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TRANSCRIPTION OF RECORDED INTERVIEW

OF

Becky Brown

August 29, 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 21, 2012  
New York, New York

(SA201210710)

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1 MR. MATTSON: Okay. The date is  
2 August 29, 2012. The time is 2:22 in the  
3 afternoon.

4 MR. PATTON: Tom Patton here. We're  
5 back with Becky Brown, and we're over at 2000  
6 Evergreen Street at the FisCal offices. And  
7 we're with Becky Brown.

8 Thanks for coming in.

9 MS. BROWN: Yes. Hello.

10 MR. PATTON: We wanted to catch you  
11 as quickly as possible, and I understand from  
12 talking with you yesterday, I think you said  
13 tomorrow is your last day?

14 MS. BROWN: That was my planned last  
15 day, yes.

16 MR. PATTON: And is it still your  
17 planned last day?

18 MS. BROWN: I am going to be on  
19 vacation for the next month or so, and I had  
20 said I would be available to help out on  
21 finishing up a few projects and answering  
22 questions.

23 MR. PATTON: So you're heading out  
24 on vacation shortly?

25 MS. BROWN: Yes.

1 MR. PATTON: When is that?  
2 MS. BROWN: Next week.  
3 MR. PATTON: What date?  
4 MS. BROWN: The 6th, September 6th.  
5 MR. PATTON: Thursday, the 6th?  
6 MS. BROWN: Um-hum.  
7 MR. PATTON: And you -- and I think  
8 you indicated to me you were heading out of  
9 the country?  
10 MS. BROWN: Out of state.  
11 MR. PATTON: Okay. You'll be  
12 available through your cell phone if somebody  
13 needs to reach you?  
14 MS. BROWN: I generally don't keep  
15 my cell phone with me when -- you know, I  
16 keep -- I will not necessarily have it on, but  
17 I will keep it with me.  
18 MR. PATTON: You'll be -- so you'll  
19 be contactable, maybe not immediately --  
20 MS. BROWN: Yes.  
21 MR. PATTON: -- through e-mail or  
22 through your cell phone number?  
23 MS. BROWN: Yes.  
24 MR. PATTON: And when are you  
25 planning on coming back?

1 MS. BROWN: The -- September 16th.

2 MR. PATTON: September 16th. Okay.  
3 So you're only gone for ten days. And then  
4 you may be coming back to help; you don't know  
5 yet?

6 MS. BROWN: No.

7 MR. PATTON: Okay. What we had  
8 planned in terms of follow-up was really  
9 pretty brief and -- but there were a couple  
10 questions I meant to ask you. You indicated  
11 yesterday that you periodically have had  
12 contact with Mr. -- is it Tom Domich?

13 MS. BROWN: Yes.

14 MR. PATTON: And tell me a little  
15 bit about that. How often are you two in  
16 contact?

17 MS. BROWN: We get together a couple  
18 times a year just to celebrate birthdays, get  
19 together for lunch.

20 MR. PATTON: Do you ever talk on the  
21 phone?

22 MS. BROWN: No.

23 MR. PATTON: Okay. And I think you  
24 told me he was -- he resided somewhere here  
25 like Carmichael, I think you said.

1 MS. BROWN: He lives in Elk Grove.

2 MR. PATTON: Elk Grove, okay. Have  
3 you talked with him at all about what's been  
4 reported in the newspaper relating to Parks  
5 and Recreation?

6 MS. BROWN: We had a brief  
7 conversation at our last luncheon but --

8 MR. PATTON: When was that?

9 MS. BROWN: Oh, about a month ago.

10 MR. PATTON: Okay. And where did  
11 you meet for lunch?

12 MS. BROWN: A restaurant in Elk  
13 Grove, Mongolian BBQ Restaurant.

14 MR. PATTON: And who initiated that  
15 conversation? Who made -- who reached out and  
16 made contact?

17 MS. BROWN: He had e-mailed me that  
18 it was time to celebrate the birthday lunch.

19 MR. PATTON: Whose birthday?

20 MS. BROWN: It was his birthday.

21 MR. PATTON: When's his birthday?

22 MS. BROWN: It was in [REDACTED] but  
23 we had both been busy.

24 MR. PATTON: So you met about a  
25 month ago, in July? August?

1 MS. BROWN: It was early August.

2 MR. PATTON: Early August. And  
3 when's your birthday?

4 MS. BROWN: [REDACTED]

5 MR. PATTON: Okay. Have you talked  
6 with anyone else from the Parks Department  
7 since any of the stories in the media have  
8 broken out?

9 MS. BROWN: No. And I made a  
10 special point not to.

11 MR. PATTON: So Tom Domich is the  
12 only person you've talked to since these  
13 stories came out?

14 MS. BROWN: Um-hum.

15 MR. PATTON: And you indicated  
16 yesterday that you heard from someone who you  
17 couldn't recall who it was but someone  
18 associated with the Parks Department that your  
19 records -- you had four file cabinets of  
20 records, budget-related records that -- to  
21 Finance that had been tossed out, I think is  
22 what you said.

23 MS. BROWN: That was a comment that  
24 was made to me some time ago, and I don't know  
25 where I was or who I was talking to, but it

1 was a comment made in passing.

2 MR. PATTON: You indicated to us it  
3 was probably somewhere around a couple of  
4 years ago.

5 MS. BROWN: Probably. I -- like I  
6 say, I remember somebody say -- you know, I  
7 would have gone looking for records, but  
8 somebody had mentioned that my records didn't  
9 exist anymore.

10 MR. PATTON: Why would you have gone  
11 looking for records?

12 MS. BROWN: Well, based upon the  
13 request for -- to talk to you, I would like to  
14 see what files I had available because -- you  
15 know, the information said to bring whatever  
16 files or information you had. And I had  
17 nothing with me at home, so I thought I would  
18 check the office, but I knew there was nothing  
19 there.

20 MR. PATTON: Did you check with the  
21 office?

22 MS. BROWN: No. I was told there  
23 was nothing there when I -- some time ago, so  
24 I didn't even bother checking. And I  
25 purposely did not want to go into the office.

1           MR. PATTON:    You -- so the records  
2 that you kept, these four file cabinets of  
3 records were -- what all -- what sort of  
4 record -- what records did you keep?

5           MS. BROWN:    I had information --  
6 historical information on funds, on park  
7 units, on different issues that came up, on  
8 employee compensation, on special requests,  
9 anything that I had that -- I just started  
10 file cabinets on all the different programs  
11 and projects and divisions and units and --

12          MR. PATTON:    Everything that goes  
13 into the budget?

14          MS. BROWN:    Um-hum.

15          MR. PATTON:    You were a good  
16 recordkeeper?

17          MS. BROWN:    I was a good  
18 recordkeeper.

19          MR. PATTON:    So you learned, you  
20 say, a couple years ago, and you can't  
21 remember where you were, but someone with  
22 Parks told you that your records had been  
23 tossed?

24          MS. BROWN:    Yes.

25          MR. PATTON:    And had you asked about



1 your records or did you --

2 MS. BROWN: No.

3 MR. PATTON: No. This person just  
4 volunteered that?

5 MS. BROWN: That is correct.

6 MR. PATTON: Now, your records --  
7 you were the budget manager, so your records  
8 were kept somewhere in the budget office area  
9 of Admin Services at Parks, right?

10 MS. BROWN: Yes.

11 MR. PATTON: So is it safe to assume  
12 that whoever was informing you that your  
13 records had been tossed was someone then that  
14 operates within that same physical area in  
15 Budgets?

16 MS. BROWN: It was in Administration  
17 somewhere who would have seen them.

18 MR. PATTON: Someone on the tenth  
19 floor?

20 MS. BROWN: Probably.

21 MR. PATTON: Some -- and what part  
22 of the tenth floor does Budget occupy?

23 MS. BROWN: I was in an office on  
24 the northwest corner.

25 MR. PATTON: And you can't remember

1 the specific individual, but there's a lot of  
2 people that work in the budget section, right?

3 MS. BROWN: Yes.

4 MR. PATTON: And is your  
5 recollection that it was someone from the  
6 budget section?

7 MS. BROWN: I don't even remember  
8 where it was and who it was.

9 MR. PATTON: Would someone outside  
10 of the budget section even have occasion to  
11 know what might have happened to records  
12 within the budget section?

13 MS. BROWN: They would have been,  
14 probably. They could have; they would have.  
15 I don't know if -- I don't remember what  
16 happened.

17 MR. PATTON: What did you think when  
18 you'd heard that all of your records had been  
19 tossed?

20 MS. BROWN: It was -- well, I  
21 thought I had a good history of a lot of the  
22 issues and a lot of the information at Parks,  
23 and I just thought it was very sad that  
24 somebody would not want to keep the  
25 information for historical purposes.

1 MR. PATTON: So you thought that was  
2 sad. You didn't ask who -- at whose direction  
3 all those records had been eliminated?

4 MS. BROWN: No.

5 MR. PATTON: You had no conversation  
6 about it whatsoever?

7 MS. BROWN: Nope.

8 MR. PATTON: You were simply  
9 informed your records had been eliminated?

10 MS. BROWN: Yes.

11 MR. PATTON: And you never -- you  
12 didn't even respond to that?

13 MS. BROWN: Other than the fact  
14 that, you know, what a loss of historical  
15 information.

16 MR. PATTON: Okay. Who over at the  
17 Parks and Recreation Department over the years  
18 since you -- you left in 2005?

19 MS. BROWN: That's correct.

20 MR. PATTON: And who have you stayed  
21 in contact with other than Tom Domich?

22 MS. BROWN: There's a few people in  
23 the budget section that I did stay in contact  
24 with. There's a person that was over Business  
25 Services.

1 MR. PATTON: Who was that?

2 MS. BROWN: Olaya Pascal.

3 MR. PATTON: Okay. Who else?

4 MS. BROWN: In the budget section,  
5 Cindy Spita.

6 MR. PATTON: And what is her job in  
7 the budget section?

8 MS. BROWN: She was one of the  
9 managers.

10 MR. PATTON: Okay. Which -- do you  
11 think she could have been one of the people  
12 that was at this meeting when you heard about  
13 your records having been tossed?

14 MS. BROWN: No, because she would  
15 not have -- when I had met with her, it's at  
16 lunches, and we would not have talked about  
17 that.

18 MR. PATTON: What was her name  
19 again?

20 MS. BROWN: Cindy Spita.

21 MR. PATTON: How do you spell her  
22 last name?

23 MS. BROWN: S-P-I-T-A.

24 MR. PATTON: Who else have you  
25 stayed in contact with?

1 MS. BROWN: Marcy Brown.

2 MR. PATTON: Who is she?

3 MS. BROWN: She works in the --  
4 currently at Parks in the -- over the Cap  
5 Outlay -- or over the bonds unit.

6 MR. PATTON: Is that part of Admin  
7 Services?

8 MS. BROWN: Yes, it is.

9 MR. PATTON: What part of Admin  
10 Services is that?

11 MS. BROWN: It's part of the budget  
12 section that they deal with bond accounting.

13 MR. PATTON: Okay. Who else have  
14 you stayed in contact with?

15 MS. BROWN: I stayed in contact with  
16 a lady that just passed away last week.

17 MR. PATTON: Who was that?

18 MS. BROWN: Peggy Zentner.

19 MR. PATTON: Okay.

20 MS. BROWN: And I occasionally had  
21 lunch with Ruth Coleman.

22 MR. PATTON: Okay. Had you and Ruth  
23 become friends?

24 MS. BROWN: We were friends, and we  
25 would just meet occasionally for lunch.

1 MR. PATTON: You indicated -- I  
2 think it was you who told me that Ruth had  
3 been at the legislative analyst's office and  
4 was the person over there responsible for  
5 reviewing Parks' budget.

6 MS. BROWN: Yes, she was.

7 MR. PATTON: Did you get to know  
8 Ruth when she was in that role?

9 MS. BROWN: I worked with her from  
10 the standpoint of a department working with a  
11 legislative analyst relationship.

12 MR. PATTON: So you communicated  
13 with her; you had communication with Ruth  
14 about the budget?

15 MS. BROWN: Yes.

16 MR. PATTON: Okay. And that was  
17 going back to when; do you recall?

18 MS. BROWN: I don't recall. It  
19 was -- we had so many finance analysts and  
20 legislative analysts, it's hard to remember  
21 when.

22 MR. PATTON: Was it over a long  
23 period of time or a short period of time?

24 MS. BROWN: I don't even remember  
25 how long she was there.

1 MR. PATTON: Well, she came to Parks  
2 as the Director in 2002.

3 MS. BROWN: Well, she had other jobs  
4 in between. After she left the legislative  
5 analyst, she was in the legislature, and when  
6 she came to Parks, she was actually the deputy  
7 for legislation.

8 MR. PATTON: Okay.

9 MS. BROWN: But I don't know the  
10 time frame of her jobs.

11 MR. PATTON: How many --  
12 approximately how many budget cycles do you  
13 think you worked on the budget with Ruth in  
14 her capacity as the legislative analyst office  
15 representative?

16 MS. BROWN: I don't even remember.  
17 I'd have to look to see --

18 MR. PATTON: More than one?

19 MS. BROWN: Probably, it was more  
20 than one.

21 MR. PATTON: More than two?

22 MS. BROWN: Probably two or three,  
23 but I don't know how long she stayed there. I  
24 don't remember.

25 MR. PATTON: So several?

1 MS. BROWN: Yes.

2 MR. PATTON: Okay. And when she  
3 came over -- when did you develop a friendship  
4 that resulted in the two of you occasionally  
5 having lunch?

6 MS. BROWN: When she was Director.

7 MR. PATTON: Okay. And do you stay  
8 in contact with her today?

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

10 MR. PATTON: When was the last time  
11 you had contact with her?

12 MS. BROWN: Probably in February or  
13 March.

14 MR. PATTON: Of this year?

15 MS. BROWN: This year.

16 MR. PATTON: So you -- so after you  
17 left, in the ensuing seven years, you have  
18 stayed in contact with her?

19 MS. BROWN: I have had lunch with  
20 her a couple times over the years. Usually  
21 about once a year we get together for lunch.

22 MR. PATTON: Okay. Who else --  
23 we've got Olaya, Cindy Spita, Marcy Brown,  
24 Peggy Zentner. Who else at Parks have you  
25 stayed in contact with?



1 MS. BROWN: Sandy Kundert.

2 MR. PATTON: Who is she?

3 MS. BROWN: She was an  
4 administrative assistant. She has since --  
5 she's long since been retired.

6 MR. PATTON: Sandy what?

7 MS. BROWN: Sandy Kundert,  
8 K-U-N-D-E-R-T.

9 MR. PATTON: Admin assistant where?

10 MS. BROWN: In Budgets.

11 MR. PATTON: And who else?

12 MS. BROWN: I have lunch with some  
13 friends that have worked for Parks probably in  
14 the early '90s that I still see. One lady's  
15 name is Betty Nakatome (ph.) --

16 MR. PATTON: Um-hum.

17 MS. BROWN: -- and the other is  
18 Audrey McCoy (ph.).

19 MR. PATTON: Audrea?

20 MS. BROWN: Audrey.

21 MR. PATTON: Yeah. What was the  
22 last name?

23 MS. BROWN: McCoy.

24 MR. PATTON: These are two people  
25 from earlier, in the '90s?

1 MS. BROWN: Um-hum.

2 MR. PATTON: What did they do?

3 MS. BROWN: I -- Betty had different  
4 jobs throughout the department as secretaries,  
5 and Audrey was the Budget Officer.

6 MR. PATTON: She was Budget Officer  
7 before you?

8 MS. BROWN: Yes.

9 MR. PATTON: Where is she now?

10 MS. BROWN: She's retired.

11 MR. PATTON: Where does she live?

12 MS. BROWN: Sacramento.

13 MR. PATTON: You still stay in touch  
14 with her?

15 MS. BROWN: Yes, I do. I see her  
16 for lunch.

17 MR. PATTON: Often?

18 MS. BROWN: About three or four  
19 times a year.

20 MR. PATTON: When was the last time  
21 you talked to Audrey?

22 MS. BROWN: About a month ago.

23 MR. PATTON: Okay. Do you have a  
24 phone number?

25 MS. BROWN: I don't have it with me.

1 MR. PATTON: You have my e-mail.  
2 Will you send me her phone number, please?

3 MS. BROWN: Sure.

4 MR. PATTON: Okay. What did you and  
5 Audrey discuss a month ago?

6 MS. BROWN: We were at a retirement  
7 party for Betty -- or a birthday party for  
8 Betty, so we were talking about -- our  
9 husbands were there. We were just visiting  
10 and talking about the party.

11 MR. PATTON: Did you talk about  
12 these news stories?

13 MS. BROWN: She had asked if I had  
14 read about them. I said, yes, I have. Other  
15 than that, we really didn't talk about them.

16 MR. PATTON: You became the Budget  
17 Officer what year?

18 MS. BROWN: I don't remember the  
19 exact year. It was maybe '96, '97, '95,  
20 somewhere --

21 MR. PATTON: And it was Audrey --  
22 was the Budget Officer right before you?

23 MS. BROWN: Yes.

24 MR. PATTON: Okay. She didn't have  
25 anything to say about these fund discrepancies

1 that were reported?

2 MS. BROWN: No. She just -- we were  
3 just, you know, saddened to see that there was  
4 something like this going on at the Parks.

5 MR. PATTON: Okay. Who else have  
6 you stayed in contact with?

7 MS. BROWN: That's about it.

8 MR. PATTON: You indicated your  
9 husband is a former -- is a retired Parks  
10 employee also?

11 MS. BROWN: Yes, he is.

12 MR. PATTON: He was a civil  
13 engineer, you said?

14 MS. BROWN: Yes, I did.

15 MR. PATTON: And he was assigned to  
16 a district?

17 MS. BROWN: He worked at  
18 headquarters.

19 MR. PATTON: Oh, he worked in  
20 headquarters. In what section of  
21 headquarters?

22 MS. BROWN: The Development  
23 Division, he designed parks, and then also in  
24 the Operations Division over the maintenance  
25 program.

1 MR. PATTON: Development is a  
2 separate division?

3 MS. BROWN: Yes.

4 MR. PATTON: Run by whom?

5 MS. BROWN: It's currently run by  
6 Steve Lehman (ph.).

7 MR. PATTON: Is that a Deputy  
8 Director position?

9 MS. BROWN: I believe so.

10 MR. PATTON: Okay. So Development  
11 is a separate division. And what's your  
12 husband's name?

13 MS. BROWN: Mike.

14 MR. PATTON: Mike Brown?

15 MS. BROWN: Yes.

16 MR. PATTON: And you and your  
17 husband have maintained -- have you maintained  
18 the same friendships or some of these or --  
19 some of these people who you've stayed in  
20 contact with, I assume, are just your  
21 friends?

22 MS. BROWN: They're my friends.

23 MR. PATTON: Okay. And do you and  
24 your husband have any mutual friends from  
25 Parks that you stay in touch with?

1 MS. BROWN: Not anymore. We did --  
2 we used to play softball with them and --

3 MR. PATTON: Who?

4 MS. BROWN: My husband was on a  
5 softball team with several of the guys from  
6 work, but we don't see them anymore.

7 MR. PATTON: So you got to know some  
8 of these people that were your husband's  
9 friends in softball?

10 MS. BROWN: Yes.

11 MR. PATTON: Who were they?

12 MS. BROWN: Some of the other  
13 engineers and architects. Do you need all  
14 their names?

15 MR. PATTON: People from  
16 Development?

17 MS. BROWN: Yes.

18 MR. PATTON: Nobody involved in  
19 Admin Services?

20 MS. BROWN: Nobody involved in Admin  
21 Services.

22 MR. PATTON: I think I'll defer that  
23 for now. So you talked to Ruth a month ago;  
24 you had lunch with her?

25 MS. BROWN: No. About six months

1 ago. It was in March sometime, I believe,  
2 February or March.

3 MR. PATTON: Early part of this  
4 year. Was that after -- that was after the  
5 investigation into the vacation buyout had  
6 started? Did you --

7 MS. BROWN: And I wasn't aware of it  
8 at that time.

9 MR. PATTON: You two didn't talk  
10 about the vacation buyout investigation?

11 MS. BROWN: No.

12 MR. PATTON: Who initiated that  
13 lunch?

14 MS. BROWN: It was actually -- Marcy  
15 Brown was also there, and it was -- Marcy just  
16 said Ruth wanted to get together for lunch.

17 MR. PATTON: Okay.

18 MS. BROWN: We talked about kids and  
19 vacations.

20 MR. PATTON: You think it was in  
21 March. And the subject of an external  
22 investigation into anything having to do with  
23 Parks never came up?

24 MS. BROWN: No, it didn't.

25 MR. PATTON: Have you ever talked

1 with Ruth about any investigation in the  
2 Parks?

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

4 MR. PATTON: About the news stories?

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

6 MR. PATTON: You had no conversation  
7 whatsoever?

8 MS. BROWN: None whatsoever.

9 MR. PATTON: Okay. And who planned  
10 this lunch in March? Marcy Brown? It was the  
11 three of you?

12 MS. BROWN: Yes.

13 MR. PATTON: Who planned that?

14 MS. BROWN: Marcy coordinated it.

15 MR. PATTON: She reached out to the  
16 two of you, Ruth and yourself?

17 MS. BROWN: Yes.

18 MR. PATTON: Okay.

19 MS. BROWN: She had just said Ruth  
20 wanted to get together for lunch and wanted to  
21 know what days I was available, so we  
22 coordinated from there. And it was done  
23 through e-mails.

24 MR. PATTON: Okay. And you had  
25 lunch with Tom Domich, you said, last month?



1 MS. BROWN: Yes, or earlier this  
2 month but still August.

3 MR. PATTON: And he, you said,  
4 reached out and suggested it was time to have  
5 a birthday --

6 MS. BROWN: Yes.

7 MR. PATTON: -- get together, even  
8 though his birthday is in [REDACTED] and yours  
9 is in [REDACTED]

10 MS. BROWN: That's correct.

11 MR. PATTON: And I assume you and  
12 Tom were both aware at this point about those  
13 stories?

14 MS. BROWN: Yes, we were.

15 MR. PATTON: What conversation did  
16 you have with Mr. Domich about these stories?

17 MS. BROWN: Well, first off, about  
18 the vacation, and it was -- the thought that  
19 they would buy out vacation was something that  
20 we were both aware of that you could not do,  
21 and we were shocked that it was done.

22 As far as the fund discrepancies, we  
23 just, you know -- my only comment was I don't  
24 really remember -- I was trying to think back  
25 as to how I did the fund conditions and

1 what -- or how this problem came about, and  
2 that's about all we talked about on it.

3 MR. PATTON: How the problem came  
4 about?

5 MS. BROWN: With excess funds, with  
6 the fund discrepancy between department -- or  
7 the fund condition of the governor's budget  
8 and the Controllers.

9 MR. PATTON: You said you talked  
10 with Tom about you don't understand how the  
11 problem came about, the discrepancies, and  
12 what else related to this? What did you say  
13 immediately before? Two things you talked  
14 about?

15 Mike, do you remember?

16 MS. BROWN: We talked about the  
17 vacation buyout.

18 MR. PATTON: Yeah. And then with  
19 regard to the fund discrepancies.

20 MS. BROWN: I was trying to figure  
21 out how I put together the fund condition  
22 statements and what information I used, which  
23 was the county and year-end reports, and I  
24 don't understand how the problem came about.

25 MR. PATTON: You don't understand

1 how it came about as opposed to whether or not  
2 it existed?

3 MS. BROWN: Well, the papers were  
4 reporting it, and not knowing what records  
5 they were looking at, how they arrived at that  
6 number or the figures.

7 MR. PATTON: Well, the numbers the  
8 paper arrive at are, to me, a separate issue  
9 as opposed to the numbers that people like you  
10 and other people who work inside Admin  
11 Services are aware of, having worked with  
12 them.

13 MS. BROWN: And I have -- like I had  
14 stated yesterday, I reported the information  
15 in the fund condition that was given to me by  
16 accounting within the year-end reports. So I  
17 did not have any reason to suspect there  
18 should have been a difference.

19 MR. PATTON: So if there was a  
20 different number in budget -- in the budget  
21 fund condition statement to Finance and  
22 accounting statement to Controller, you just  
23 said you were given the numbers -- the  
24 year-end statement number from Accounting, and  
25 you're saying you were not aware that there

1 was a difference?

2 MS. BROWN: No. I was given the  
3 year-end accounting reports --

4 MR. PATTON: Um-hum.

5 MS. BROWN: -- which contained a  
6 statement of revenue --

7 MR. PATTON: Um-hum.

8 MS. BROWN: -- which was used as the  
9 basis and the numbers that we used for the  
10 fund condition statement --

11 MR. PATTON: Um-hum.

12 MS. BROWN: -- for the governor's  
13 budget.

14 MR. PATTON: Um-hum.

15 MS. BROWN: On the same token, the  
16 year-end expenditure information was used for  
17 the expenditure portion of the fund condition.

18 MR. PATTON: Yesterday you indicated  
19 to me you were aware that there was some  
20 discrepancy, you were trying to understand  
21 why.

22 MS. BROWN: Correct. And I -- just  
23 looking at the Controller's monthly reports,  
24 the amount of money in the fund didn't -- at  
25 year end didn't look like it matched the

1 budget records, and I didn't know why.

2 MR. PATTON: Okay.

3 MS. BROWN: And I never had time to  
4 pursue it.

5 MR. PATTON: Do you remember how big  
6 in dollars the mismatch was?

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

8 MR. PATTON: Small amount?

9 MS. BROWN: It was a small amount, I  
10 think --

11 MR. PATTON: Hundred dollars?

12 MS. BROWN: We round to a thousand.

13 MR. PATTON: Was it a thousand  
14 dollars, a hundred thousand dollars, a million  
15 dollars, ten million dollars?

16 MS. BROWN: It was probably a couple  
17 million dollars; I don't remember.

18 MR. PATTON: Okay. Somewhere in the  
19 millions?

20 MS. BROWN: Somewhere in the  
21 millions.

22 MR. PATTON: Okay. And so you were  
23 aware and you didn't know why. Did you want  
24 to know why?

25 MS. BROWN: Yes, I did, but I didn't

1 have time to pursue it.

2 MR. PATTON: When did you --

3 MS. BROWN: And then I retired.

4 MR. PATTON: Okay. And you  
5 indicated yesterday to us that you had become  
6 aware that there was some discrepancy  
7 unresolved that you hadn't gotten to the  
8 bottom of and that you became aware of that a  
9 couple years or so before you retired.

10 MS. BROWN: Yes.

11 MR. PATTON: Okay. And you don't  
12 remember have -- any conversations you had  
13 with anybody in Admin Services about trying to  
14 figure that out?

15 MS. BROWN: I do not remember any  
16 conversations. It was over ten years ago, and  
17 I just don't remember any conversations on  
18 that subject.

19 MR. PATTON: Okay.

20 MS. BROWN: And I tried last night.

21 MR. PATTON: Well, I want you to  
22 keep trying.

23 MS. BROWN: I will.

24 MR. PATTON: See, you -- the people  
25 we've talked to about you report that you have

1 an impeccable detailed memory, flawless --  
2 flawless impeccable knowledge about the  
3 budget, every aspect of it, and like  
4 super-expert, that you and Tom Domich, in  
5 fact, were the go-to people who understood  
6 this budget inside and out. So as the next  
7 generation comes, you are the people to go and  
8 learn from. So your reputation for  
9 understanding is very, very high. Your  
10 reputation for knowledge and detail, very  
11 high. Your reputation for memory, very, very  
12 high.

13 MS. BROWN: And that's why I --

14 MR. MATTSON: And your integrity.  
15 They have all said you have a large amount of  
16 integrity.

17 MS. BROWN: That's very nice to  
18 hear. And why I don't remember this issue, I  
19 have no idea.

20 MR. PATTON: Is it possible that it  
21 was uncomfortable and you -- it was somewhat  
22 frustrating, it didn't look right and you -- I  
23 mean, is there some reason?

24 MS. BROWN: There's no reason I can  
25 think of. I -- it may not -- it may have been

1 something that, since I didn't have time to  
2 pursue it, it was something -- just put out of  
3 my mind. I was working some long hours and  
4 had -- it's a stressful job. And I just  
5 couldn't accomplish everything I wanted to  
6 when I retired.

7 MR. PATTON: You know, I would  
8 imagine that having the numbers -- and a  
9 significant -- a number of millions of dollars  
10 not match in these two reports, especially for  
11 someone in your position, that that would be,  
12 in and of itself, sort of a stressful thing,  
13 that you would want there to be -- and I get  
14 the impression from talking to people that you  
15 are a very perfectionist type, very detail  
16 oriented, you like to have things right.

17 MS. BROWN: And it's correct. One  
18 thing about the State Parks and Recreation  
19 Fund, there's a lot of activity in the fund  
20 that goes on on a monthly basis. There's  
21 receipts into it. There's a lot of charges,  
22 expenses that come out of it, and there's a  
23 lot of money that's also from previous year  
24 accruals that will ultimately be charged  
25 against the fund. So it's a -- for me, it was



1 a very hard project to tackle to try to do  
2 your -- to be careful with what I was looking  
3 for, which was a true fund balance.

4 MR. PATTON: So you knew there was a  
5 discrepancy. It's a complicated fund. You  
6 were never able to really satisfactorily get  
7 yourself educated as to what was going on?

8 MS. BROWN: That sums it up pretty  
9 good.

10 MR. PATTON: Did you -- now, who  
11 took over as Budget Officer for you when you  
12 left?

13 MS. BROWN: Manuel Lopez.

14 MR. PATTON: Did you have -- did you  
15 spend any time with him talking about the  
16 budget, helping him, training him basically?

17 MS. BROWN: I had scheduled some  
18 time to be available. He had other  
19 commitments, and we never really met.

20 MR. PATTON: So you didn't give him  
21 any background as to what you had been doing  
22 for the last however many years?

23 MS. BROWN: Nope. I left all my  
24 files in place.

25 MR. PATTON: Okay. So --

1 MS. BROWN: Are we going to be much  
2 longer? I do have someplace I have to be.

3 MR. PATTON: We're almost done.

4 So when you left, this issue of this  
5 discrepancy was unresolved?

6 MS. BROWN: Yes.

7 MR. PATTON: Did you say anything to  
8 anybody about it as you were heading out and  
9 retiring?

10 MS. BROWN: Again, I don't remember  
11 talking to anybody about the State Parks and  
12 Recreation Fund. Well, I had my notes --

13 MR. PATTON: You were trying to  
14 figure it out.

15 MS. BROWN: My notes and all my  
16 information was there and all the projects I  
17 was working on, and I let Manuel take over.

18 MR. PATTON: You were trying to  
19 figure out this discrepancy, you said. You'd  
20 been looking at it, trying to figure out this  
21 complicated fund and why there would be such a  
22 discrepancy. Did you not utilize any  
23 assistance in doing that review?

24 MS. BROWN: Initially I was  
25 trying -- what I was trying to do before I

1 talked to anybody else was get a better  
2 understanding for the fund myself.

3 MR. PATTON: Okay. Before you  
4 talked to anybody else. At some point, did  
5 you ever talk to anybody else?

6 MS. BROWN: I don't recall that.

7 MR. PATTON: But you may have?

8 MS. BROWN: I may have, but I don't  
9 recall.

10 MR. PATTON: Did you utilize anyone  
11 to try to do any background work to run  
12 numbers, examine these accounts?

13 MS. BROWN: No.

14 MR. PATTON: Did it all yourself?

15 MS. BROWN: I was doing it myself.

16 MR. PATTON: All right.

17 Mike, do we have anything else?

18 MR. MATTSON: No.

19 MR. PATTON: Okay. We'll go off the  
20 record. What time is it?

21 MR. MATTSON: It is 2:52.

22 MR. PATTON: Thank you, Becky.

23 (End of audio)

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TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE  
Becky Brown interview on 8-29-12

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[& - catch]

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[report - type]

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