



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION  
1102 Q Street • Suite 3050 • Sacramento, CA 95811  
(916) 322-5660 • Fax (916) 322-0886

March 14, 2024

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AT**

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**Re: Order Granting Exemption from Conflict of Interest Code Requirement  
Our File No. E-24-001**

Dear Mr. Hernandez:

This is in response to your February 22, 2024, request on behalf of the Wildfire Technology Research and Development Review Advisory Board (“Board”), a statutorily created advisory committee housed with your agency, for an exemption from the requirement to file a conflict of interest code pursuant to Government Code section 87300.

The Board satisfies the Fair Political Practices Commission’s (“Commission”) governing regulation criteria, and the exemption request is approved. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 18751, subd. (d)(1).). The Board has established that it has no “designated employees,” as it is an advisory body with unsalaried members. In addition, the Board will not acquire real property in the foreseeable future and has an annual operating budget of less than \$150,000.

The Board has not provided any facts indicating that it makes any final governmental decisions; may compel or prevent a governmental decision either by reason of a veto that may not be overridden; or makes substantive recommendations that, over an extended period of time, have been regularly approved without significant amendment or modification by another public official or governmental agency, as the Board does not possess decisionmaking authority. The Board is required to “review, analyze, and assess the activities and progress of the Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development” and then make sure the “findings and recommendations of the board [are] compiled and delivered to the office of the Governor and the Legislature as a report.” Therefore, the Board does not need to develop a conflict of interest code, and its members are not required to file statements of economic interest related to their positions.

Please note that interested parties may submit a request for the Commission to reconsider this approval within 30 days after the exemption approval is posted on the Commission's website. The Commission Chair will consider the request, and if, at the Chair's discretion, good cause exists for reconsideration, the Chair will schedule the matter for a hearing before the Commission. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 18751, subd. (f).)

Upon being issued, an exemption remains in effect until the basis for the grant of exemption no longer exists or the expiration of two years, whichever occurs earlier. The agency must submit an extension request if it wishes to continue the exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 18751, subd. (g).)

If you have questions on this matter, please contact me at (916) 322-5660.

Sincerely,

Galena West  
Executive Director



By: Katelyn L. Baeta-Orick  
Counsel, Legal Division

KBO:aja