



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

June 6, 2023

Santa Maria Firefighters Political Action Committee

Principal Officer: Matthew Chircop
237 Town Center West #223
Santa Maria CA, 93458

Treasurer: Derek McLeod
237 Town Center West #223
Santa Maria CA, 93458

Assistant Treasurer: Trent Benedetti
2151 S. College Drive, Suite 101
Santa Maria CA, 93455

Re: No Action Closure Letter

FPPC Case No. 2020-00035; Santa Maria Firefighters Political Action Committee, Matthew Chircop, Derek McLeod, and Trent Benedetti.

Dear SMF PAC, Matthew Chircop, Derek McLeod and Trent Benedetti:

The Fair Political Practice Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”)¹. The Commission’s Enforcement Division received a filing officer referral from the Secretary of State’s Office (the “SOS”) that alleged Santa Maria Firefighters Political Action Committee (“SMF PAC”) failed to timely file semi-annual campaign statements.

The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. Specifically, we found that SMF PAC, in error, filed to be a State Committee in their amended 410, filed on May 30, 2018. This error was fixed on July 19, 2021 with an amended 410. SMF PAC changed its Treasure and Principal Officer after understanding that the past Treasurer had made the filing error. During the time that SMF PAC was listed as a State Committee it never participated or contributed to state candidates or ballot measures, effectively only acting as a County Committee. At this point the SMF PAC has no alleged Act violations. Therefore, we are closing this matter without further action.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Chance Felkins at 916-327-2016 or cfelkins@fppc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code Section 81000 through 91014, and all statutory references are to this code.

Michael Chance Felkins

Michael Chance Felkins, Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division

cc: Secretary of State nonfilerdesk@sos.ca.gov