**From:** Ron Whalen
**To:** Garza, Deena (SAO)
**Subject:** Re: San Juan County Landbank - Real Estate Commission
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 11:28:51 AM
**Attachments:** image001.png

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External Email

I appreciate the quick reply.

On 7/14/2023 11:27 AM, Garza, Deena (SAO) wrote:

> Unfortunately no. She and I discussed in detail the role of SAO. It's not within our scope of authority under the state constitution or the RCW establishing us. In my meeting with you I mentioned this as a possible answer in the fact that it's not a role I've ever seen SAO take and leaned towards that it wasn't one we'd feel comfortable setting a precedent on.
>
> I'm hopefully that there is a route that you can take it to them as a concerned citizen.
>
> Deena Garza
> Team Bellingham Local Audit Manager
> Statewide Program Manager for Ports, IDCs, AS-BHOs, and AAAs
> Direct: (360) 594-0571 | Office: (360) 676-2165 | Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
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>
> **From:** Ron Whalen <whaleeoni@gmail.com>
> **Sent:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:24 PM
> **To:** Garza, Deena (SAO) <garzad@sao.wa.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: San Juan County Landbank - Real Estate Commission
>
> External Email
>
> Hi Deena,
>
> I appreciate your quick reply on the question of the State auditors office requesting the Real Estate commission for an audit. I saw that request as relevant to the issues I submitted for the San Juan county audit and view any findings of the RE commission audit as relevant to the other issues of misrepresentation I noted. Is there any avenue for me to present my position with the local Assistant Director of the local audit? Ron

On 7/13/2023 12:40 PM, Garza, Deena (SAO) wrote:

Hey Ron,
Thanks again for coming in last week and providing details of your concern to us.

During that meeting, we talked about your concern regarding the potential misrepresentation of a competing offer to the County Council, and specifically the possibility of our Office passing on the concern to the Real Estate Commission.

I was able to discuss this further with my Assistant Director of Local Audit and determined that it would not be appropriate for us to pass on such a concern to them.

In our discussion here at the office, you mentioned that if we couldn't/wouldn't that you would likely submit the concern to them yourself and at this time we would encourage you to do so.

Deena Garza
Team Bellingham Local Audit Manager
Statewide Program Manager for Ports, IDCs, AS-BHOs, and AAAs
Office of the Washington State Auditor
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