COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

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October 5, 2011

TO: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SECOND STATUS REPORT – REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES' EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMAND POST (BOARD AGENDA ITEM 7, JULY 12, 2011)**

On July 12, 2011, your Board instructed the Auditor-Controller to conduct an independent review of the Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) Emergency Response Command Post (ERCP) operations since 2005. The Board order was based, in part, on allegations that some children were spending too much time and were receiving inadequate care at ERCP, while waiting to be placed in a more permanent setting (e.g., relatives, foster families, group homes, etc.).

On August 16, 2011, we advised your Board that our review was being delayed because of State confidentiality laws, which prohibit access to children's records (e.g., case files, ERCP logs, etc.) without an order from the Juvenile Court. County Counsel filed a petition requesting Auditor-Controller's access to these records on July 25, 2011. The Court approved the petition on August 17, 2011.

After the delay in getting access to the ERCP records, we are now working on finalizing our review of ERCP, and expect to issue our report to your Board by November 18, 2011.

Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Robert Campbell at (213) 213-0101.

WLW:JLS:RGC:YK

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Philip L. Browning, Interim Director, DCFS
Andrea Sheridan Ordin, County Counsel
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Audit Committee
Public Information Office