

November 8, 2021

To: FPPC Commission

From : Renee Samaniego Osborne

Via email: [CommAsst@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:CommAsst@fppc.ca.gov)

Re; Charles Grace FPPC No. 20/416

**To The Honorable Commission:**

My name is Renee Osborne. I have worked/known Charles Grace for over fifteen years. Mr. Grace is the most honest and dedicated employer I have ever worked for. He has always looked out for his clients and employees interests above his own. When Ultura let all of their employees go without any warning, Mr. Grace paid us out of his own pocket so that we would stay and keep the District facilities and office running, without even knowing if he would be reimbursed. The residents never even knew the chaos that Mr. Grace averted during the time in question, because we stayed our course and continued working while Mr. Grace picked up the tab. It was the employee's idea to ask Mr. Grace if he would consider creating his own company. Obviously our experience with the past companies had not fared well for us, but we wanted to stay and work for him.

I have read all of the documents related to this fishing expedition initiated by one resident of San Simeon, Hank Krzciuk. It is particularly disturbing to me that our District Attorney's Office is spending so much of the people's money and time on such a small "inadvertent" circumstance without ever talking to the employees that work(ed) for Mr. Grace nor the Board of Directors that were in office at the time Grace Environmental was signed on as the District's contractor. The fact that the stature is more concerned with what "might have happened" than with what "actually happened" is preposterous. What actually happened *is* important to Mr. Grace's case and livelihood. *It does matter* that he did not intentionally try to extort or influence execution of the contract directly to promote his personal interests. The goal at that moment was to keep the District running; a waste water plant running, a water treatment plant running, a reverse osmosis plant functional, 2 wells running, a 150,000 water reservoir functioning, a District office running, 553 residents and 11 hotels with clean safe drinking water and 3 employees and their families fed. One man took on that task as if we were all his family members, and that was Mr. Grace.

To use the Commissions own words, Mr. Grace inadvertently and unintentional "fail(ed) to step aside in his role as general manager in order to negotiate or present the contract to the Board". I was present at that meeting. We relied on the District's Counsel to guide us all during those unprecedented times, and apparently none of us saw the need for Mr. Grace to step into the



crowd. In reviewing Grace's Stip, assumptions were made regarding District's legal counsel, the contract timing, among other comments. The Commission nor the County of San Luis Obispo District Attorney's Office has never sought to speak to any of the employees, the Board of Directors, nor myself as the Administrator that worked for Mr. Grace during the time in question. Why is that? Why would you put a man on trial without looking into all avenues regarding this matter?

In the fifteen years that I have known Mr. Grace, I have never met someone more willing to help people that he did not know. You look at the baseline amount that is paid to Grace Environmental and you *think* it is a lot of money; but you don't stop to think that out of that payment, he pays for ALL costs to run an aging wastewater treatment plant, water treatment plant, reverse osmosis plant, 2 wells, a reservoir, streets, District office, and 3 full time employees (with benefits). There is not much left after all is said and done. So why does he do it then? Because of his dedication and commitment to San Simeon and the people there. He brought that failing/ bankrupt community back to life many years ago, so he feels the responsibility to keep it going.

So before you listen to an individual (Hank Krzciuk) who enjoys harassing and intimidating staff and Board of Directors with lies and deceit because Mr. Grace denied a personal parking space for him (which was on PGE easement), I ask you to listen to the residents that KNOW what Mr. Grace has done for their community, and the employees that work(ed) for him.

I am also appalled by the fine that has been given to Mr. Grace. He has suffered enough under the lies and deceit of Mr. Krzciuk's slanderous campaign and the sup par work done by the District Attorney's Office of San Luis Obispo County. There is no reason for such a high fine, when clearly the Commission feels that there was no nefarious intent to harm or take advantage of the people of San Simeon. To continue to even discuss the possibilities of more fines is absolutely ludicrous and above the Commission's time and people's money.

I urge you to drop this matter against Mr. Grace and drop his fine.

Sincerely,



Renee Samaniego Osborne

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