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

July 27, 2015

Hugh Ralston
[redacted]

Warning Letter: Case No. 15/744; Hugh Ralston

Dear Mr. Ralston:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission (the "Commission") enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act[1] (the "Act"). This letter is in response to a referral from the County of Ventura, Clerk of the Board. The Enforcement Division has completed its investigation and found that as a result of your position as a Board Member of the Workforce Investment Board, the Act required you to periodically file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) ("SEI") and that you failed to timely file a Leaving Office SEI.

Section 87300 of the Act requires every state and local agency to develop a Conflict of Interest Code. This Code requires individuals who participate in making decisions which may foreseeably have a material financial effect on any financial interest belonging to that person to disclose all reportable interests on SEIs.[2] Individuals required to file SEIs must file a Leaving Office SEI within 30 days of leaving office.[3]

You violated the Act by failing to file a Leaving Office by the specified deadline. But since you are no longer in this position and you do not have a history of violating the Act, the Enforcement Division has decided to close your case with this warning letter.

This letter serves as a written warning. The information in this matter will be retained and may be considered should an enforcement action become necessary based on newly discovered information or future conduct. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act in the future will result in monetary penalties of up to $5,000 for each violation.

Although the Enforcement Division is closing this case without seeking a penalty, you are still required to file all outstanding statements. Please contact your filing officer for further information. Any future non-filings may result in monetary penalties and this warning letter may be considered in any future Commission enforcement actions.

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[1] The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014, and all statutory references are to this code. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in Sections 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, and all regulatory references are to this source.
[2] Section 87302, subd. (b).
[3] Section 87302, subd. (b).

A warning letter is an Enforcement Division case resolution without administrative prosecution. This resolution does not provide you with the opportunity for a probable cause hearing or administrative hearing. If you wish to avail yourself of these proceedings by requesting that your case proceed with prosecution rather than a warning, please notify us within ten days from the date of this letter. Upon this notification, the Enforcement Division will rescind this warning letter and proceed with administrative prosecution of your case. If we do not receive such notification, this warning letter will be posted on the Commission's website.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Dave Bainbridge at [redacted].

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Galena West
Chief, Enforcement Division

cc: County of Ventura