



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

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

October 22, 2009

✓ Sarah Ward, Treasurer

Democratic Central Committee of Merced County 2006 (1288703)

REDACTED :

Re: Warning Letter

FPPC Case No. 09/686; Democratic Central Committee of Merced County

Period covered in the audit: January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006

Dear Ms. Ward:

The Fair Political Practices Commission (the "FPPC") enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act"),¹ found in Government Code section 81000, et seq. This letter is in response to an audit report referred to us by the Franchise Tax Board. A copy of that audit report is enclosed for your information.

You will note that the report indicates that several required late contribution reports were not filed with the Secretary of State. Please be advised that Section 82036(b) defines a late contribution as any contribution that totals \$1,000 or more made or received by a political party committee before the date of any state election and after the closing date of the last campaign statement before the election. Section 84203 requires a late contribution report to be filed within 24 hours of making or receiving the late contribution.

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.

A warning letter is an FPPC case resolution without administrative prosecution or fine. However, the warning letter resolution does not provide you with the opportunity for a probable

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.

cause hearing or hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or the FPPC. 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 (10) days from the date of this letter. Upon this notification, the FPPC will rescind this warning letter and proceed with administrative prosecution of this case. If we do not receive such notification, this warning letter will be posted on the FPPC's website ten (10) days from the date of this letter.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

Sue Straine
Chief Investigator
Enforcement Division

Enclosure