



California Fair Political Practices Commission

July 7, 1987

J. Mark Atlas
Law Offices of Frost, Krup
and Atlas
134 West Sycamore Street
Willows, Ca 95988

Re: Your Request for Advice
Our File No. A-87-160

Dear Mr. Atlas:

We have received your request for advice concerning the Northeast Willows Community Services District (the "district"). You are requesting this advice as attorney for the district.

QUESTION

May the district use public funds to reimburse one of its directors for accountant's fees incurred by the director for preparation of his statement of economic interests?

CONCLUSION

The Political Reform Act (the "Act")^{1/} does not address the question of whether the district may use public funds to reimburse a director for accountant's fees he incurred for preparation of his statement of economic interests. You may wish to seek assistance on this issue from the county counsel's office or from the attorney general's office.

FACTS

The directors are required to prepare and file statements of economic interests. One of the directors had his statement prepared by his accountant, and has now presented the district with a bill for reimbursement of the accountant's fees.

^{1/} Government Code Sections 81000-91015. All statutory references are to the Government Code unless otherwise indicated.

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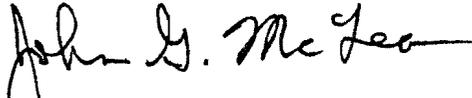
ANALYSIS

Section 87302 requires that designated employees within state and local government agencies file periodic statements disclosing reportable investments, interests in real property and income. The Act does not address the issue of whether public funds may be used to reimburse a public official for fees the official pays to an accountant to prepare the statement. You may wish to seek advice from the county counsel's office or the attorney general's office regarding the propriety of using public funds for this purpose.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 322-5901.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Griffiths
General Counsel



John G. McLean
Counsel, Legal Division

DMG:JGM:plh

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June 4, 1987

Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street, Suite 800
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Northeast Willows Community
Services District

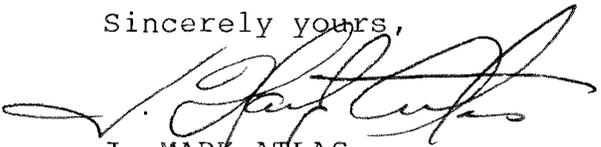
Gentlemen:

I am the attorney for the Northeast Willows Community Services District and I have been presented with a somewhat novel question.

The Directors were of course required to prepare and file Forms 730. One of the Directors had his form prepared by his accountant, and has now presented the District with a bill for reimbursement of the accountant's fees. The fees are not substantial, but there is a question in my mind whether a district can use public funds for this purpose.

I therefore would appreciate any guidance you can provide. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



J. MARK ATLAS

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