



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

October 27, 2023

Wayne Gowens
[REDACTED]

Wayne Gowens
P.O Box 97
Mendota, CA 93640
[REDACTED]

Warning Letter re: FPPC No. 2020-00051; Wayne Gowens

Dear Wayne Gowens:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission (“FPPC”) enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹ This letter is in response to a referral from the County of Fresno. The Enforcement Division found that as a result of your position as a Director for the Firebaugh Resource Conservation District, the Act requires you to periodically file a Statement of Economic Interest (“SEI”) and that you failed to timely file your Assuming Office and 2019 Annual SEIs.

Section 87300 of the Act requires every state and local agency to develop a Conflict of Interest Code. This Code requires individuals who participate in making decisions which may foreseeably have a material financial effect on any financial interest belonging to that person to disclose all reportable interests on SEIs.² Individuals required to file SEIs must file within 30 days of assuming office, annually thereafter at the time specified by the Code, and within 30 days of leaving office.³

Your actions violated the Act by failing to timely file your Assuming Office SEI by the October 10, 2019 deadline and your 2019 Annual SEI by the June 1, 2020 deadline. However, you have filed the 2020, 2021, and 2022 Annual SEIs and do not have a prior violation of this section. 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.⁴ Discretion was used based upon

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 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, and all regulatory references are to this source.

² Section 87302, subd. (b).

³ *Ibid.*

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

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.

Although the Enforcement Division is closing this case without seeking a penalty, you are still required to file all outstanding SEIs and pay any late filing fees assessed by your filing officer. Please contact your filing officer, Cyndi Glaser, at cglaser@fppc.ca.gov for further information about your required filings. Please note that any future non-filings will be brought to our attention and may result in monetary penalties. This warning letter may be considered should a future enforcement action become necessary.

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 any questions regarding this letter, please contact Shaina Elkin at (916) 327-2020 or selkin@fppc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

James M. Lindsay

James M. Lindsay, Chief
Enforcement Division

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⁵ Regulations 18360.1 and 18360.3.

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