



THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

POSTED: Tuesday, Jun. 21, 2011

WTA receives 14th consecutive audit 'without findings'

JARED PABEN - THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

Whatcom Transportation Authority has received its 14th audit in a row without "findings," and the agency has fixed minor problems that state auditors previously noted.

WTA's latest audit, which covered 2010, didn't have any problems that rose to the level of "findings," or problems worthy of noting in an audit report, according to the state Auditor's Office. The report, released June 13, said state officials examined WTA's warehouse, procurement and purchasing cards.

WTA also has fixed minor problems identified in a 2009 audit, according to auditors and WTA Finance Director Pat Dunn.

In 2009, WTA staff in five cases didn't follow rules for purchasing goods. When they bought a wheelchair lift, bus transmission and bus parts in four separate purchases, staff didn't document that they were "sole source" purchases, meaning only one company produced the specific products so WTA didn't have to get bids. In a fifth purchase, of sign posts, they didn't follow rules by getting three phone quotes from different companies.

Also, auditors found that in the warehouse department three employees could order and receive parts without approval of others or independent review.

In an audit exit conference report, state officials said the warehouse problems have been fixed and the procurement problems "partially resolved." Dunn said the procurement problems also have been resolved, but weren't fixed until 2011, so they couldn't make it into the 2010 audit results.

The new audit found one minor problem last year: WTA doesn't have written policies and procedures for monitoring the third-party administrators of its self-insured medical plan. Dunn said the procedures are in place but not documented. Written documentation will be done at the end of June, she said.

READ REPORTS

[Audit report](#) for 2010 audit.

[Exit conference report](#) for 2010 audit.

Reach JARED PABEN at jared.paben@bellinghamherald.com or call 715-2289.

Read more: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2011/06/21/2069746/wta-receives-14th-consecutive.html#ixzz1Q2w236MI>