



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

August 31, 2023

Greenfield Families for Better Jobs and Affordable Housing
Guadalupe Sanchez, Committee Treasurer
1522 Constitution Blvd. #303
Salinas, CA 93905

Warning Letter re: FPPC No. 2018-01289; Greenfield Families for Better Jobs & Affordable Housing – In Support of Avelina Torres for Mayor, Irene Garcia & Angela Untalon for City Council 2018, and Guadalupe Sanchez

Dear Guadalupe Sanchez and Committee:

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 an AdWATCH submission against Greenfield Families for Better Jobs & Affordable Housing – In Support of Avelina Torres for Mayor, Irene Garcia & Angela Untalon for City Council 2018 (the “Committee”), alleging that the Committee failed to use the proper advertisement disclaimers in large signs and yard signs paid for by the Committee.

The Enforcement Division has completed its investigation of the facts in this case. Specifically, the Enforcement Division found that the Committee failed to include the proper advertisement disclaimers in large signs and yard signs. The investigation also found that the Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period of October 21, 2018 through December 31, 2018 by the January 31, 2019 deadline and failed to timely disclose the accurate amount for a \$728.83 expenditure made during the reporting period of September 23, 2018 through October 20, 2018.

An advertisement is any general or public communication that is authorized and paid for by a committee for the purpose of supporting or opposing one or more candidates for elective office or one or more ballot measures.² In 2018, the Act provided that a large-size print advertisement paid for by a primarily formed committee shall include the words “Paid for by” followed by the name of the committee as it appears on the most recent Statement of Organization filed pursuant to Section 84101,³ in specified formatting.⁴ An advertisement

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 84501.

³ Section 84502.

⁴ Section 84504.2.

supporting or opposing a candidate that is paid for by an independent expenditure shall include a statement that it was not authorized by a candidate or a committee controlled by a candidate.⁵

The Act requires 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 period ending December 31.⁶ Further, the Act requires recipient committees to report expenditures, including the accurate amount of the payment made.⁷

Your actions violated the Act by failing to include the proper advertisement disclaimers in large signs and yard signs that were independent expenditures supporting a local candidate. Additionally, your actions violated the Act by filing a semi-annual campaign statement after the due date and by disclosing the wrong amount of an expenditure made to a sign vendor. However, mitigating factors exist here. First, all campaign statements that were due before the election were timely filed before the election, and the late-filed semi-annual campaign statement was filed only one day late. Second, most of the payments made to the sign vendor were timely reported, and partial payment was included in the campaign statement filed before the election. Third, the signs had some disclosure, so it was clear who paid for the advertisements and there was no confusion. Fourth, stickers were added to the signs before the election with the full disclaimers. Fifth, the candidate supported by the Committee in these signs lost the election. Sixth, the Committee terminated in February 2021, and the respondents 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 appropriate actions within their discretion to decrease the Division's annual carryover caseload, the Enforcement Division is closing this case with this warning letter.⁸ Discretion was used based upon mitigating or aggravating circumstances and the totality of the circumstances.⁹ This resolution may not be used as a comparable case for other enforcement matters.¹⁰

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 yourself of these proceedings by requesting that your case proceed with prosecution rather than a warning, please notify us within ten (10) days from the date of this letter. Upon this

⁵ Section 84506.5.

⁶ Section 84200.

⁷ Section 84211.

⁸ <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/content/dam/fppc/NS-Documents/AgendaDocuments/General%20Items/2023/january/15.0-Enforcement-directives.pdf>

⁹ Regulations 18360.1 and 18360.3.

¹⁰ See Regulation 18361.5, subd. (e)(3).

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 or your clients need forms, 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 (916) 322-7771 or abrereton@fppc.ca.gov with any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Angela J. Brereton

Angela J. Brereton
Assistant Chief
Enforcement Division