

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

- CARS
- JOB
- DEALS
- HOMES
- CLASSIFIEDS

Photos: Dana Point's beaches offer something for everyone |
 State auditor to investigate Irvine's Great Park audit |
 Retail, restaurant roundup: CPK's 'Next Chapter' debuts this week, Holsteins has opening date |
 Board of Supervisors might pay policing expert \$10,000 a month for sheriff's oversight

TOP NEWS

NEWS

State auditor to investigate Irvine's Great Park audit

Aug. 25, 2015 | Updated 3:32 p.m.



The state auditor's office will investigate how two officials in Irvine handled the city's audit of more than \$200 million spent developing a small portion of the Great Park.

ROD VEAL, FILE PHOTO

BY SARAH de CRESCENZO / STAFF WRITER

The state auditor's office will investigate how two officials in Irvine handled the city's audit of more than \$200 million spent developing a small portion of the Great Park.

Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, a San Diego lawmaker, convinced the state Joint Legislative Audit Committee on Tuesday to approve the audit request on behalf of Gafcon, a project management firm in her district that was a Great Park contractor.

Gafcon has said it was unfairly maligned in the audit and that its business has suffered as a result.

Gonzalez asked the state auditor to look into the actions of the subcommittee that handled the audit, comprised of Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Lalloway and Councilwoman Christina Shea.

Doing so will "assist in providing guidance to municipalities and local agencies as to the appropriate procedures and standards for audits in the state of California," she said.

Broadly, her request asks the state auditor to determine whether the review was conducted objectively, or used for partisan purposes.

The committee first considered Gonzalez' request in April. An audit request requires support from at least four of the seven members of each house of the legislature on the committee. At that meeting, nine of 14 committee members voted in favor, but only three of those in favor were Senate members.

On Tuesday, four Assembly members and four state senators voted in favor.

Under the direction of Lalloway and Shea, Irvine has spent more than \$1.5 million exploring how the Great Park funds were spent. Reports issued in May by the auditing firm and law firm hired by the city to conduct the review pointed the finger at Gafcon and public relations firm Forde & Mollrich.

Gonzalez' initial request was backed by four other San Diego legislators, including Republican state Sen. Joel Anderson.

Ten Orange County politicians, in turn, are publicly backing the Irvine officials.

Assemblyman Donald Wagner, R-Irvine, wrote to the head of the committee that a review of the audit would be "counterproductive and very unwise." He suggested the city auditors' reports were valid because they were later used as the basis for a Grand Jury report.

It's unclear how long the investigation will take. The committee's website states audits typically take at least six months of work after approval.

The review will take into account actions back to January 2013, six months before the City Council approved an audit of Great Park spending.

Gonzalez, however, in her letter to the committee asks the state auditor to proceed without delay because of the city's continued pursuit via subpoena of information former Mayor Larry Agran refused to divulge during a deposition - the names of campaign volunteers with connections to Great Park contractors.

Contact the writer: 714-796-2221 or sdecrescenzo@ocregister.com

LAGUNA DANCE FESTIVAL
WORLD CLASS DANCE

Malpaso Dance Company
Osnel Delgado, Artistic Director
Sept. 10 & 11 at 7:30pm

Alonzo King LINES Ballet
Sept. 12 at 7:30pm
Sept. 13 at 2:00pm

At The Laguna Playhouse
949.497.2787

- MOST POPULAR**
- Update: Woman knocks on Huntington Beach home door before 2 armed men storm inside to dem
 - Man stabbed outside 'Straight Outta Compton' movie screening in Orange
 - VIDEO: USC football coach Steve Sarkisian says he mixed alcohol with medication, apologiz
 - Ex-Angels outfielder Josh Hamilton lowers price on Crystal Cove house
 - Men attempting to rob Lake Forest convenience store leave empty handed

This Week's Circulars

HOVER FOR CIRCULAR

HOVER FOR CIRCULAR

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Did you or do you carry your backpack on one shoulder or two?

- 1 shoulder
- 2 shoulders
- I switched from primarily one carrying style to the other at least once
- This doesn't apply to me