



# Fair Political Practices Commission

P. O. BOX 807 • SACRAMENTO, 95804 • • • 1100 K STREET BUILDING, SACRAMENTO, 95814

Technical Assistance-Administration • • • Executive Legal • • • Enforcement • • • Conflict of Interest  
916/ 322 5660 • • • 322 5801 • • • 322 6441 • • • 322 6444

October 12, 1977

A-77-471

Frank C. Crispo  
President  
Cannery Row Merchants Assn.  
710 Cannery Row  
Monterey, California 93940

Dear Mr. Crispo:

Thank you for your letter of August 13, 1977, in which you express concern regarding the propriety of a son and father sitting as members of a Regional Coastal Commission and a State Coastal Commission, respectively, in the handling of coastal permit applications.

The Political Reform Act of 1974 prohibits, in Government Code Sections 87100 and 87103, decisions of a public official which would foreseeably have a material financial effect upon the official's financial interest. The Act does not prohibit potential biases which may be occasioned because of one's familial relationships. Thus, so long as the son, who sits on a Regional Commission, is not a dependent child of the father, who sits on the State Coastal Commission, there is no prohibition applicable to the situation which you have presented. [See, Government Code Section 87103(d)].

I understand your concern in this matter and I hope that my answer does not foreclose your further inquiry into its propriety. If you wish to pursue the matter, I suggest you contact Mr. Christopher Ames of the Office of the Attorney General.

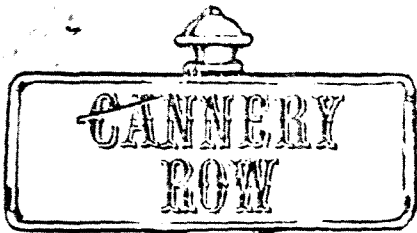
I trust this answer has been responsive to your questions. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions..

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Delbert L. Spurlough, Jr.".

Delbert L. Spurlough, Jr., Chief  
Conflicts of Interest Division

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**CANNERY ROW MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION**  
INCORPORATED

13 August, 1977

State of California  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
Sacramento, California

Sir:

We would like to bring to your attention a matter pertaining to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors representation to the Central California Regional Coastal Commission.

Is it appropriate to have a regional commission involved in the decision making process on coastal permit applications and in the event of a permit denial, have the father sitting on the state commission which must then decide on the appeal of the applicant?

A situation such as this not only seems to have the appearance of nepotism within the coastal commission system, but also raises the question of conflicts of interest and possible violation of due process of law. It may also be in conflict with state laws that ensure a chain of heroic, farms and services.

We are bringing this matter to your attention for appropriate action.

Thank you,

Frank J. Misgo  
1501 17th St  
408-762-2766