



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

March 11, 2024

Committee to Elect Michelle Morrow for District 3 SLO County Supervisor 2024
Michelle Morrow, Candidate
Mika Abbott, Treasurer



Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2024-00288, Committee to Elect Michelle Morrow for District 3 SLO County Supervisor 2024, Michelle Morrow, and Mika Abbott

Dear Committee, Michelle Morrow, and Mika Abbott,

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ As you are aware, in response to the Enforcement Division’s pre-election outreach program, we were informed by San Luis Obispo County that Committee to Elect Michelle Morrow for District 3 SLO County Supervisor 2024 (“the Committee”) failed to timely file a pre-election campaign statement in connection with the March 5, 2024 Primary Election. The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. Specifically, we found that the Committee failed to timely file the second pre-election campaign statement.

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 semiannual 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

Your actions violated the Act because the Committee failed to timely file the second pre-election campaign statement for the period covering January 1, 2024 (or January 21, 2024) through February 17, 2024 by the February 22, 2024 deadline. However, for the following reasons, the Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with this warning letter rather than a fine: you were referred as part of the proactive pre-election program; you filed the pre-election campaign statement immediately after the Enforcement Division contacted you; the pre-election campaign statement was filed before the election; and you have no prior history of violating the

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

² Sections 84200.5 and 84200.

³ Sections 83116.5 and 91006.

Act. Please note that while the Enforcement Division is closing this matter without a fine, your filing officer may assess late filing penalties.

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 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 have questions, please contact Marissa Corona at MCorona@fppc.ca.gov or (279) 237-5932.

Sincerely,

Marissa Corona

Marissa Corona
Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division

Cc: Tami Bisantz County Clerk Recorder, tbisantz@co.slo.ca.us