SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT
INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIONS VOLUME II – FISCAL YEAR 2027

INVESTIGATION RESULTS

The BART Office of the Inspector General (OIG) completed eleven investigations into alleged misconduct. We are providing this summary report to remain compliant with California Public Utilities Code § 28841, which requires that we keep BART administration, the Board of Directors, and the public informed of our findings and recommendations. After reviewing records, conducting observations, and interviewing individuals, we found that available evidence did not support the allegations or that the matters were being addressed through other BART channels.

1. We noted that a standby Emergency Medical Services (EMS) vendor's invoices to the District showed signs of potential false claims as the vendor never adjusted for staff time as would be expected to account for leaves of absence, late arrivals, or other staffing issues. We examined 52 invoices over a 17-month period from January 2025 to May 2026 and found nearly $6,000 in discrepancies. Upon request, the vendor provided additional documentation that appropriately accounted for all but $859 of the potential errors. The vendor fully cooperated with our investigation, acknowledged the errors, and promptly reimbursed BART $859 for the invoice discrepancies. OIG case number 394.
2. We received an allegation that two District consultants submitted false claims by billing BART for professional services while they were either on vacation or conducting personal errands. Evidence did not support improper billings. While one consultant did bill for services on the days in question, BART's project manager confirmed that it was permissible for the consultant to perform the services remotely. The other consultant did not bill for services on the days in question. OIG case number 397.

WHY THIS WORK MATTERS

This work shows that allegations of misconduct are taken seriously and resolved objectively. Even when claims are not substantiated, independent investigations protect public trust by confirming that resources were not misused and that employee and patron safety are a priority.

LAWS & POLICIES

California law and District policies establish protections against fraudulent claims for payment; prohibitions on falsifying records, claiming unearned pay, misusing property, engaging in conflicts of interest, and drinking on duty; guidance for appropriate advertising; and requirements for competitive procurement with specified allowable exceptions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Our investigations did not warrant recommendations because the allegations were either not substantiated, addressed by or referred to another BART function for further analysis, or lacked available evidence to conclude on the presence of misconduct.

3. We received an allegation that an employee was using a BART non-revenue vehicle (NRV) for personal use. Evidence did not support that the employee was misusing the NRV. BART authorized the employee to take an NRV home due to the unique responsibilities of their position, allowing them to perform their duties efficiently and respond promptly to emergencies, including service disruptions. OIG case number 428.

4. & 5. We received two allegations that a District employee was abusing sick leave and getting the absences approved using forged medical or doctor's notes. Our review of the employee's timekeeping records found that the employee took sick leave on approximately 90 scheduled workdays (65%) during the 12-month period from September 2025 through August 2026. We also noted that the employee had not yet filed for protected leave, such as leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). During our investigation, however, the employee filed for FMLA and Human Resources began addressing the employee's needs. Therefore, we closed the investigation. OIG case numbers 396 and 437.

6. We received an allegation that a District project manager directed staff to alter contract selection scoring to steer the contract to a preferred vendor. When asked for additional information, the complainant modified their allegation, saying that the scores were not changed but was concerned that the vendors had not been interviewed. We noted that the contractor solicitation efforts agreed with Public Contract Codes 10298 and 10299; BART procurement policy; and the State of California's Department of General Services (DGS) requirements for California Multiple Award Schedules (CMAS) agreement awards. Therefore, we did not substantiate the allegation. OIG case number 424.

7. We received an allegation that an advertisement at the Embarcadero Station was unethical. We examined BART's Advertising Content Guidelines and determined that the advertisement in question did not violate District policy as it did not include any of the prohibited categories. Therefore, we did not substantiate the allegation. OIG case number 429.

8. We received allegations that multiple District employees were committing time theft and consuming alcohol on duty. The allegations lacked sufficient detail to investigate; however, given the potential safety concerns of drinking on duty, we referred the matter to the employees' supervisor for further review and closed the case. While we identified a safety concern, the employees do not hold safety-sensitive positions. OIG case number 430.

9. We received an allegation that a BART employee was regularly clocking out for their family member, which we identified as potential time theft and falsification of BART records. Video records were unavailable for us to complete our investigation. However, BART time-reporting records showed that the employees' separate work locations severely limited the probability of the alleged misconduct occurring. Therefore, we closed the case. OIG case number 426.

10. We received an allegation that someone was using a "deceased disabled" person's "card." The whistleblower did not respond to our request for clarification; therefore, we could not determine what type of "card" they were referring to, e.g., BART employee ID or transit card. To assess the claim, however, we reviewed information from the BART ID Badge Department on who qualifies for a Clipper card and how BART deactivates cards after a cardholder dies. We also tested a sample of deceased employees and confirmed that BART deactivated their Clipper cards after their deaths. We found no evidence that supports the allegation or warranting further investigation, so we closed the case. OIG case number 402.
11. We received an allegation that a District employee personally paid for a BART contractor's real estate license, creating a potential conflict of interest. The whistleblower did not have firsthand knowledge of the allegation but had heard of it through another unidentified source. No documentation was available for our review; however, we interviewed the subject who denied the allegation. We also interviewed a potential witness who said that, while they were aware of the subject offering career guidance, they had no direct knowledge of the subject paying for the contractor's real estate license. Both interviewees appeared credible. We closed the case as not substantiated. OIG case number 425.

OIG Disclosure Practices

We identify those involved in our investigations in only limited circumstances. This avoids violating privacy and confidentiality rights granted by law and creating unwarranted actions against those involved with our investigation. The decision to provide names is made on a case-by-case basis and considers all elements of an investigation. This practice does not prevent individuals from requesting documents under the California Public Records Act (CPRA). However, such disclosures may be restricted or limited by law.

November 4, 2026

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