 21:10 63:4,11  <b>talked</b> 56:22 57:3,4  57:11 67:2  <b>talking</b> 4:14,22  45:19 53:20 55:14  56:7,19 62:9  <b>tape</b> 2:25  <b>taught</b> 72:21  <b>teaching</b> 22:25  <b>technical</b> 23:1,2  <b>tell</b> 6:22 11:1 12:4  28:10 52:25 61:2  63:1 69:3 73:22,24  77:14,25 79:2,8</p>	<p><b>three</b> 7:4,25 8:9  9:13 40:4  <b>thursday</b> 3:2  <b>time</b> 5:22,22 6:3  14:19,23,23 20:5  23:11 24:2,6 38:12  45:19 52:21 55:11  55:12,22 59:7 60:7  60:9 62:1 64:1  76:11 80:3,7  <b>times</b> 45:20  <b>title</b> 6:20 12:5,8,9,15  12:17  <b>today</b> 2:4 34:25  <b>told</b> 28:5 37:19  47:17 49:2 57:1,9  58:8 60:24 63:8  68:21 73:11 75:19  76:10  <b>tom</b> 21:1,3,11,24,25  27:1,2,12 67:3  <b>top</b> 28:20</p>	<p><b>tossed</b> 45:12,15  47:21 49:6  <b>total</b> 35:17 38:6,7,12  40:13  <b>touch</b> 20:3  <b>track</b> 23:7  <b>tracking</b> 13:7  <b>transcribed</b> 1:19  81:11  <b>transcriber's</b> 81:2  <b>transcript</b> 52:11  <b>transcription</b> 1:1  <b>transfers</b> 38:19  40:19 41:1,19 72:17  <b>transmitted</b> 13:15  <b>tried</b> 53:21  <b>troubled</b> 63:1  <b>troubling</b> 53:1  <b>true</b> 63:16  <b>truly</b> 77:20  <b>trust</b> 30:11 64:22  <b>truth</b> 74:10  <b>try</b> 45:2 59:20  <b>trying</b> 20:9 22:22  23:6,13,17,21,22  24:8 53:22,24 54:1  57:17,20 58:9 60:16  60:17,24 62:1,21  63:12 69:3 73:13,25  74:19  <b>tuesday</b> 2:3  <b>tune</b> 38:3 42:18  <b>turned</b> 66:2,3  <b>twenty</b> 10:20 38:4  40:3,3,4,4,5,6 42:15  42:18,20 53:1 54:15  60:22 67:5 70:1  77:7,10 78:16  <b>two</b> 3:10 7:4,4 8:3  19:14 30:8 37:11  38:4 40:2 42:5,15  42:19 63:14 70:1  <b>type</b> 5:23 20:12  70:18</p>	<p><b>types</b> 41:9</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>u</b></p> <p><b>uh</b> 5:25 28:24 68:18  <b>ultimately</b> 13:21  33:9  <b>um</b> 6:7 8:6 10:6 15:3  18:18 19:12 22:24  32:4 33:25 46:20  57:7 60:19 64:13,15  68:2  <b>underreported</b> 77:7  <b>understand</b> 2:12  4:11 16:6,13 22:25  24:2 31:17 33:18  35:18 38:1 44:24  52:16 53:4,22,24  56:8 57:18 58:9  60:16,17,20,24 62:2  62:22 67:11,17 72:7  73:12 74:20 75:16  75:20 76:19 78:20  79:2  <b>understanding</b> 10:4  42:23 45:3 53:16  56:24  <b>unique</b> 65:6  <b>unit</b> 13:14  <b>units</b> 13:6 65:25  <b>updating</b> 72:17  <b>usable</b> 4:1  <b>use</b> 15:25 32:14  33:21 36:15 41:19  41:21 43:4 44:2  57:22 68:20 69:19  70:5,8  <b>usually</b> 14:23</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>v</b></p> <p><b>various</b> 5:12 11:4  13:2 41:8  <b>vehicle</b> 30:11  <b>vehicles</b> 5:18  <b>verardo</b> 21:4,25  27:4,16</p>

[versed - zero]

<p><b>versed</b> 22:17 26:3,5 27:7</p> <p><b>versus</b> 30:3</p> <p><b>view</b> 42:12</p>	<p>16:23 22:21 23:17 24:14 27:13 44:3 66:10 77:3</p> <p><b>works</b> 24:3</p> <p><b>worry</b> 55:20 57:10</p> <p><b>worth</b> 45:7</p> <p><b>wow</b> 10:20</p>	<p><b>yep</b> 46:6</p> <p><b>york</b> 1:22,22 81:17 81:17</p> <p><b>yvonne</b> 28:2</p>
<b>w</b>	<b>worry</b> 55:20 57:10	<b>z</b>
<p><b>w</b> 5:9</p> <p><b>wages</b> 13:3</p> <p><b>wait</b> 46:7,7,7 71:9,9 71:9,10,10,10</p> <p><b>walk</b> 6:24</p> <p><b>walked</b> 65:2</p> <p><b>want</b> 2:14 24:18 63:4,10,11 73:10 74:6 79:8</p> <p><b>wanted</b> 2:16,21 23:19 54:5 55:12 75:15,20</p> <p><b>wanting</b> 53:4 78:19</p> <p><b>way</b> 34:22 44:3 45:14 49:4 50:8 67:4</p> <p><b>we've</b> 4:21 56:22,25 57:2,4,10 74:12,15 77:24</p> <p><b>webb</b> 81:13</p> <p><b>week</b> 15:6</p> <p><b>went</b> 6:6,10 7:8,11 7:24 8:4 9:17,20 10:21 54:9,16 57:17</p> <p><b>whatsoever</b> 76:2</p> <p><b>white</b> 78:4</p> <p><b>wise</b> 26:19</p> <p><b>words</b> 30:23</p> <p><b>work</b> 6:1 7:23 8:12 8:13 14:10,12,25 50:25 57:17 58:1</p> <p><b>worked</b> 5:9,19 7:16 9:18 11:4 19:15 26:4,6,9,11,17 27:7 29:1,2 50:13,22 51:1,15 52:19</p> <p><b>working</b> 6:17 7:20 12:15,17,22 13:1,4 14:19,22 15:22</p>	<b>y</b>	<p><b>zero</b> 35:14 40:15,16</p>
	<p><b>yeah</b> 6:2 7:11 18:14 35:18 47:11 51:14 57:1,4 63:7 68:15 68:15,24 69:11,17 77:4</p> <p><b>year</b> 7:4 9:2,20 13:4 13:11 15:8,23 16:1 16:3,17,25 17:7,10 17:17 18:4,6,7,10 18:15 19:1,3,6 20:7 23:7,8 29:13,20 32:7,13 33:3,5,17 33:21 34:10,11,18 34:19 35:12,17,22 36:6 38:3,5,13,24 39:3,7,8 40:14,21 40:22,24 42:8,12 43:7,8 44:17 45:25 45:25 54:12,13 56:16 57:24 62:6 69:24 70:12,13 72:11 76:5 77:8,13 77:16,18,18,21</p> <p><b>year's</b> 71:22 72:13</p> <p><b>years</b> 5:1 7:1,4,12 7:25 8:3,9 9:13 10:20 11:5,10 15:21 21:5,15 24:13 31:13 31:20,21 38:25 40:5 40:7 42:19 43:5 45:24 46:1,1,2,5 48:2 58:3 59:16 62:6,7,14,15 63:14 63:14,22 65:1 77:1 77:9,11</p>	