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May 21, 2018

The Honorable Chair Jodi Remke and Commissioners Audero, Cardenas, Hatch, and Hayward Fair Political Practices Commission 1102 Q Street, Suite 3000 Sacramento, California 95811

RE: Proposed Regulations 18308, 18308.1, 18302.2, and 18308.3

Dear Honorable Chair Remke and Commissioners:

On behalf of our 700,000 members, the California State Council of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU California), supports the proposed regulations regarding governance.

The Fair Political Practices Commission (Commission) is charged with monitoring, overseeing and enforcing the Political Reform Act in a manner that befits the title of the Commission-fairly. The Commission currently operates in a manner that vests inordinate power and authority to the Chair, the only full-time board member. The Chair controls agendas, directs staff and has the power to control the issues that are addressed or not addressed on agendas.

The proposed governance regulations are sensible, fair and provide a balance of power on the Commission. The public will be well served by greater input and the opportunity for all Commissioners to have their opinions and positions considered.

Empowering the Executive Director and making the position accountable to the entire board is a sound change and aligns the organizational structure to the way most organizations function. The proposals are good public policy because an engaged, participative and informed board can better carry out their duties and represent the broad constituencies with interests before the Commission.

Taken together, these proposed regulations create a democratic approach to the Commission's decision making process. For this reason, SEIU California urges your support for the proposed regulations on June 4, 2018.

Sincerely,

Alma Hernandez Executive Director SEIU California

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