



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

October 9, 2025

Jeff Gorell

Via email: Jeff.Gorell@venturacounty.gov

Warning Letter Re: FPPC Case No. 2025-00079; Jeff Gorell

Dear Jeff Gorell:

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 two anonymous complaints alleging that you failed to timely file multiple behested payment reports (Form 803).

The Enforcement Division has completed its review of the facts in this case. Specifically, we found that the Hogan Family Foundation made a \$30,000 payment, at your behest, on June 8, 2023 to Ventura County Search and Rescue; Haas Automation made a \$5,000 payment, at your behest, on October 13, 2023 to the Economic Development Collaborative of Ventura County; and Amgen made a \$7,900.82 in-kind donation, at your behest, on May 21, 2025 to the Ventura County Community Foundation. Each of these payments triggered behested payment reporting obligations under the Act. Once a source reaches the \$5,000 disclosure threshold in a calendar year, all payments from that source, regardless of the amount, must be disclosed.

The Act provides that payments that are made principally for a legislative, governmental, or charitable purpose are neither contributions nor gifts to the elected official.² However, the payments made at the behest of an elected official must be reported by the official within 30 days following the date on which the payment or payments are made, if they equal or exceed \$5,000 in the aggregate, and are from the same source in the same calendar year.³ Additionally, a report with a good faith estimate of a behested payment amount will meet the reporting requirements if the elected officer practiced reasonable efforts to obtain the required information and was unable to ascertain the exact amount of the behested payment from the payee prior to the reporting

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 82004.5 and 82015(c)(4).

³ Section 84224.

deadline, provided the elected official later filed an amended report with corrected information within ten days of receiving payment information.⁴

Your actions violated the Act because you failed to timely file a behested payment report (Form 803) within 30 days of the date of the payment for each of the above-mentioned payments. However, mitigating factors exist such that the Enforcement Division has decided to close this case with this warning letter rather than issue a fine: the payments amounted to less than or equal to \$30,000; you were cooperative when contacted by the Enforcement Division; you promptly filed two of the outstanding reports when compliance was requested, and one report was filed prior to Enforcement contact; the violations resulted in minimal public harm; and you have no prior history of violating this section of the Act.

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.

Please feel free to contact Franceska Gonzalez at fgonzalez@fppc.ca.gov or (279) 237-5993 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Franceska Gonzalez

Franceska Gonzalez, Attorney
Enforcement Division

⁴ Regulation 18424.1.