STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
1102 Q Street • Suite 3000 • Sacramento, CA 95811

April 23, 2020

Charlene Cruz
Section Head, Campaign Finance Section
Los Angeles County Recorder-Registrar/County Clerk
ccruz@rrcc.lacounty.net

Re: No Action Closure Letter
Case No. 2020-00161; Stacy Fortner for Castaic Lake Water Agency Board 2016

Dear Ms. Harris,

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act[1] (the "Act"). As you are aware, the Enforcement Division contacted the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk regarding our pre-election outreach efforts to identify candidates who failed to timely file pre-election campaign statements related to their candidacy in the March 3, 2020 Primary Election.

In response to the Enforcement Division's pre-election outreach effort, your office referred Stacy Fortner and her committee, Stacy Fortner for Castaic Lake Water Agency Board 2016, for allegedly failing to timely cross file a Form 460 pre-election campaign statement by the January 23, 2020 due date.

The Enforcement Division found that Ms. Fortner was a candidate for Member of the Democratic County Central Committee of the 38th District in the March 3, 2020 Primary Election. Additionally, Ms. Fortner ran unsuccessfully for Castaic Lake Water Agency Board in 2016, and her committee for that election remains open. Soon after being contacted by the Enforcement Division and prior to the March 3, 2020 election, Ms. Fortner filed the pre-election campaign statement for her committee.

The Act requires candidate-controlled committees to file two pre-election campaign statements prior to the applicable election, as well as semiannual campaign statements until the committee terminates.[2] Further, if a candidate or elected officer controls more than one committee for the purpose of election to office, including committees established for a different elective office, the candidate or elected officer shall, in addition to any other requirements related to the filing of campaign statements, file campaign statements for each of these committees on the dates the candidate or elected officer is required to file pre-election statements under Sections 84200.5 and 84200.8 in connection with his or her election to office.

Since Ms. Fortner did not have a committee for her Democratic County Central Committee

[1] The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014, and all statutory references are to this code. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in Sections 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, and all regulatory references are to this source.
[2] Sections 84200 and 84200.5.

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candidacy, she did not incur a pre-election campaign statement filing obligation for her previously qualified candidate-controlled committee, Stacy Fortner for Castaic Lake Water Agency Board 2016, under Regulation 18405, subdivision (a). Therefore, the allegation has been disproven. If, however, Ms. Fortner is to open a committee for a future office and run for election in a future election, she may be subject to the Act's cross filing rules.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ginny Lambing at glambing@fppc.ca.gov

Sincerely,

GWest

Galena West
Chief, Enforcement Division

GW:gal

cc: Stacy Fortner