



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

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To: Chair Ravel and Commissioners Eskovitz, Garrett, Montgomery and Rotunda

From: Lynda Cassady, Chief of Technical Assistance Division

Subject: Report of Division Activities

Date: May 1, 2012

Advice Service

Each week the telephone advice line is receiving 600 calls and between 100-150 advice email requests.

In April, the Technical Assistance Division worked with the Legal Division on a high priority advice letter pertaining to oversight boards and the dissolution of redevelopment agencies.

Statements of Economic Interests – Form 700

During the month of April, the SEI Unit has been busy processing thousands of Form 700s that were due by April 2. This year, the unit posted the forms for all board of supervisor members (approximately 290 statements) by April 17, well in advance of the April 30 target. In addition, the unit hopes to post the statements filed by city council members (around 3,000 statements) mid to late May. In addition, the SEI unit has been busy filling requests for copies of statements. As of April 30, the unit copied over 1,300 statements – over 7,400 pages. The agency will process close to 20,000 statements in a three month period.

Agency Reports and Fact Sheets

The FPPC website was updated to include the newly-revised Form 802. Staff updates the postings of Form 802s received by the FPPC on a weekly basis. To date, thirty agencies have submitted reports. With the assistance of Political Reform Consultant Ivy Branaman, a Form 806-Agency Report of Public Official Appointments was prepared and circulated for public comment. I will present the form for approval at the May Commission meeting.

Election Reports

Political Reform Consultants Barbara Smith and Sandy Johnson prepared election reports that disclose the top donors to committees formed to support and oppose state ballot measures that have qualified for the ballot. The report was posted on March 23, 2012, the day after the March 22, 2012 filing deadline. Another report will be posted following the quarterly report due April 30, 2012, required for committees qualifying measures for the November ballot.

Seminars, Outreaches, Webinars

Since the last report, the Division has conducted several seminars that have been well attended and received. First, Manager Trish Mayer made a candidate/treasurer presentation in San Diego on March 28 and local Form 700 filing officer workshops in Poway on March 29 and in Santa Monica on April 12. Political Reform Consultant Sarah Olson made presentations to candidates and treasurers in Tulare County on March 29, and a regional Form 700 filing officer presentation in Tulare County on March 30. Political Reform Consultant Cynthia Jones made a presentation to candidates and treasurers in Sacramento on April 5, 2012. Political Reform Consultant Barbara Smith made a presentation to candidates and treasurers in Monterey County on April 18. Political Reform Consultant Alex Castillo traveled to Oakland on April 4 to provide campaign filing officer training to staff in the City Clerk's Office. Ivy Branaman and Alex Castillo met with staff at I-Bank to provide an overview of the Form 700 filing officer duties. Staff continues to coordinate educational seminars with the State Department of Personnel. Ivy Branaman conducted a webinar presentation to nearly 40 state agency staff on duties related to processing Form 700 for their agency personnel.

The response of TAD staff being able to travel again to conduct seminars has been tremendous. Attendance has been high. Not only are host agencies pleased that we can educate their constituency, more telling is the fact several members of the audience have written personal thank you notes to staff. Many campaign committees on the local level do not have the resources to employ professionals and our outreach helps to explain the campaign reporting rules in lay terms. I hope to expand this educational program for the local elections held in November.

Conflict-of-Interest Codes

Approved amendments and adoptions to conflict-of-interest codes include:

State Agencies:

California Earthquake Authority, Commission on Disability Access

Multi-County Agencies:

Association of CA Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority, California State Association of Co-Excess Insurance Authority, Coalinga-Huron Unified School District, CORE Placer Charter School, Employers' Training Resource, Fullerton Joint Union High School District, Golden Gate Transit Amalgamated Health and Benefits, North Coast Schools Insurance Group, North Coast Schools Medical Insurance Group, and Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System.