

November 15, 2021

CALIFORNIA FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

1102 Q Street, Suite 3000

Sacramento, CA 95811

Public Comment on Consent Agenda Item: Charles Grace FPPC No. 20/416

I am not a resident of San Simeon CSD (SSCSD); however, I am very familiar with their water and wastewater systems. I have known Charles Grace since 2003 and have had the opportunity to work with him over those years both as a consultant as well as the person responsible for managing the contract services that he was in charge of. Over that time, I have not been aware of any conflicts of interest in his services. Since being retained by the SSCSD, he has tackled many difficult issues. These issues relate directly to the historical lack of maintenance of the critical infrastructure systems. On his arrival, he was retained by the SSCSD to manage and operate the decrepit and failing wastewater treatment plant. This facility was constructed numerous decades ago and over the years was not maintained for unknown reasons. He and his staff worked tirelessly to research and implement cost effective improvements to not only continuously operate the treatment facility, but also to work with regulatory agencies such as the California Coastal Commission to mitigate previous needed improvements as well as retain consultants to meet with the Commission on the ultimate future location and operation of the community's treatment facility.

Mr. Grace also was retained to manage and operate the failing and considerably undersized water system. His efforts in retaining consultants to correct the years of neglect and lack of funding for needed improvement projects was a much needed rescue for the community. The operation and maintenance aspects of the water system required funding and Mr. Grace worked tirelessly over many years to secure grants and loans for the community in order to provide funding for the much needed improvements.

The community is very small in size and therefore, the tax and revenue base is insufficient to afford the needed improvements. Mr. Grace and his efforts in operating and maintaining the water and wastewater systems has allowed the residents of the community to continue to live in San Simeon and also have working water and wastewater systems.

Sincerely,



Jon Turner, PE