



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
1102 Q Street • Suite 3050 • Sacramento, CA 95811

August 4, 2023

CR&R
c/o Asha Bhopal and Benny Bui
11282 Western Ave
Stanton CA, 90680

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2020-00363; CR&R

Dear CR&R,

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 CR&R (the “Committee”) failed to timely file several 24-hour contribution reports (Form 497). The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. Specifically, we found that from 2018 through 2022, the Committee failed to timely file 24-hour contribution reports within 24 hours of making contributions of \$1,000 or more within 90 days of an election.

The Act requires committees that make or receive a late contribution to file a late contribution report within 24 hours of making or receiving the contribution.² A “late contribution” includes a contribution(s) aggregating \$1,000 or more that is made to or received by a committee primarily formed to support a candidate within 90 days before the date of the election, or on the date of the election, in which the pertinent candidate is to be voted on.³

The Committee’s actions violated the Act because it failed to timely file Form 497s within 24 hours of making contributions of \$1,000 or more within 90 days of an election. However, mitigating evidence exists here. The Committee reported the contributions on several timely filed semi-annual campaign statements, the Committee did not receive the required major donor notifications for the contributions made by the Committee of \$5,000 or more, the committees that received your contributions timely disclosed receipt of the contributions on a timely filed pre-election campaign statement (Form 460) and 24-hour contribution report resulting in minimal public harm, and you have no prior Enforcement history. Based on the foregoing, and in accordance with the Enforcement Division Policy Directives formally adopted by the Commission on January 26, 2023, which requires the Enforcement Division to take all

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 18104 through 18998 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, and all regulatory references are to this source.

² Section 84203.

³ Section 82036.

appropriate actions within their discretion to decrease the Division's annual carryover caseload, the Enforcement Division is closing this case with this warning letter.⁴ Discretion was used based upon mitigating or aggravating circumstances and the totality of the circumstances.⁵ This resolution may not be used as a comparable case for other enforcement matters.⁶

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 your client with the opportunity for a probable cause hearing or hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or the Commission. If your client wishes to avail himself of these proceedings by requesting that his 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 me at jrivera@fppc.ca.gov or 916-738-6411 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Rivera

Jonathan Rivera, Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division

⁴ <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/content/dam/fppc/NS-Documents/AgendaDocuments/General%20Items/2023/january/15.0-Enforcement-directives.pdf>

⁵ Regulation 18360.1.

⁶ See Regulation 18361.5, subdivision (e)(3).