



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

November 2, 2022

James Taylor, individually and
O/B/O Associated Calexico Teachers/Political Action Committee



RE: Warning Letter
FPPC Case No. 2018/01355; In the Matter of Associated Calexico Teachers/Political Action Committee and James Taylor

Dear James Taylor:

As you know, the Enforcement Division of the California Fair Political Practices Commission (“Commission”) enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ This letter is in response to a referral from the Secretary of State (the “SOS”) regarding you and the Associated Calexico Teachers/Political Action Committee’s (“Committee”) failure to pay \$50 annual fees and associated \$150 penalties. The Enforcement Division is closing the annual fee allegations with no action, as discussed further below. Further, the Enforcement Division determined you and the Committee failed to timely file campaign statements. However, the Enforcement Division has decided to close the late filed campaign statements violations with this warning letter.

Regarding the Committee’s failure to timely pay annual fees, in 2012, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 1001. SB 1001, effective January 1, 2013, became Section 84101.5 of the Act and requires every recipient committee in California to pay a \$50 annual fee to the SOS. Committees that fail to pay the fee on time are subject to a \$150 penalty, in addition to the fee.

In 2021, the Legislature passed Assembly Bill 1590, which amended Section 84101.5. The SOS is now required to enforce this provision of the Act, not the Commission. Therefore, we are closing this matter without further action.

Although the Enforcement Division is closing this violation without action, you are still required to pay any outstanding \$50 annual fees and \$150 penalties to the SOS. Please contact the SOS at (916) 653-6224 for further information regarding this matter.

Regarding the Committee’s failure to timely file campaign statements, the Act requires recipient committees, including general purpose committees to file semi-annual campaign statements each year no later than July 31 for the period ending June 30, and no later than January 31 for the

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 18109 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations.

period ending December 31.² The obligation to file semi-annual campaign statements continues until the committee terminates.³ In addition, if the committee makes contributions or independent expenditures totaling \$500 or more to support or oppose a candidate or measure appearing on the ballot during the pre-election reporting period, it must file pre-election statements.⁴ Further, the Act requires a general purpose committee to file a 24 Hour Contribution Report within 24 hours of making a contribution to a candidate in the aggregate of \$1,000 or more within 90 days before an election or on the date of the election.⁵

A streamline stipulation was approved for one count of failing to timely file a pre-election campaign statement, one count of failing to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement and one count of failing to timely file a 24-hour Contribution Report. The remaining violations are being resolved with this Warning Letter, as detailed below.

Our investigation determined that you and the Committee also violated the Act by failing to timely file semi-annual campaign statements for the periods ending December 31, 2017; June 30, 2018 and June 30, 2019. However, the Enforcement Division has decided to close this case, as to these violations, with this warning letter because you and the Committee have filed the outstanding campaign statements, the activity on the statements was minimal, and you and the Committee have no prior history of violating the Act.

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 you with the opportunity for a probable cause hearing or hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or the Commission. If you wish to avail itself of these proceedings by requesting that this 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.

² Section 84200.

³ Section 84214 and Regulation 18404.

⁴ Section 84200.5, subdivision (a)(3).

⁵ Sections 82036 and 84203.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (916) 324-8787 or bcastillo@fppc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Bridgette Castillo

Bridgette Castillo
Senior Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division

cc: Secretary of State