

Summary of 10-31-12 interview of Wendy Nodohara

Interview and summary by Thomas M. Patton, Deputy Attorney General

Wendy Nodohara is a research analyst who has worked in the budget section of the Department of Parks and Recreation since being hired in 2000 by then-budget officer Becky Brown and Brown's budget support manager, Alan Fujii. (Wendy Nodohara October 31, 2012 interview transcript (WNtr), p. 3.)

Nodohara stated that the fund condition statement for the State Parks and Recreation Fund (SPRF) was something the budget officer and support manager put together. She offered Brown as an example of a past budget manager who handled the SPRF fund condition statement. Nodohara recalled that she did assist with preparing the SPRF fund condition statement in 2007 when former budget officer Manuel Lopez was promoted to deputy director of administrative services and Jason Summer was serving as acting budget manager. (WNtr, pp. 5-6, 9.)

Nodohara was shown memos issued by the Department of Finance (DOF) on April 8, 2002, and June 5, 2003, identifying discrepancies in balances reported to the DOF and State Controller's Office (SCO) for the SPRF. (Exhibits G and H attached.) Nodohara stated she had never seen such a memo. When asked if she had attended a meeting years ago when accounting officer Dorothy Kroll explained to budget personnel why the discrepancy in SPRF balances reported to the DOF and SCO existed, Nodohara stated she had not. (WNtr, pp. 6-11.)

Nodohara was asked if she knew anything about files in the Parks budget office being discarded. Nodohara stated that current budget officer Elsie Brenneman supervised a "clean-up day" and budget staff "may have gotten rid of stuff," but Nodohara was not involved in going through files so she was not sure what was discarded. She did recall that the direction was to eliminate duplicate files and things that staff felt could be discarded. Nodohara was asked about file cabinets of retained materials and historical information maintained by Becky Brown. Nodohara noted that Brown's file cabinets had been moved to a different location, but she had not heard that any of the file cabinet contents had been eliminated. (WNtr, pp. 13-17.)