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

February 27, 2025

Elora Babbini
Via email only: [redacted]

Warning Letter Re: FPPC Case No. 2023-00173; Elora Babbini

Dear Elora Babbini:

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act ("the Act").[1] As you are aware, the Enforcement Division received a sworn complaint alleging that you failed to timely report economic interests on your Statement of Economic Interest ("SEI") and violated conflict of interest provisions of the Act.

The Enforcement Division has completed its investigation and review of the facts in this case. Specifically, we determined that there is insufficient evidence to support a finding that you violated the Act's requirement to report income on SEIs or violated the Act's conflict of interest provisions. However, the investigation found that, as a result of your positions with Mendocino County as a Planner I, Chief Planner, County Planning Commissioner, and Airport Land Use Commissioner, the Act required you to periodically file SEIs and you failed to timely file your Assuming and Leaving Office SEIs (for the positions of Planner I, Chief Planner, and Airport Land Use Commissioner), Assuming Office SEI (for the position of County Planning Commissioner), 2020-2021 Annual SEIs (for the position of Planner I), 2022 Annual SEI (for the positions of Chief Planner and County Planning Commissioner), and 2023 Annual SEI (for the positions of Chief Planner, County Planning Commissioner, and Airport Land Use Commissioner) by the applicable due dates.

Section 87200 of the Act requires certain public officials to disclose reportable economic interests. Additionally, the Act requires designated employees to periodically file SEIs disclosing specific economic interests as required by the agency's Conflict of Interest Code.[2] Assuming Office SEIs must be filed within 30 days of assuming office.[3] Annual SEIs must be filed no later than April 1 of each year.[4] Leaving Office SEIs must be filed within 30 days of leaving office.[5] If the filing deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline is extended to the next regular business day.[6]

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[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 87300 and 87302, Regulation 18730.
[3] Sections 87202 and 87302, Regulation 18730.
[4] Sections 87203 and 87302, Regulations 18723 and 18730.
[5] Sections 87204 and 87302, Regulation 18730.
[6] Section 81005.

A public official who holds multiple positions subject to reporting requirements may elect to file a single "Expanded Statement of Economic Interests" instead of separate and distinct statements for each position, which shall disclose all reportable interests for all jurisdictions and list all positions for which it is filed.[7] An official who holds multiple positions subject to reporting requirements is not required to file an expanded SEI and may instead fulfill their reporting requirements by submitting separate statements for each position with the proper filing officer.[8]

Your actions violated the Act because you failed to timely file certain SEIs by the applicable due dates as discussed above. However, you are no longer in any of these positions, you filed sufficient SEIs so that there was sufficient disclosure of your interests, you cooperated with the Enforcement Division's investigation, and you do not have prior Enforcement history. Based on the foregoing, the Enforcement Division is closing this case with this warning letter. Discretion was used based upon mitigating or aggravating circumstances and the totality of the circumstances.[9]

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.

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 Regulations 18360.1 and 18360.2 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 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 10 days from the date of this letter.

If you need 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.

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[7] Regulation 18723.1.
[8] Regulation 18723.1.
[9] Regulation 18360.1.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at vjimmy@fppc.ca.gov or (279) 237-5971.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Jimmy

Vanessa Jimmy
Commission Counsel
Enforcement Division

Cc: *Sworn Complainant*