

January 28, 2015

To: Finance and Administration Committee

From: Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Janet Sutter, Executive Director

Internal Audit Department

Subject: Fiscal Year 2014-15 Internal Audit Plan, Second Quarter Update

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors adopted the Orange County Transportation Authority Internal Audit Department Fiscal Year 2014-15 Internal Audit Plan on July 28, 2014. This update is for the second quarter of the fiscal year.

Recommendations

Receive and file the second quarter update to the Orange County Transportation Authority Internal Audit Department Fiscal Year 2014-15 Internal Audit Plan.

Background

The Internal Audit Department (Internal Audit) is an independent appraisal function, the purpose of which is to examine and evaluate the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) operations and activities to assist management in the discharge of its duties and responsibilities.

Internal Audit performs a wide range of auditing services that include overseeing the annual financial and compliance audits, conducting operational and contract compliance reviews, investigations, pre-award price reviews, and Buy America reviews. Audits initiated by entities outside of OCTA are coordinated through Internal Audit.

Discussion

The OCTA Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15 Internal Audit Plan (Plan) (Attachment A) reflects the status of each audit project.

During the second quarter of the FY, Internal Audit issued reviews of the OCTA Vanpool Program and Protected Leave Administration. These audits concluded that controls were adequate to ensure compliance with related guidelines.

Also during the quarter, a performance audit of OCTA's continuity plan was completed by the professional accounting and advisory firm, BCA Watson Rice, LLP (BCA) under contract to Internal Audit. The auditors recommended that management re-perform the business impact analysis, and update and reissue the continuity plan to address several deficiencies noted during the review. Follow-up related to this audit is being monitored by the Security Working Group of the Board of Directors (Board).

Under contract with Internal Audit, BCA also completed audits of eight projects funded through the Measure M Combined Transportation Funding Program and two projects funded through the Measure M2 Comprehensive Transportation Funding Program. Auditors found that costs charged to the projects were reasonable, allocable, and adequately supported; however, three cities did not submit final reports within 180 days of the project completion date, as required by program guidelines. The cities responded that, in the future, final reports will be submitted timely.

Also during the quarter, Internal Audit provided coordination and oversight of Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Company, LLP, independent certified public accountants performing the annual OCTA financial statement audits and agreed-upon procedures reviews. With the exception of the National Transit Database (NTD) report, all of the annual financial and agreed-upon procedures reviews have been issued and provided to the State Controller and the California Department of Transportation, as required. The delay in completing the NTD agreed-upon procedures review relates to implementation of a new system that was not made available to agencies for input until December 29, 2014. As a result, the deadline for reporting was extended until January 31, 2015.

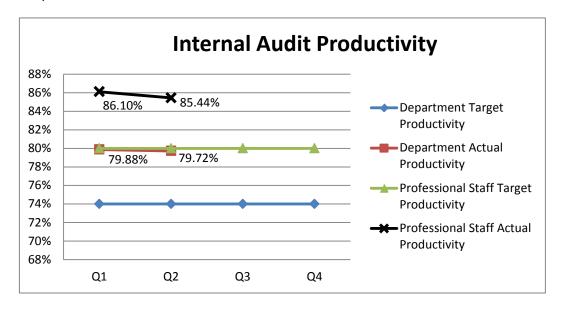
Finally, Internal Audit continues to provide coordination on several outside agency audits and will bring the results to the Finance and Administration Committee (F&A) and the Board once reports are received. Responses and evidence of resolution for all recommendations from the Federal Transit Administration Triennial Review have been submitted.

Internal Audit Productivity

Internal Audit measures the productivity of the department by calculating a productivity ratio. The ratio, used broadly throughout the audit industry,

measures the amount of time auditors spend on audit projects versus time spent on administrative duties. Productivity goals are established for both the professional staff and for the department as a whole. Because the executive director regularly participates in non-audit management activities such as planning and committee meetings, the department-wide target is set at 74 percent. The target for internal audit professional staff, not including the executive director, is 80 percent.

For the second quarter ended December 31, 2014, Internal Audit achieved productivity of 80 percent, and the professional staff achieved productivity of 85 percent.



Price Reviews

request of the Contracts Administration and Materials Management Department (CAMM), and consistent with OCTA procurement policy, Internal Audit conducts reviews of single bid procurements to ensure that CAMM handled the procurement in a fair and competitive manner. Internal Audit also reviews prices proposed by architectural and engineering firms and sole source contractors to ensure that the prices are fair and reasonable. Internal Audit makes recommendations to adjust proposed rates where they exceed the rates per review. When the value of recommended adjustments can be estimated, Internal Audit tracks and reports these savings, as noted below. During the quarter ended December 31, 2014, Internal Audit conducted six pre-award agreed-upon procedures reviews and recommended price adjustments, as indicated below:

Quarter	Price Reviews Recommended Adjustments
1	\$ 113,695
2	35,709
3	
4	
Total	\$ 149,404

Fraud Hotline

During the quarter ended December 31, 2014, Internal Audit received eight complaints through OCTA's Fraud Hotline (Hotline), www.ethicspoint.com. Five complaints were referred to OCTA management and/or customer relations for proper disposition. Internal Audit responded directly to two complaints, and investigated, substantiated, and reported the results of a third complaint to management and the Board. As part of the administration of the Hotline, Internal Audit maintains documentation of each complaint and its disposition.

Internal Audit is committed to responding to all Hotline complaints within eight business days. During the quarter ended December 31, 2014, Internal Audit made initial contact within two business days.

Findings and Recommendations Tracking

At the request of F&A, unresolved audit recommendations are included with the quarterly updates to the Plan as Attachment B. Internal Audit includes the findings and recommendations generated internally, as well as those provided by regulatory auditors and OCTA's independent financial statement auditors.

During the quarter ended December 31, 2014, Internal Audit performed follow-up of ten unresolved audit recommendations. Eight recommendations were appropriately addressed by management and were removed from the list; one recommendation has not been fully implemented and will be reviewed again in six months, and another recommendation was partially addressed but was removed from the list in lieu of a repeat recommendation that was issued in December 2014. Management declined to implement one recommendation relating to recruitments. Internal Audit recommended that management consider requiring external recruitment of positions that identify only one qualified internal candidate. This recommendation was also removed. A total of ten recommendations were added to the list relating to reports that were issued during the quarter.

Summary

Internal Audit will continue to implement the Plan, monitor performance metrics, and report the status on a quarterly basis.

Attachments

- A. Fiscal Year 2014-15 Internal Audit Plan, Second Quarter Update
- B. Unresolved Audit Findings and Recommendations Audit Reports Issued Through December 31, 2014

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714-560-5591

ATTACHMENT A

Audit Activity	Project Number	Description	Primary Audit Type	Planned Staff Hours	Staff Hours to Date	Under (Over)	Status (Date Issued)	External Auditor
Mandatory External Independent Audi	ts							
Annual Financial Audit	FY15-001 through FY15-003	Coordination and oversight of annual financial and compliance audits for fiscal year (FY) 2014-15.	Financial	400	387	13	Completed	Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co.
Annual Transportation Development Act (TDA) Audits	FY15-004	Coordination of required annual audits of the recipients of TDA Funds for FY 2014-15.	Compliance	36	16	20	Completed	Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co.
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Incurred Cost Audit	FY15-805	Coordinate Incurred Cost Audit inititated by Caltrans for funding of various highway and grade separation projects.	Compliance	56	44	12		Caltrans
Internal Audit Department Projects								
Risk Assessment and Annual Audit Plan	FY15-100	Annual preparation of the audit plan, quarterly updates to the audit plan, periodic assessment of risk throughout the year, including the monitoring of audit results of related entities.	Audit Plan and Updates	200	77	123	Ongoing	
Quality Assurance and Self-Assessment	FY15-101	Update of Internal Audit Policies & Procedures. Annual self assessment of the Internal Audit Department's compliance with Government Auditing Standards.	Quality Assurance	180	-	180		
Fraud Hotline	FY15-102	Administrative duties related to maintenance of the Fraud Hotline and work related to investigations of reports of fraud, waste, or abuse.	Fraud Hotline	300	278	22	Ongoing	18 Reports Received
Internal Audits								
Organization-Wide								
Business Resumption and Continuity of Operations	FY14-514	Assess whether business resumption/continuity of operations plans provide the framework for an effective response and recovery from any business interruption.	Operational	60	57	4	Issued 10-3-14	
Legal Services	FY15-5XX	Assess the adequacy of contract oversight and payment controls.	Internal Controls	180	-	180		
Clerk of the Board								
Public Records Act (PRA) Requests	FY15-503	Assess the adequacy of controls to ensure compliance with the PRA.	Compliance	160	116	44	Issued 9-26-14	
Human Resources and Organizational Develo	pment							
Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)	FY14-502	Review controls in place to ensure compliance with policies, procedures, and regulations related to the FMLA.	Compliance	240	217	23	Issued 12-1-14	
Training	FY14-510	Assess the adequacy of operations related to employee training and educational reimbursements and determine compliance with regulations, policies, and procedures.	Operational	40	54	(14)	Issued 9-24-14	

Audit Activity	Project Number	Description	Primary Audit Type	Planned Staff Hours	Staff Hours to Date	Under (Over)	Status (Date Issued)	External Auditor
Capital Projects								
State Route (SR) 91 Improvements from Interstate 5 to SR 57	FY15-504	Review of the SR 91 Improvement project, including project administration, oversight controls, and contract compliance.	Compliance	350	234	116	In Process	
Facilities Project Management	FY15-505	Review controls in place to manage OCTA facilities projects.	Operational	240	298	(58)	In Process	
Bristol Street Widening	FY15-5XX	Assess oversight controls and contract compliance with related cooperative agreements for the Bristol Street widening.	Compliance	300	-	300		
Planning								
Competitive Transportation Funding Program Projects	FY14-516	Review selected projects for compliance with Measure M Ordinance, policies, and procedures.	Compliance	60	81	(21)	Issued 12-10-14	
Transit Operations								
Veolia Contract Closeout	FY14-512	Assess the adequacy and effectiveness of controls employed in the closeout of the Veolia contract for ACCESS services.	Internal Control	16	5	12	Issued 7-9-14	
ACCESS Eligibility	FY15-5XX	Review ACCESS certification process and assess compliance with service contract terms.	Compliance	180	-	180		
Applied Liquefied Natural Gas Technologies	FY15-507	Assess controls to ensure compliance with contract terms.	Compliance	120	16	104		
Performance Metrics	FY14-515	Review efforts to track and report performance metrics and assess the accuracy and timeliness of reporting.	Internal Control	200	306	(106)	In Process	
Finance and Accounting								
Treasury	FY15-502	Semi-annual review of investments compliance, controls, and reporting.	Compliance	200	107	93	Issued 8-28-14	
Grant Closeouts	FY14-517	As-needed financial and compliance audits of grants at closeout to ensure propriety of expenditures.	Compliance	40	21	19	Issued 8-15-14	
Farebox Revenue Collection and Armored Car Services	FY15-XXX	Operational review of farebox revenue collection and recording.	Internal Control	200	-	200		
Accounts Payable	FY15-5XX	Review adequacy of controls over the accounts payable operation.	Operational	240	-	240		

Audit Activity	Project Number	Description	Primary Audit Type	Planned Staff Hours	Staff Hours to Date	Under (Over)	Status (Date Issued)	External Auditor
Contract Administration & Materials Manager	nent							
Buy America	FY15-506	Pre-award and post-delivery reviews to ensure vendors and OCTA are in compliance with federal Buy America requirements.	Compliance	320	90	230	Issued 12-14-14	
Price Reviews	PR15-XXX	Cost and price analyses as required by OCTA procurement policies and procedures.	Price Review	1,100	485	615	11 Reports Issued	
External Affairs								
Vanpool	FY15-501	Review OCTA vanpool operations and contract compliance.	Operations	240	325	(85)	Issued 10-9-2014	
Unscheduled Reviews and Special Requests								
Unscheduled Reviews and Special Requests	FY15-800	Time allowed for unplanned audits and requests from the Board of Directors and management.	Varies	240	31	209		
Monitoring Activities								
Measure M Taxpayer Oversight Committee	FY15-601	Coordination of audit activities with the Audit Subcommittee of the Measure M Taxpayer Oversight Committee.	Monitoring	160	22	138		
Bus Base Inspections and Inventory Testing	FY15-602	Participation in annual bus base inspections.	Monitoring	32	-	32		
Follow-up Reviews								
Follow-up Reviews and Reporting	FY15-700	Follow-up on audit findings and recommendations.		300	192	109		
		Total Audit Project Planned Hours (A)		6,390	3,457	2,934		

Audia Acainiau	Project Number	Decemination	Primary	Planned Staff	Staff Hours to	Under (Over)	Status (Date	External
Audit Activity Internal Audit Administration	Number	Description	Audit Type	Hours	Date		Issued)	Auditor
Board of Directors and Board Committee Meetings				280	71	210		
Executive Steering Committee and Agenda Meetings				180	75	106		
Internal Audit Department Staff Meetings				200	26	174		
Other Administration				1,500	708	792		
		Тс	otal Hours (B)	8,550	4,336	4,215		
		Department-Wide Target Eff	ficiency (A/B)	74%				
		Department-Wide Actual Eff	ficiency (A/B)	80%				
		Professional Staff Tar	get Efficiency	80%				
		Professional Staff Act	tual Efficiency	85%				

ATTACHMENT B

UNRESOLVED AUDIT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Audit Issue Date	Report Number	Division / Department / Agency	Audit Name	Recommendation	Initiate Next Update	Management Response	Auditor	Notes
3/4/2014	13-527	Capital Programs	Review of Oversight Controls and Contract Compliance Related to the Tustin Metrolink Station Parking Expansion	Internal Audit recommends that independent cost estimates for construction change orders be prepared prior to receipt of contractor's quotes and prior to performance of work.	Mar-15	Management agrees and will update the Construction Management Procedures Manual to integrate specific guidance. <u>Update September 2014</u> : The updated manual is expected to be completed by December 2014.	Ng	Initiate next update in March 2015
3/4/2014	13-527	Capital Programs	Review of Oversight Controls and Contract Compliance Related to the Tustin Metrolink Station Parking Expansion	Internal Audit recommends that the Rail Programs Department develop written project management procedures tailored to the types of projects handled in the department.	Mar-15	The Highway Programs Department maintains a Program Management Procedures manual which serves as a set of procedures to effectively manage and monitor projects and develop strategies for delivering the entire capital improvement program. This manual will be appended to integrate any specific guidance needed for projects managed by the Rail Programs Department. Update September 2014 : The update is expected to be finalized in November 2014.		Initiate next update in March 2015
3/26/2014	14-509	Maintenance/ General Services	and Oversight	Internal Audit recommends that Maintenance and General Services review invoices for compliance with PO terms. For the PO's that include multiple parts/goods, the PO's should require that items not identified in the PO pricing summary be billed at cost plus a set mark-up percent. The PO's should also consistently include a requirement that the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) be provided with adequate supporting cost documentation to allow validation of mark-ups as-needed.	May-15	Maintenance will more closely track the remaining balances of each PO and will take appropriate action to avoid encumbering invoices in excess of the PO. All future procurements will include a more complete list of goods to be ordered during the term of the PO, provide an option to purchase unlisted items at cost plus markup, and require that proof of cost be provided with the invoice to be paid. General Services will add language to PO's to cover items that were not included in the original scope of work. Update November 2014 : The Maintenance Department has implemented its part of this recommendation; however, General Services has not yet fully implemented this recommendation. As a result, Internal Audit will return in six months.	Ng	Initiate next update in May 2015

Audit Issue Date 5/29/2014	Report Number 14-511	Division / Department / Agency Finance and Administration (F&A)	Audit Name Review of the OCTA Store	Recommendation Internal Audit recommends management ensure that the new system is designed to provide appropriate segregation of duties and that access is limited as appropriate. Detailed records of the access levels should be maintained and periodically reviewed for appropriateness. Procedures should be developed to address system access assignments and related controls to prevent and/or detect suspicious transactions.	Initiate Next Update Jun-15	Management Response The replacement point of sale system is expected to be fully implemented by the end of the calendar year. The new system will resolve access controls by providing multiple layers of administration functions allowing management the ability to turn on, or turn off posting abilities to match the levels of access required by staff. Procedures will be developed to outline access assignments and secondary reviews and approval, where appropriate. Records of access levels will be maintained and periodically reviewed by management. Update December 2014: Management plans to build controls into the new system that is expected to be implemented in January 2015. Internal Audit will return in six months to determine the status.		Notes Initiate next update in June 2015
9/24/2014	14-510	Occupational	Review of Administrative Employee Training and Educational Reimbursement	Internal Audit recommends management enhance policy and procedures for administrative employee training to allow the Department to exercise oversight and institute standardization of training programs.	Mar-15	Management agrees. To start, departments within the HROD division will create guidelines for the identification, development, and procurement of training, especially mandatory training, as this comprises the bulk of the training provided. Once that has been accomplished, Training and Development will reach out to other individual departments that provide training with the guidelines. Management anticipates that the first step can be accomplished by January 1, 2015.	, c	
9/24/2014	14-510	HROD	Review of Administrative Employee Training and Educational Reimbursement	The Employee Training Policy (Policy) includes restrictions and requirements that are not enforced. Internal Audit recommmends management update the Policy to reflect intended practices and develop controls to ensure compliance.	Mar-15	Management agrees and will update the Policy byJanuary 1, 2015.	Dunning	
9/24/2014	14-510	HROD	Review of Administrative Employee Training and Educational Reimbursement	Testing found that over one-third of the requests for reimbursement and subsequent submission of evidence of course completion were submitted outside the required timeframes. Internal Audit recommends management develop and implement guidelines for approval of exceptions to program requirements. Exceptions should be documented, approved, and occur infrequently.	Mar-15	Management supports a more rigid adherence to the policy than has been followed in the past. Currently, management is developing a communication strategy to educate employees on the required timeframes and the consequences for failure to submit paperwork in a timely manner. We anticipate that the communication strategy should be complete by January 1, 2015. Guidelines for the approval of exceptions to program requirements will also be in place by January 1, 2015.	, c	

Audit Issue Date 9/26/2013	Number 15-503	Division / Department / Agency Clerk of the Board (COB)		Recommendation Cash receipts for California Public Records Act requests are stored in an unlocked desk drawer, are not properly accounted for, and are not deposited in a timely manner. Internal Audit recommends that controls over the handling, recording, and deposit of cash receipts be improved.		Management Response Management agrees that the controls in place for payments and deposit were inadequate, and accountability was not efficient or reliable. The COB's office has worked with those managing the OCTA Store and together have created procedures to transfer the handling and deposit of all forms of payment (cash, check, credit/debit card) over to the OCTA Store for better control, accuracy, and accountability.	Notes
9/26/2013	15-503	COB	Administration of Public Records Requests	Internal Audit recommends that management revise policies, procedures, to: (1) include guidance for handling of public records requests from the media, (2) ensure that the recorded date of a public records request is the date of submission, (3) ensure retention of emails and/or mail records supporting notification to requestors that a time extension is required and/or records are available; and (4) include guidelines and authorities for the waiving of fees related to public records requests.		Management agrees and will revise the policies and procedures to reflect consistency with the handling of public records requests. These revisions will address guidelines and authorities for waiving fees. Also management will ensure that the recorded date of a public records request is the date of receipt by OCTA, within standard business hours. The COB's office will retain evidence of e-mails/mail records to support notification to requestors that a time extension is available or that records are available. A "Month-Enc Review" procedure has been implemented, which will help to reconcile the documentation of emails and/or mail records which support notification to requestors for all completed requests on the log for that month. Additionally, internal department procedures have been developed to outline this process.	
10/3/2014	N/A	F&A and Transit Division (Transit)	the OCTA's Continuity	Auditors recommended that management update the Business Impact Analysis (BIA) and the Continuity of Operations Plan (Plan) to address the 13 weaknesses noted.	'	Management responded that efforts are underway to update certain portions of the BIA and the Plan. Also at the direction of the Finance and Committee Chairman, staff has agreed to specifically address each issue and planned corrective actions with the Security Working Group of the Board of Directors.	
10/30/2014	N/A	F&A		Auditors identified one significant deficiency related to monitoring procedures and oversight of Federal Section 5316 and 5317 subrecipients. Specifically, procedures for invoice review and site visits of sub-recipients were inadequate to ensure that billings reflected only authorized activities and costs.		Management responded that as of May 2014, OCTA has implemented enhanced invoice review and approval procedures for the Federal Section 5316 and 5317 programs. Also, management procured the services of a consultant to help strengthen the subrecipient monitoring process.	

Audit Issue Date 10/30/2014	Number	Division / Department / Agency F&A	Audit Name Management Letter	Recommendation Auditors recommended that OCTA review procedures with applicable	Initiate Next Update Jan-16	Management Response Management agreed and indicated that training will be performed.	Auditor Tang	Notes
				staff to ensure all payments are properly authorized and reviewed.				
10/30/2014	N/A	F&A	Management Letter	Auditors noted errors in some of the historical data obtained from Cofiroute, USA. The data is used to determine the net realizable value of the 91 Express Lanes violations outstanding in excess of 90 days. As a result, an audit adjustment was proposed, and auditors recommended that OCTA strengthen procedures over violations receivables estimates.		Management agreed and indicated that Cofiroute has implemented additional controls to ensure the integrity of the data, and OCTA staff has developed review procedures to identify significant data variances.		
12/19/2014	N/A	Planning Division and Transit	Measure M2 Agreed- Upon Procedures Reports for FY2014	Internal Audit recommended that staff monitor implementation of auditor recommendations related to the classification of Maintenance of Effort expenditures, allocation of interest, provisions of contracts with third party service providers, and timeliness of monthly activity reporting.	Jun-15	Management agreed to monitor the cities' (Seal Beach, Orange, and Westminster) implementation of these recommendations.		
12/23/2014	N/A	HROD	Limited Scope Review of Recruitment, Selection, and Compensation	Internal Audit recommends management update the OCTA Recruitment, Selection, and Placement Policy (Policy) to differentiate between an error/omission versus deliberate falsification of an application. Further, management should reconsider whether an applicant that deliberately provides false information should be eligible for hire, under any circumstances.	Jun-15	Management agrees and has reinstituted the Policy that requires candidates who falsify information to be disqualified. In addition, the Policy now includes standard language requiring that exceptions to the Policy be authorized by the Chief Executive Officer.		

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Audit Issue Date	Report Number	Division / Department / Agency	Audit Name	Recommendation	Next Update	Management Response	Auditor	Notes
12/23/2014	N/A	HROD	Limited Scope Review of Recruitment, Selection, and Compensation	Internal Audit recommends management: (1) revise procedures for preparation of salary analyses to ensure quality and consistency and (2) revise procedures to require that the salary analysis be reconsidered when the background check identifies a discrepancy in education and/or experience and the offer is not rescinded	Jun-15	In order to enhance the current procedure, management will require that copies of the recommended candidate's application and resume be attached to the salary analysis to allow all parties that rely on this information to make a more informed decision. Also, salary analyses will be revised as necessary for discrepancies noted in the background check and appropriate authorization obtained if the offer is not rescinded.	Tang/Ng	Notes
12/23/2014	N/A	HROD	Limited Scope Review of Recruitment, Selection, and Compensation	Internal Audit recommends that procedures be developed to ensure that newly created job descriptions are properly scrutinized to ensure consistency and equity.	Jun-15	Management agrees and the HROD manager will review any newly created job descriptions to ensure consistency and equity	Tang/Ng	
12/23/2014	N/A	HROD	Limited Scope Review of Recruitment, Selection, and Compensation	Internal Audit recommends that management: (1) Reconsider the practice of reviewing only enough applications to find a qualified pool, rather than reviewing all applications to identify the strongest candidates, (2) Develop procedures to ensure that applicants placed in the qualified pool actually meet the minimum qualifications of the position, (3) Establish, formalize, and consistently apply a framework and criteria for screening applicants, and (4) Implement a requirement that recruiters utilize system fields to accurately reflect why applicants are rejected or qualified.		Management has revised the practice of reviewing only enough applications to find a qualified pool and will now review all applications submitted within the job posting period. Also, when processing applications in the Applicant Tracking System (ATS), the recruiter will designate applicants that meet the minimum qualifications of a position but are not referred to the hiring manager as "submitted better qualified candidates", and applicants that are referred to the hiring manager but are not interviewed as "rejected by hiring manager." The HROD manager will ensure that all recruiters are properly trained to follow these processes.		
12/23/2014	N/A	HROD	Limited Scope Review of Recruitment, Selection, and Compensation	Management should enhance controls to reduce the likelihood of oversights, such as the failure to invite a candidate selected for interview to an interview.		In the future, management will require that the recruiter attach a print screen from ATS to the interview schedule to ensure that all candidates identified for interview are invited to interview.	Tang/Ng	