

Press Releases

07/24/2009 | City Auditor Laura Doud Speaks At California Recovery Task Force Conference

Says of federal stimulus funds, "This is a new day, with new money, new rules and heightened scrutiny."

City Auditor Laura Doud participated yesterday in the California Recovery Task Force Conference in Anaheim at the invitation of California State Inspector General Laura Chick. Inspector General Chick moderated the panel titled "Avoiding the Pitfalls: Protecting Recovery Dollars from Waste and Fraud." Other members of the panel were California State Auditor Elaine Howle and representatives of the U.S. Government Accountability Office, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the California Recovery Task Force.

The day-long conference was one of three regional "Road to Recovery Conferences" sponsored by the governor-appointed Recovery Task Force to provide information to the public about how to apply for federal stimulus funds.

As the panel's representative of municipal government oversight, City Auditor Doud discussed her role in Long Beach for the oversight of federal stimulus funds.

City Auditor Doud spoke to the 250 attendees about the record amounts of money that will be coming into California along with the unprecedented level of accountability for the spending of the federal dollars. "Our message to those who will be applying for and receiving these funds is that it is not only your responsibility to comply with a multitude of rules and regulations for use of the federal funds---but it is also your responsibility to ensure that all those under you, such as subcontractors, comply. I encourage applicants for the stimulus grants to learn all they can about the rules, so that penalties can be avoided," Doud said.

Some examples of the strict requirements attached to these federal funds are that projects use only American steel and that whistleblower hotline posters are posted at all job sites.

"My office will help ensure that public monies are used effectively and that fraud, waste and abuse of resources are deterred and detected. We will also be verifying that appropriate controls are in place to help prevent any misuse of funds, thereby preventing the City from having to give back or lose out on available funds."

The public, City employees or vendors doing business with the City of Long Beach can report suspected fraud, waste or abuse of federal funds on the City Auditor's toll-free, 24 hour Fraud Hotline, 888/ Fraud 07, or [click here](#) for more.

For information about California stimulus funding available directly from the federal government, visit www.recovery.ca.gov