



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

July 28, 2026

Joseph Muller

Via email: jmuller@director.scwd.org

Warning Letter re FPPC No. 2026-00596; Joseph Muller

Dear Joseph Muller,

The Enforcement Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act¹ (the “Act”). This letter is in response to a referral from the Orange County Registrar of Voters regarding your failure to timely file a Form 470 (Campaign Short Form) for your position with the South Coast Water District.

The Act requires elected officers who do not have an open committee and do not plan to raise or spend \$2,000 or more in a non-election calendar year to file a Form 470 covering the entire calendar year by July 31.²

You violated the Act because you failed to file Form 470 for the calendar year 2025 by the July 31 deadline. However, because you have since filed the missing campaign statement, and you have not had a prior violation of this section, the Enforcement Division has decided to close your case with this warning letter rather than a fine. Although the Enforcement Division is closing this case without seeking a penalty, your filing officer, the Orange County Registrar of Voters, 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 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

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 84200 and 84206.

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 have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Amber Rodriguez at arodriguez@fppc.ca.gov or (279) 237-3756.

Sincerely,

Christopher Burton

Christopher Burton
Assistant Chief, Enforcement Division

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