



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

October 4, 2023

Matthew Corrales

Theresa Corrales

Matt Corrales for Vallecitos Water District 2020



Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2022-00017: Matt Corrales for Vallecitos Water District 2020, Matthew Corrales, Theresa Corrales

Dear Matthew and Theresa Corrales:

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 referral from San Diego County against you and your committee Matt Corrales for Vallecitos Water District 2020 (the “Committee”), alleging that you failed to timely file semi-annual campaign statements. The Enforcement Division found that you failed to timely file two pre-election campaign statements, a semi-annual campaign statement, and a 24-hour contribution report.

The Act requires candidate-controlled committees to file two pre-election campaign statements at specified times prior to the election in which the candidate will be on the ballot, as well as 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 31.² The obligation to file semi-annual campaign statements continues until the candidate or treasurer terminates the committee. Controlling candidates and committee treasurers are jointly and severally liable for violations by the committee.³

The Act also requires candidate-controlled committees that receive a contribution(s), including loans, totaling \$1,000 or more from a single source within 90 days before the election, or on 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 18104 through 18998 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, and all regulatory references are to this source.

² Sections 84200.5 and 84200.

³ Sections 83116.5 and 91006.

date of the election, to file a 24-hour Contribution Report (Form 497) within 24 hours of receiving the contribution.⁴

Upon review, the Enforcement Division determined that you violated the Act by failing to timely file pre-election campaign statements for the reporting periods ending on September 19, 2020 and October 17, 2020, a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period ending on December 31, 2020, and a 24-hour Contribution Report due on September 2, 2020. However, mitigating circumstances exist here: your campaign was largely self-funded, you were a first time candidate, you were unsuccessful, you raised and spent a low amount, the pre-election campaign statements and 24-hour contribution report were filed prior to the election, and you have no prior history of these violations. 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.⁵ Discretion was used based upon mitigating or aggravating circumstances and the totality of the circumstances.⁶ Additionally, discretion was used for violations that caused minimal public harm when the committee raised and spent less than \$10,000.⁷ This resolution may not be used as a comparable case for other enforcement matters.⁸

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. Furthermore, the Enforcement Division expects you to file the appropriate campaign statements as they still require filing.

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 notification, the Enforcement Division will rescind this warning letter and proceed with administrative

⁴ Sections 82036 and 84203.

⁵ <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/content/dam/fppc/NS-Documents/AgendaDocuments/General%20Items/2023/january/15.0-Enforcement-directives.pdf>

⁶ Regulations 18360.1 and 18360.3.

⁷ Regulation 18360.2.

⁸ See Regulation 18361.5, subd. (e)(3).

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.

Please feel free to contact Alex Rose at arose@fppc.ca.gov or 916-327-6358 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex J. Rose". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alex J. Rose, Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division