



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

June 19, 2024

Sent Via Email: lbarnes@abccentralcal.org
Laura Barnes, individually and
O/B/O Associated Builders and Contractors Central California Chapter PAC

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 2023-00602; Associated Builders and Contractors Central California Chapter PAC and Laura Barnes

Dear Laura Barnes and Associated Builders and Contractors Central California Chapter PAC:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission (“Commission”) enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act.¹ This letter is in response to an audit performed by the Franchise Tax Board in the above referenced matter. The audit found that you and the Associated Builders and Contractors Central California Chapter PAC (“Committee”) failed to comply with the campaign filing and reporting provisions of the Act.

The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. The audit determined the Committee failed to timely file two pre-election campaign statements with the reporting period ending September 19, 2020, and October 17, 2020, and a semi-annual campaign statement for the reporting period ending December 31, 2020. Further, the Committee failed to timely disclose some expenditures on the summary of expenditures, as required.

The Act requires general purpose committees to file two pre-election campaign statements at specified times prior to the election in which the committee is active, 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 Act requires state general purpose committees to disclose the total amount of expenditures made during the period covered by the campaign statement and the total cumulative amount of expenditures made.³

You and the Committee violated the Act by failing to timely file two pre-election campaign statements and one semi-annual campaign statement, as well as failing to properly disclose all expenditures in the summary of expenditures. However, the Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with a warning letter rather than a penalty based on the following: there was no activity to report on the campaign statement ending September 19, 2020 and this statement was filed prior to the relevant election; the campaign statement for the period ending October 17, 2020 was filed electronically only 1 day late and prior to the relevant election, although the paper filing

¹The 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 84200.8.

³ Section 84211(b).

was not filed until the day of the election; and the treasurer has explained that much of the required information could not be obtained in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions in place at the time.

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 your clients wish to avail themselves of these proceedings by requesting that this 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 regarding this letter, please contact me at bcastillo@fppc.ca.gov or (279) 237-3764.

Sincerely,

Bridgette Castillo

Bridgette Castillo
Senior Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division

