



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

August 4, 2022

Crown Energy Services d/b/a Able Engineering Services
c/o Scott Flynn
[REDACTED]

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2022-00289; Crown Energy Services d/b/a Able Engineering Services

Dear Mr. Flynn,

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act").¹ This letter is in response to a Commission-initiated investigation which found that Crown Energy Services d/b/a Able Engineering Services ("Able") failed to file a major donor campaign statement (Form 461) for the reporting period of January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018 despite qualifying as a major donor committee during that period. Upon receiving contact from the Enforcement Division, you contacted the Enforcement Division to indicate that Able has been bought out and the successor-purchaser of Able, ABM, would fulfill Able's campaign reporting requirement.

The Enforcement Division has completed its review and found that Able qualified as a major donor committee as a result of two contributions: \$25,000 to Progress San Francisco on May 4, 2018, and \$25,000 to Committee on Jobs on May 4, 2018. We found that Able failed to file a corresponding Form 461 disclosing these contributions.

Under the Act, an individual or entity that makes contributions totaling \$10,000 or more in a calendar year qualifies as a major donor committee and incurs filing obligations.² If the \$10,000 threshold is met in the first six months of the calendar year, a major donor must file a Form 461 covering the period of January 1 through June 30 by July 31 of the calendar year. If the threshold is met in the latter six months of the calendar year, a major donor must file a Form 461 covering the period January 1 through December 31 by January 31 of the following calendar year.³

Able's actions violated the Act because Able failed to timely file a Form 461 by the July 31, 2018 deadline. However, mitigating evidence exists such that the Enforcement Division has decided to close this matter with this warning letter rather than issue a fine: this was Able's first time qualifying as a major donor committee; the committee that received Able's contributions timely disclosed receipt of them on corresponding campaign statements (Form 460); the Form 461 was

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 Section 82013(c)

³ Section 84200

filed immediately after being contacted by the Enforcement Division; Able has been dissolved; and Able has no prior Enforcement history.

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 Enforcement Division case resolution without administrative prosecution or fine. The Commission has adopted Regulation 18360.1 to authorize the Enforcement Division to issue warning letters to conclude cases in specified circumstances. However, the warning letter resolution does not provide Able with the opportunity for a probable cause hearing or hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or the Commission. If Able wishes to avail itself of these proceedings by requesting that their 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 Enforcement Division 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 Commission's website ten (10) days from the date of this letter.

If you need forms or a manual, or guidance regarding your obligations, please call the Commission's Toll-Free Advice Line at 1-866-275-3772 or visit our website at www.fppc.ca.gov.

Please feel free to contact Ginny Brown at gbrown@fppc.ca.gov or 916-322-8064 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Angela J. Brereton

Angela Brereton, Chief
Enforcement Division

AJB/gab