**From:** Garza, Deena (SAO)
**To:** Ron Whalen
**Subject:** RE: San Juan County Landbank - Real Estate Commission
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 11:27:00 AM
**Attachments:** image001.png

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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
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