

WHISTLEBLOWER'S COMMENTS
OSC File No. DI-07-0926

I read thru it and have comments for you which I'll present here; however would like to remain anonymous.

As I recall, I alleged that Gil Gallegos was misrepresenting himself as a federal employee. And, based on documents Mr. Gallegos signed in his artificial capacity, the Agency may have made favorable determination on loan activities in which Mr. Gallegos personally profitted. I did not have access to the files; however the former State Engineer was privy to a number of documents that were inappropriately submitted to and accepted by RD. Additionally were the basis for the favorable decision on loan activity.

One example I faxed to you was the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating, which is to be signed/certified by a federal employee from the Natural Resources and Conservation Services (NRCS); yet Mr. Gallegos signature appears. I believe Mr. Gallegos has misrepresented himself as a federal employee and as an expert on farmland conversions; environmental issues related to this project which can make or break a potential loan agreement. This file was the responsibility of Martha Torrez, the CP Program Director to assure these forms were correctly submitted.

The other example was the Civil Rights Impact Analysis, which is to be signed/certified by a federal employee of RD either at the State-level or National Office-level depending on the finding; depending on the finding after an analysis has been made. This form was signed by a contractor to the applicant, Laurence Ortega. In this case, since no analysis was made by a federal employee and the form was not certified by a federal employee, there is no assurance that the civil rights of others were not adversely impacted; again depending on the analysis can make or break a potential loan agreement. This file document was the responsibility of Martha Torrez as CP Program Director.

Documents such as these surely show a misrepresentation of the signatories and an intent to fraud the government! the program lead should have found those inconsistencies through file reviews.

I was made aware of the relationship between Gil Gallegos and Sandra Alarcon. At that time, CY2003, Mr. Gallegos was no longer working for the agency and I was the Administrative Officer, not directly involved with programs or the supervision of Ms. Alarcon. For those who provided statements in this investigation, pretending like they just learned about the Gallegos/Alarcon relationship after Mr. Gallegos left the agency is ludicrous. One long-time RD employee has photographs of Mr. Gallegos and Ms. Alarcon exiting a hotel room after spending an afternoon together on the government dime.

Since the two supervisors, Ms. Torrez and Mr. Hudson, were well aware of the Gallegos/Alarcon relationship and positively acted on the recommendations of loan activity on behalf of Mr. Gallegos made by Ms.

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OSC File No. DI-07-0926

Page 2 of 2

Alarcon, they too are implicated in the dereliction of duty displayed by Ms. Alarcon.

As for Mr. Gallegos so called 'retirement' from the agency, it is interesting to note that he was actually asked to leave after discovery of fraudulent hotel receipts he submitted on his travel vouchers, during his tenure with the Agency. Instead of claiming no hotel charges - because he was with Ms. Alarcon - he opted to fraud the government by designing his own hotel receipts and illegally collecting the per diem. He was allowed to retire vs prosecution. Why the Agency would elect to conduct any business with Mr. Gallegos is also questionable considering the circumstances under which Mr. Gallegos 'retired.'

Feel free to contact me to discuss. I noted the forms you sent to give consent; however, I iterate that I want to maintain my anonymity and do not know if how that is communicated through the form you provided.