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CONTROL SELF-ASSESSMENT & PROCESS IMPROVEMENT BY

OC Public Works

Four Workshops Facilitated by the Internal Audit Department between September and November 2013

> **Control Self-Assessment & Process** Improvement (CSA-PI) is a management tool where work teams within a department or agency assess their own effectiveness in meeting select business and control objectives.

The Internal Audit Department facilitated four CSA-PI workshops in OC Public Works at the request of the former interim Department Director. The four workshops were conducted between September and November 2013.

CSA-PI is not an audit; rather, it is a consulting service that assists County departments in conducting their own internal assessment of the effectiveness of their controls and business processes. OC Public Works' new management team has been partnering with the work teams in taking action to address issues raised in the four workshops.

> REPORT NO: 1361 REPORT DATE: JUNE 18, 2014

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RISK BASED AUDITING

GAO & IIA Peer Review Compliant - 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013 AICPA American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Award to Dr. Peter Hughes

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GRC (Government, Risk & Compliance) Group 2010 Award to IAD as MVP in Risk Management









GAO & IIA Peer Review Compliant - 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013

Providing Facts and Perspectives Countywide

RISK BASED AUDITING

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OC Fraud Hotline (714) 834-3608



Transmittal Letter



Report No. 1361 June 18, 2014

TO: Shane Silsby, Director OC Public Works

FROM: Dr. Peter Hughes, CPA, Director Internal Audit Department

SUBJECT: Control Self-Assessment & Process

Improvement by OC Public Works

At the request of the former OC Public Works Interim Director, we have completed our facilitation of a Control Self-Assessment & Process Improvement (CSA-PI) by OC Public Works (OCPW). We conducted four CSA-PI workshops with OCPW employees, supervisors and managers between September and November 2013. The **Control Self-Assessment & Process Improvement Report** is attached.

The CSA-PI process was approved by the Audit Oversight Committee on April 27, 2011, with the understanding that the impressions and perspectives captured in the workshop summaries would be retained exclusively by those elected officials who requested a CSA-PI. It was further understood that: 1) the Internal Audit Department would provide a draft workshop summary to the County Executive Office (CEO) for those departments and agencies reporting directly to the CEO; 2) the Internal Audit Department would follow up on any internal control weaknesses or issues identified in the workshop in the manner they deemed warranted; and 3) the Internal Audit Department would provide a summary notice of completion in the format and with the content contained in this Control Self-Assessment & Process Improvement Report.

Each month I submit an **Audit Status Report** to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) where I detail any critical or significant audit findings released in reports during the prior month and the implementation status of audit recommendations as disclosed by our Follow-Up Audits. Although the CSA-PI process is not considered an audit, this report will be included in a future status report to the BOS.

Attachments

Other recipients of this report are listed on the **Control Self-Assessment & Process Improvement Report** on page 5.



Control Self-Assessment & Process Improvement by OC Public Works
Report No. 1361

Four Workshops Conducted between September and November 2013

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Report No. 1361

June 18, 2014

tu Hughes

TO: Shane Silsby, Director

OC Public Works

FROM: Dr. Peter Hughes, CPA, Director

Internal Audit Department

SUBJECT: Control Self-Assessment & Process Improvement

By OC Public Works

OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE OF CSA-PI

As requested by the former OC Public Works Interim Director, we provided facilitation of four Control Self-Assessment & Process Improvement (CSA-PI – formerly referred to as CSA) workshops in OC Public Works (OCPW). The primary purpose of CSA-PI is to help teams assess their effectiveness in meeting select departmental business and control objectives. We conducted four workshops including employees from Operations & Maintenance, OC Engineering, OC Facilities and Administration.

In order to ensure workshop participants are comfortable providing assessments that may be critical of existing processes and procedures, the Internal Audit Department uses anonymous voting technology to capture the participants' perceptions regarding the effectiveness of resolving internal conflicts, promoting and supporting teamwork, establishing achievable goals, measuring performance, empowering employees, providing recognition, inviting employee comments and suggestions, communicating expectations, sharing financial and operational information, and training and developing staff.

CSA-PI workshops have three fundamental purposes. **First**, the workshops provide the teams with a formal process for <u>self-evaluation</u>. This process addresses strengths and obstacles that impact the teams' ability to achieve their objectives and to decide upon appropriate action. **Second**, the Internal Audit Department prepares a draft summary of results of the workshops that provides a basis for upper management to evaluate the control environment within their department. **Last**, the process provides a methodology for participants to apply these workshop principles and dynamics in the workplace by identifying problems and obstacles, and developing action plans to address concerns and build upon strengths. Participants are encouraged to communicate openly, identify concerns, and collaborate in deciding on appropriate actions.

The Internal Audit Department serves primarily as workshop facilitators and not auditors. This process is based on the <u>consensus of impressions</u>, <u>comments</u>, <u>opinions</u>, <u>and perspectives of the workshop teams</u> and is not "audited or validated" by the Internal Audit Department. Nevertheless, we find that the workshop results provide useful insights regarding the status of OCPW's control environment. Also, the Internal Audit Department will follow up on any internal control weaknesses or issues identified in the workshops in the manner they deem warranted.

CSA-PI Highlight

The Internal Audit
Department facilitated
four Control SelfAssessment & Process
Improvement workshops
in OCPW.

Each workshop was attended by managers, supervisors and staff from Operations & Maintenance, OC Engineering, OC Facilities and Administration. Each team assessed their department's effectiveness in meeting its business and control objectives.

CSA-PI is a consulting service to assist County departments assess the effectiveness of their business processes.



Control Self-Assessment & Process Improvement is a process where managers and employees of a unit led by trained facilitators (Internal Audit Department) come together to discuss the strengths and concerns impacting their ability to accomplish their objectives. Workshop participants, using anonymous voting technology, vote on a series of 51 statements in 11 categories of control elements (see Attachment A). The statements are used to assess business operations and help both the participants and management focus on common business objectives and controls.

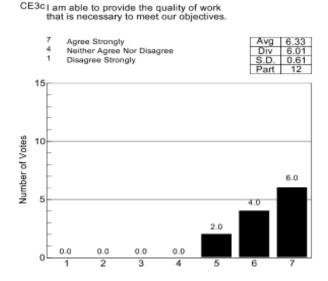
The categories presented to the group for voting and discussion are:

Values & Beliefs
Team Environment & Responsibilities
Communication & Relations
Setting Team Objectives
Planning & Risk Assessment
Resources

Information
Skills & Knowledge
Rewards & Recognition
Control Activities
Monitoring, Learning & Managing Change

The teams are asked to vote anonymously on whether they agree or disagree with the 51 statements. The voting is on a scale of 1 through 7, with 1 corresponding to "disagree strongly" and 7 corresponding to "agree strongly."

For example, one statement under the category "Skills & Knowledge" reads: "I am able to provide the quality of work that is necessary to meet our objectives." After the participants voted on this statement, graphic results were instantly displayed showing the results similar to the **sample** graph below:



After viewing the results of their voting, comments are shared and recorded relating to strengths, concerns, and possible actions to be taken to address the issues raised in the statements. The impressions and perceptions reflected in the statements are used by management to stimulate further discussions with the objective of revising, enhancing or improving controls, processes and managerial issues identified.



WORKSHOP IMPRESSIONS

CSA-PI workshop results are based on the consensus of impressions, comments, opinions, and perspectives of the workshop teams. The benefit of the workshop is to get issues out so management and the team participants can evaluate, research, clarify, and ultimately verify the observations expressed. Management responds by working with employees and developing concrete corrective actions that the workshop team and management determine have validity to pursue. CSA-PI is a multi-step process: **First**, the Internal Audit Department acts as facilitators to flush out strengths and concerns from the participants in meeting department objectives. **Second**, management and the teams evaluate the workshop results. **Third**, management and the team develop concrete corrective actions in an action plan. Management implements the action plan and ensures they are provided to workshop participants and to all employees. **Last**, the Internal Audit Department will pursue any control concerns that come out of a CSA-PI workshop, either through a separate audit, or discussions with management as considered warranted.

RESULTS

After completion of the workshops, each team began working with OCPW management to prepare an internal Action Plan addressing the higher-priority issues brought forward during the workshops. Action Plans were received from Operations & Maintenance and OC Facilities. A new Department Director was appointed to OCPW as we were conducting the workshops. We met with the new Director and Executive Management team, discussed the progress made by OCPW, and recognized they had addressed the more significant issues. Due to the change in Executive Management, OCPW will complete Action Plans for OC Engineering and Administration next fiscal year.

The following were the key strengths and concerns identified in the workshops:

Strengths & Successes:

- 1. <u>Skills, Knowledge and Experience</u>. OCPW staff and management possess the necessary education, skills, and knowledge to accomplish their objectives. Several staff have more than 20 years of County and/or public works experience.
- 2. <u>Strong Teamwork</u>. OCPW has effective teamwork, collaboration and communication <u>within</u> the divisions (Operations & Maintenance, OC Facilities, OC Engineering and Administration). Employees help each other in their respective divisions to achieve their objectives.
- 3. <u>Dedicated Staff Who Enjoy Their Work and Meet Objectives</u>. OCPW staff are dedicated to their jobs, enjoy their work, and meet their objectives despite the many obstacles they face. Several staff expressed passion for providing high-quality customer service.

Concerns & Challenges:

- Staffing Levels. OCPW staff expressed concerns regarding lack of adequate staffing levels. Employees were concerned that the large number of vacancies were impacting their service levels and also impacting the amount of preventative maintenance being performed throughout the County.
- Leadership. Participants were concerned regarding frequent management changes in the department. Morale has been impacted by the events surrounding a former high-ranking employee. Some staff were concerned that leadership had not established a clear mission, vision, goals and objectives.
- 3. <u>Resources.</u> Staff expressed concern regarding other resources. Losing the ability to take home vehicles has resulted in a loss of productivity. In addition, participants cited the inability to make quick purchases when out in the field which negatively impacts efficiency. Team members also felt that field technology could be better utilized via mobile devices.



There were no issues identified during the four workshops that warranted the Internal Audit Department pursuing any further action regarding control concerns. We noted that OCPW Executive Management is taking the CSA-PI process seriously and is taking immediate action to address certain issues raised in the workshops.

The draft summaries of the raw and unverified comments, impressions and voting results were provided to OCPW. As such we limited distribution strictly to OCPW for use as a management tool in facilitating their internal assessment. However, because the OCPW Director is appointed and reports to the CEO, we discussed the OCPW workshops with the CEO/Chief Operating Officer (COO). The COO had read the four workshop summaries and was enthusiastic about the CSA process.

CSA-PI TEAMS' EVALUATION

At the conclusion of the workshops, facilitators ask teams to evaluate the CSA-PI process by anonymously voting on five standard quality assurance statements. The participants provided high ratings for the CSA-PI process and their individual workshops as indicated by their voting. The average scores from the 59 participants evaluating the CSA-PI process are shown below. The participants vote by selecting a numerical rating from a scale of 1 through 7. A score of 7 indicates the participants strongly agree with the statement. A score of 4 indicates they neither agree nor disagree. A score of 1 indicates the participants strongly disagree with the statement.

See the table below of Evaluation Statements for the averaged score results for the three workshops.

	Top Score	Average	D
Evaluation Statement	Possible	Score	Percentage
I understand the purpose of CSA-PI.	7.00	6.76	96.6%
The workshop helped to highlight issues significant to this team.	7.00	6.64	94.9%
I was able to express my opinions freely.	7.00	6.71	95.9%
The Internal Audit Department facilitators did a good job.	7.00	6.88	98.3%
I would recommend this process to other teams.	7.00	6.86	98.0%

SOME TEAM COMMENTS

- ✓ "I believe this was a very instrumental and positive exercise and will help us in the future."
- ✓ "I like that it promoted a lot of constructive discussion amongst the group."
- √ "The workshop identified many things the department could improve on."
- ✓ "It was interesting to see the common themes. It will help us create a good action plan."
- ✓ "I liked the voting system. It was very helpful to see our responses graphically."
- ✓ "The workshop was very effective...we had the freedom to speak freely about important issues."
- ✓ I liked the ability to find and offer recommendations."



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation extended to us by the personnel at OC Public Works. If you have any questions regarding the CSA-PI process, please contact me directly at 834-5475, or Mike Goodwin, Senior Audit Manager at 834-6066.

Distribution Pursuant to Audit Oversight Committee Procedure No. 1:

Members, Board of Supervisors
Members, Audit Oversight Committee
Michael B. Giancola, County Executive Officer
Mark Denny, Chief Operating Officer
Robin Uptegraff, Assistant Director of OC Public Works
Phillip Cook, Deputy Director, Facilities Design & Construction, OCPW
Mary Fitzgerald, Deputy Director, Administrative Services, OCPW
Kevin Onuma, Deputy Director, Infrastructure Programs, OCPW
Khalid Bazmi, Deputy Director, Operations & Maintenance, OCPW
Foreperson, Grand Jury
Susan Novak, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Macias Gini & Co. LLP, County External Auditor



ATTACHMENT A: Control Self-Assessment/Process Improvement Workshop Overview

CONTROL SELF-ASSESSMENT / PROCESS IMPROVEMENT WORKSHOP OC INTERNAL AUDIT DEPARTMENT

Section 1 - Introduction to Control Self-Assessment/Process Improvement

The objective is to understand Control Self-Assessment/Process Improvement (CSA-PI) and the internal control framework, as a method used by the Internal Audit Department to help work-teams assess control effectiveness.

Section 2 - Situation Appraisal Section (Post It Note Exercise)

The objective is to identify your team's strengths and concerns and evaluate their relative impact on your ability to meet business objectives.

STRENGTHS - Items that help us to meet our objectives

- SA1a Rate the current impact of this item on your objectives
 - 1 No Impact
 - 4 Moderate Impact
 - 7 High Impact
- SA1b Rate the future benefit of this item, i.e. the benefits that would occur by further application of this strength
 - 1 No Benefit
 - 4 Moderate Benefit
 - 7 High Benefit

CONCERNS - Items that hinder our ability to meet our objectives

- SA2a Rate the current impact of this item on your objectives
 - 1 No Impact
 - 4 Moderate Impact
 - 7 High Impact
- SA2b Rate the future risk of this item, i.e. the future risk this item poses to the objectives if it is not addressed
 - 1 No Risk
 - 4 Moderate Risk
 - 7 High Risk

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ATTACHMENT A: Control Self-Assessment/Process Improvement Workshop Overview (continued)

Section 3 - Control Appraisal Section

The objective is to examine the key controls of the internal control framework to measure how effective they are in your area of responsibility.

A number of statements will be made in each of the following categories and you will be asked to vote on how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the statements. After voting on all the statements in a category, the results will be graphically displayed and the team will have the opportunity to discuss them and decide whether to take any action and, if so, what needs to be done.



Area of Control Voting Category

Control Environment (CE1) Values & Beliefs

Control Environment (CE2) Team Environment & Responsibilities

Information & Comm. (CI1) Communications & Relations

Risk Assessment (RA1) Setting Team Objectives

Risk Assessment (RA2) Planning & Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment (RA3) Resources

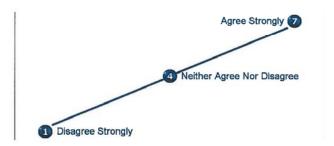
Information & Comm. (CI2) Information

Control Environment (CE3) Skills & Knowledge

Control Environment (CE4) Rewards & Recognition

Control Activities (CA1) Control Activities

Monitoring (ML1) Monitoring, Learning & Managing Change



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ATTACHMENT A: Control Self-Assessment/Process Improvement Workshop Overview (continued)

*	4				
	VALUE	ES & BELIEFS			
	CE 1a	Our department demonstrates commitment to its mission.	1 2	3 4 5	
	CE 1b	Our department demonstrates commitment to equity (fairness) in the workplace.	1 2	3 4 5	
	CE 1c	Our department's standards of values and ethics have been clearly communicated to me.	1 2	3 4 5	
	CE 1d	People in leadership positions in our department set a good example.	1 2	3 4 5	
	CE 1e	Our department operates in an ethical manner.	1 2		
	TEAM	ENVIRONMENT & RESPONSIBILITIES			
	CE 2a	We are an effective team.	1 2	3 4 5	
×	CE 2b	My role and responsibility in the team is clearly understood by other team members.	1 2	3 4 5	
	CE 2c	I am empowered to carry out my job responsibilities.	1 2	3 4 5	
	CE 2d	Our team considers the effects of its actions on others.	1 2		
	COMM	IUNICATION & RELATIONS			
	CI 1a	I can discuss bad news freely with all members of our team.	1 2	3 4 5	
	CI 1b	I can discuss bad news freely with the next level of management.	1 2	3 4 5	
	CI 1c	Our team openly discusses those matters that need to be discussed.	1 2	000	
	SETTI	NG TEAM OBJECTIVES			
	RA 1a	Our team members are currently working to achieve common team objectives.	1 2	3 4 5	
	RA 1b	I have sufficient involvement in setting our team's objectives.	1 2	3 4 5	
	RA 1c	Our team's objectives are aligned with our department's overall objectives and strategies.	1 2	3 4 5	
	RA 1d	Our team's objectives are compatible with the objectives of other related teams.	1 2	3 4 5	
	RA 1e	We have an effective method to resolve conflicting objectives between teams.	1 2	3 4 5	0 0 6 7
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ATTACHMENT A: Control Self-Assessment/Process Improvement Workshop Overview (continued)

RA 2a RA 2b	I have a clear understanding of the things that could go wrong (risks) in my			
RA 2b	work.	1 2	3 4 5	(
	I understand the level of risk acceptable to the department when establishing team objectives.	1 2	3 4 5	(
RA 2c	Our team effectively applies risk assessment to our business.	1 2	3 4 5	(
RA 2d	Our team has targets against which progress can be measured and monitored.	1 2	3 4 5	(
RA 2e	Our team will meet its objectives.	1 2	3 4 5	
RESO	URCES			
RA 3a	Our planning process includes estimates of the resources required to meet our team's objectives.	1 2	3 4 5	(
RA 3b	The resources our team has available will allow us to achieve our business objectives.	1 2	3 4 5	(
RA 3c	The resources available to our team are sufficient to ensure high quality output.	1 2	3 4 5	(
RA 3d	Our organizational structure is effective in providing the resources required to meet our team's objectives.	1 2	3 4 5	ı
INFOR	MATION			
CI 2a	The information I need to do my job is easily accessible.	1 2	3 4 5	(
CI 2b	The information systems I use are helpful to me.	1 2	3 4 5	(
CI 2c	I have confidence in the accuracy of the information I receive.	1 2	3 4 5	(
CI 2d	Adequate steps are taken to ensure information is safeguarded.	1 2	3 4 5	(
CI 2e	Our team has a plan to recover from a loss of information.	1 2	3 4 5	
SKILL	S & KNOWLEDGE			
CE 3a	I have adequate skills to do my job.	1 2	3 4 5	(
CE 3b	I understand how my job inter-relates with other people/parts of the department.	1 2	3 4 5	
CE 3c	I am able to provide the quality of work that is necessary to meet our objectives.	1 2	3 4 5	(
CE 3d	The overall capability level of our team is sufficient to meet our objectives.	1 2	3 4 5	ļ



ATTACHMENT A: Control Self-Assessment/Process Improvement Workshop Overview (continued)

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	ARDS & RECOGNITION	
CE 4a	I know the standards against which my performance will be measured.	1 2 3 4 5 6
CE 4b	I receive adequate compensation for my performance.	1 2 3 4 5 6
CE 4c	I receive adequate recognition for my performance.	1 2 3 4 5 6
CE 4d	I enjoy my work.	1 2 3 4 5 6
CONT	TROL ACTIVITIES	
CA 1a	Our team's procedures are well documented and understood.	1 2 3 4 5 6
CA 1b	Our team's procedures help ensure work is carried out effectively.	1 2 3 4 5 6
CA 1c	Our team's procedures help ensure consistent quality of output.	1 2 3 4 5 6
CA 1d	Our team's policies and procedures are adequate to ensure that the most significant risks are effectively controlled.	1 2 3 4 5 6
CA 1e	Our team adheres to established policies and procedures.	1 2 3 4 5 6
CA 1f	Our team's major work processes are efficient.	1 2 3 4 5 6
MONI	TORING, LEARNING & MANAGING CHANGE	
ML 1a	Our team does a good job of analyzing our results.	1 2 3 4 5 6
ML 1b	Our team measures the value of the services we provide.	1 2 3 4 5 6
ML 1c	Our team compares our practices with other groups (internal and external).	1 2 3 4 5 6
ML 1d	Our team regularly analyzes external conditions that may affect our objectives.	1 2 3 4 5 6
ML 1e	Our team periodically challenges our objectives to determine if they are still appropriate.	1 2 3 4 5 6
ML 1f	Our team makes effective changes based on what we learn from our analysis.	1 2 3 4 5 6
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ATTACHMENT A: Control Self-Assessment/Process Improvement Workshop **Overview (continued)**

Section 4 - Next Steps Section

What are the Next Steps for our team?

Section 5 - Evaluation of the Workshop

Please provide feedback on today's workshop by either agreeing or disagreeing with the following statements:

EV 1a	I understand the purpose of Control Self-Assessment/Process Improvement.		gly Str	Agree rongly 0 7
EV 1b	The workshop helped to highlight issues significant to this team.	1 2	3 4 5	00 67
EV 1c	I was able to express my opinions freely.	1 2	3 4 5	00 67
EV 1d	The facilitators did a good job.		3 4 5	
EV 1e	I would recommend this process to other teams.	1 2	3 4 5	6.7

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