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

June 23, 2011

Sarah Genn Butler
Sarah Genn Butler for Orinda School Board 2010

REDACTED

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 11/242, Sarah Genn Butler and Sarah Genn Butler for Orinda School Board 2010

Dear Ms. Butler:

The Fair Political Practices Commission ("FPPC") enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act ("Act"),[1] found in Government Code section 81000, et seq. This letter is in response to a complaint filed against you by the County of Contra Costa that alleged you failed to file your committee's semiannual campaign disclosure statement covering the last half of 2010, due January 31, 2011.

The FPPC has completed its investigation of the facts in this case. Specifically, the FPPC found that you failed to file your semiannual campaign disclosure statement by the January 31, 2011, deadline.

The Act requires that candidates and their committees file campaign statements at periodic intervals. Specifically the Act provides that elected officers, candidates, and committees shall file semiannual statements. (Section 84200.) After you formed a committee on October 29, 2010, you were required to file a Form 460 covering the period October 30, 2010, through December 31, 2010. You are obligated to continue filing campaign statements until you officially terminate your committee. If your committee is no longer active, you may want to terminate your committee at this time as well.

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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.

Your action violated the Act because you failed to file the semiannual campaign statement by the specified deadline. However, because you have no prior violations of the Act and the money you have left after the election appears to be minimal, we are closing your case with this warning letter. 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 cause hearing or hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or the Fair Political Practices Commission. 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.

Although the FPPC is not seeking a penalty in the current matter, you are still responsible for any late filing fees assessed by your filing officer. (Section 91013.) The FPPC publishes forms and manuals to facilitate compliance with the provisions of the Act. If you need forms or a manual, or guidance regarding your obligations, please call the FPPC's Technical Assistance Division at 1-866-275-3772. Please also visit our website at www.fppc.ca.gov.

Please feel free to contact Adrianne Korchmaros at (916) 322-8241 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

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Gary S. Winuk
Chief, Enforcement Division

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cc: County of Contra Costa, Candidate Services