



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

428 J Street • Suite 620 • Sacramento, CA 95814-2329
(916) 322-5660 • Fax (916) 322-0886

April 13, 2010

Ms. Vivian Spicer-Johnson

REDACTED

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Re: FPPC Case No. 08/732, 08/611, and 08/685; North Country News, Vivian Spicer-Johnson, Gene and Charlea Moore, Faye Wilder, Mary Harris, Cathy Hood

Dear Ms. Spicer-Johnson:

The Fair Political Practices Commission (“Commission”) enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”)¹. As you may be aware, the Commission received a complaint against you alleging that you violated certain provisions of the Act. Specifically, the complaint alleges you failed to file as a committee and that you violated the mass mailing provisions of the Act, and failed to disclose an economic interest after being elected to the board. The Commission has decided to close this case with this advisory letter.

Section 82013 of the Act defines a committee as any person or combination of persons who receives contributions totaling \$1,000 or more in a calendar year, makes independent expenditures totaling \$1,000 or more in a calendar year, or makes contributions totaling \$10,000 or more in a calendar year to or at the behest of candidates or committees. In this case, you made non-monetary contributions to your candidacy for election to the Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District board in the November 2008 election. You also made independent expenditures in support of two other candidates. These contributions and independent expenditures consisted of advertisements published in your newspaper, the *North County News*, which ran in the August, September, October, and November issues. The value of these advertisements, attributable as a contribution to you and as an independent expenditure made for the benefit of the other candidates, did not exceed \$1,000 based on advertising rates charged for the paper. Therefore, this activity did not qualify you as a committee.

The Commission has reviewed the Conflict of Interest Code for the Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District. This code required the disclosure of various economic interests, and

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014. All statutory references are to the Government Code, unless otherwise indicated. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in sections 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations. All regulatory references are to Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations, unless otherwise indicated.

includes a requirement to disclose interests in “[p]rinting or reproduction services.” While you are the owner of the *North Country News*, you do not print the paper yourself, and have no interest in any business that engages in printing or reproduction. Therefore, disclosure of your ownership interest in the *North Country News* is not required under this code.

The Commission has also investigated allegations that you made contributions to other committees that were not properly reported, and received nonmonetary contributions that you did not properly disclose, and has not found evidence sufficient to establish a violation.

Even though we are closing our file on this matter, please be advised of the campaign reporting requirements of the Act. The Commission publishes forms and manuals to facilitate compliance with the provisions of the Act. If you need forms or manuals, or guidance regarding your obligations, please call the Commission’s Technical Assistance Division at 1-866-275-3772. Please also visit our website at www.fppc.ca.gov. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at 916-322-5660.

Sincerely,

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Zachary W. Norton
Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division