FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
428 J Street • Suite 620 • Sacramento, CA 95814-2329
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June 21, 2011

Cheryl Oliver
C. Sprague & Co.
REDACTED

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 10/875, C. Sprague & Co.

Dear Ms. Oliver:

The Fair Political Practices Commission (the "FPPC") enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act"),[1] found in Government Code sections 81000, et seq. This letter is being sent as a result of an FPPC investigation against C. Sprague & Co. The FPPC initiated its investigation after receiving a referral from the California Secretary of State. The referral alleged that C. Sprague & C. violated the Act's lobbying reporting provisions.

The FPPC has completed its investigation of the facts in this case. Specifically, the FPPC found that C. Sprague & Co. violated the Act by failing to timely file two required reports.

Section 86114 of the Act provides that lobbying firms must file periodic reports. Section 82038.5 of the Act defines a lobbying firm as a business entity that receives or becomes entitled to any compensation, other than reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses, "for the purpose of influencing legislative or administrative action on behalf of any other person, and any partner, owner, officer, or employee of the business entity is a lobbyist" or "to communicate directly with any elective state official, agency official, or legislative official for the purpose of influencing legislative or administrative action on behalf of any other person, if a substantial or regular portion of the activities for which the business entity receives compensation is for the purpose of influencing legislative or administrative action." Section 86117(a) provides that these reports "shall be filed during the month following each calendar quarter."

[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 18109 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 above-mentioned reports are filed by submitting a completed Form 625 to the California Secretary of State. C. Sprague & Co. failed to timely file a Form 625 for the April 1, 2008, through June 30, 2008, and the October 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008, periods.

We are closing this matter with a warning letter because C. Sprague & Co. does not have a history of violating the Act and reported low amounts of lobbying payments in previous quarters.

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 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.

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

Sincerely,

REDACTED

Gary S. Winuk
Chief, Enforcement Division

GSW/jd