February 11, 1998

Members of the Legislative Audit Committee:

The control system in place at the offices of the Attorney General and the Comptroller of Public Accounts effectively ensures that the State pays only judgments and settlements meeting the requirements of General Appropriations Act, Article IX, Section 60. The system also ensures that the Legislature and the Governor are able to monitor such expenditures effectively.

Article IX, Section 60 requires that judgments and settlements, which are paid from appropriated funds, must be approved by the Governor and the Attorney General. The offices of the Attorney General and the Comptroller of Public Accounts have primary responsibility for ensuring that all such payments are properly approved. Article IX, Section 60 also requires that the Attorney General’s Office regularly report all such payments over $5,000 to the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor's Office of Budget and Planning. The State Auditor is required to verify compliance with the provisions of Article IX, Section 60, for all appropriated funds.

We commend the offices of the Attorney General and the Comptroller of Public Accounts for their continuing efforts to ensure compliance with the provisions of this appropriation rider and thank the employees of both agencies for their assistance during this audit.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Lawrence F. Alwin, CPA
State Auditor

cc. The Honorable George W. Bush, Governor
    The Honorable Dan Morales, Attorney General
    The Honorable John Sharp, Comptroller of Public Accounts
    Mr. John Keel, Director, Legislative Budget Board