

**Washington State Auditor's Office**  
**Accountability Audit Report**

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**Thurston County Narcotics Task Force**

Report Date  
**January 13, 2011**

**Report No. 1005050**

Issue Date  
**February 14, 2011**



WASHINGTON  
**BRIAN SONNTAG**  
STATE AUDITOR



**Washington State Auditor  
Brian Sonntag**

February 14, 2011

Executive Board  
Thurston County Narcotics Task Force  
Lacey, Washington

***Report on Accountability***

We appreciate the opportunity to work in cooperation with your Task Force to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role to advocate for government accountability and transparency and to promote positive change.

Please find attached our report on the Thurston County Narcotics Task Force's accountability and compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures. Thank you for working with us to ensure the efficient and effective use of public resources.

Sincerely,

**BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM**  
STATE AUDITOR

# Table of Contents

## Thurston County Narcotics Task Force January 13, 2011

Audit Summary .....	1
Related Reports .....	2
Description of the Task Force .....	3

# **Audit Summary**

## **Thurston County Narcotics Task Force January 13, 2011**

### ***ABOUT THE AUDIT***

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Thurston County Narcotics Task Force from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009.

We evaluated internal controls and performed audit procedures on the activities of the Task Force. We also determined whether the Task Force complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of noncompliance, misappropriation or misuse. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Restricted funds
- Seized property reporting

### ***RESULTS***

In the areas we examined, the Task Force's internal controls were adequate to safeguard public assets. The Task Force also complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas we examined.

## **Related Reports**

### **Thurston County Narcotics Task Force January 13, 2011**

#### ***FINANCIAL***

Our opinion on the Task Force's financial statements is provided in a separate report, which includes the Task Force's financial statements.

# **Description of the Task Force**

## **Thurston County Narcotics Task Force January 13, 2011**

### ***ABOUT THE TASK FORCE***

The Thurston County Narcotics Task Force is a joint venture of the Thurston County Sheriff's Office, the Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater police departments and the Washington State Patrol. The Task Force is responsible for preventing illegal drug trafficking in Thurston County. It investigates violations of the Uniform Controlled Substance Act and provides training and assistance to the nine local law enforcement agencies within Thurston County.

An appointed, five-member Executive Board governs the Task Force. Board Members are appointed by their respective agencies. The Task Force has two employees to oversee its daily operations. The city of Lacey acts as the fiscal agent for the Task Force. For 2008 and 2009, the Task Force operated on annual budgets of \$323,637 and \$374,459, respectively.

### ***APPOINTED OFFICIALS***

These officials served during the audit period:

#### **Executive Board:**

City of Lacey  
City of Olympia  
Thurston County  
City of Tumwater  
Washington State Patrol

Dusty Pierpoint, Chief  
Steve Nelson, Acting Chief  
Dan Kimball, Sheriff  
John Stines, Chief  
Tim Braniff, Captain

Task Force Commander  
Task Force Coordinator

Loreli Thompson, Lieutenant  
Tor Bjornstad

### ***TASK FORCE CONTACT INFORMATION***

Address: Thurston County Narcotics Task Force  
120 State Street N.E., No. 173  
Olympia, WA 98501

Phone: (360) 786-0572

Website: [www.co.thurston.wa.us/narcotics-task-force](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/narcotics-task-force)

## ***AUDIT HISTORY***

We audit the Task Force biennially. The Task Force has not received a finding in the past five audits.



## **ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE**

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The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

Our mission is to work in cooperation with our audit clients and citizens as an advocate for government accountability. As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

The State Auditor's Office employees are located around the state to deliver our services effectively and efficiently.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments and fraud, whistleblower and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our Web site and through our free, electronic subscription service. We continue to refine our reporting efforts to ensure the results of our audits are useful and understandable.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. We provide training and technical assistance to governments and have an extensive quality assurance program.

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**Director of Quality Assurance**  
**Local Government Liaison**  
**Communications Director**  
**Public Records Officer**  
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**Toll-free Citizen Hotline**

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**Jerry Pugnetti**  
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