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

May 21, 2010

Mr. Steve Alexander

REDACTED

Re: FPPC No. 08/0813; In the Matter of Michael Ceremello, Dave Scholl, and Steve Alexander

Dear Mr. Alexander:

The Fair Political Practices Commission ("Commission") enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act ("Act") found in Government Code Section 81000, and following.[1] The Commission has completed its investigation of the sworn complaint that was submitted against you for your activity as a candidate for election to the Dixon City Council in November 2008. Specifically, the complaint alleged that you illegally used campaign funds to support another candidate for the election in paid advertisements published in Dixon's Independent Voice.

There is insufficient evidence in this matter to establish a violation of the Act and we are closing this case without further action.

In this matter, you were a candidate for election to the Dixon City Council in November 2008. You paid for several advertisements in Dixon's Independent Voice which urged both voter approval for your candidacy and for candidate Michael Ceremello. Under the Act, Section 85501 prohibits a candidate controlled committee from making independent expenditures to support or oppose other candidates. However, this prohibition generally does not apply if the candidate paying for the communication is also included in the communication; the nonpaying candidate is listed on the same ballot as the paying candidate; and the communication is targeting only the potential voters in the paying candidates' district. (*In re St. Croix* (2005) 18 FPPC Ops. 1.) This criteria appears to be met in this case. The evidence indicates that your paid advertisements for your candidacy, which also advocated for the support of Michael Ceremello, were not in violation of Section 85501.

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[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.

The Commission publishes forms and manuals to facilitate compliance with the provisions of the Act and provides guidance regarding filing obligations over the telephone and through written advice. Please call the Commission's Technical Assistance Division at 1-866-275-3772 or visit our website at www.fppc.ca.gov if you need assistance.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

MELLONIE YANG
Assistant Chief
Enforcement Division

MY:fp
cc: Mr. Michael Ceremello
Mr. Dave Scholl
Mr. Michael Smith