Discussion of a regulation regarding ballot measure committees controlled by candidates for elective state office, for adoption at the Commission’s Meeting on January 15th, 2009.

Candidates for elective state office are now permitted under the Act to control four kinds of recipient committees, as defined at Section 82013(a): (1) a committee from which a candidate conducts a campaign for elective office; (2) a committee formed to defray certain of a candidate’s legal defense costs; (3) a committee formed to defray certain of a candidate’s “officeholder” expenses; (4) a committee formed to support or oppose one or more ballot measures, including a committee primarily formed to support or oppose a recall.

The first three of these committees are governed by regulations that prescribe crucial details of their formation and operation. However, with the exception of recall committees, candidate-controlled ballot measure committees are not currently described by a regulation, and consequently operate in a variety of forms without the clearly specified rules governing operation of all other candidate-controlled recipient committees. At the December, 2008 Commission Meeting staff proposed a draft regulation providing guidance on the formation and operation of such committees, to ensure that the purposes of the Act are not compromised by the absence of the clear guidelines that govern the formation and operation of every other kind of candidate-controlled recipient committee.

After considering public testimony, the Commission directed staff to return in January with a regulation modified in light of the discussion at the December meeting. Staff will present a revised draft of Regulation 18521.5 for public discussion at the meeting on December 23, 2008. In addition, staff will present for discussion an ancillary rule on the reporting of expenditures by ballot measure committees controlled by candidates for elective state office, Regulation 18421.8, along with an amendment to Regulation 18401(a)(6) supporting Regulation 18421.8.

Members of the public may listen to and/or participate in the Interested Persons’ meeting by teleconference by calling 877-771-7176; access code is 348709.