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

July 11, 2011

Mr. Edward Easton
City of Goleta
REDACTED

RE: Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 11/500, Edward Easton

Dear Mr. Easton:

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 as a result of a pro-active investigation begun against you by the FPPC that alleged you attempted to influence a decision before the City Council in violation the Act's conflict of interest provisions. We are closing this matter with a warning letter.

The FPPC has completed its investigation of the facts in this case. Specifically, the FPPC found that on or about June 20, 2011, you included two council members and the mayor in an email sent to a number of individuals encouraging them to support the City Council's decision to purchase land for a park which was within 500 feet of your residence.

Pursuant to regulation 18702.3(a), with regard to a governmental decision which is within or before an official's agency, the official is attempting to use his or her official position to influence the decision, if, for the purpose of influencing the decision, the official contacts, or appears before, or otherwise attempts to influence, any member, officer, employee or consultant of the agency.

Your actions violated the Act when you sent the email to the mayor and the two council members urging the support for the decision to purchase the land for the proposed park.

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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.

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.

Because you stated you had a conflict and did not participate in the City Council's decision to purchase the property, and it was noted as a matter of public record the mayor and the council members were not influenced by your email, we are closing this matter with a warning letter.

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 Teri Rindahl at 916.327.2018 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

Gary S. Winuk
Chief, Enforcement Division

GSW/tr