



CALIFORNIA FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

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November 19, 2025

Solvi Sabol
Placer County Transportation Planning Agency
2260 Douglas Blvd., Suite #130
Roseville, CA 95661

Re: Your Request for Advice
Our File No. A-25-142

Dear Ms. Sabol:

This letter responds to your request for advice regarding the conflict of interest provisions of the Political Reform Act (the “Act”).¹

Please note that we are only providing advice under the conflict of interest provisions of the Act and not under other general conflict of interest prohibitions such as common law conflict of interest or Section 1090.

Also note that we are not a finder of fact when rendering advice (*In re Oglesby* (1975) 1 FPPC Ops. 71), and any advice we provide assumes your facts are complete and accurate. If this is not the case or if the facts underlying these decisions should change, you should contact us for additional advice.

QUESTION

Under SB 852, does the Executive Director of the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (“PCTPA”), as the result of recently enacted legislation that designated the Commission as the filing officer for public officials who manage public investments, now have an obligation to file Statements of Economic Interests/Form 700s directly with the Commission?

CONCLUSION

Yes. The Executive Director of PCTPA is a public official who manages a public investment and, as such, must now file Statements of Economic Interests directly with the Commission.

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code Sections 81000 through 91014. All statutory references are to the Government Code, unless otherwise indicated. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in Sections 18104 through 18998 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations. All regulatory references are to Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations, unless otherwise indicated.

FACTS AS PRESENTED BY REQUESTER

Your Executive Director is designated as Treasurer of PCTPA and manages agency investments per your agency's Delegation of Authority and applicable Government Code sections. Currently, he files his Form 700 with Placer County.

PCTPA's adopted investment policy restricts all investments to the following instruments:

- Passbook savings accounts and money market/management checking accounts that are fully insured or properly collateralized;
- The Local Agency Investment Fund ("LAIF") established under Government Code Section 16429.1; and
- Certificates of deposit that are federally insured or fully collateralized.

These instruments are all authorized under the Government Code, and the agency does not engage in any active portfolio management, asset allocation, or investment decision-making beyond the options listed above. The Executive Director's role is essentially limited to depositing funds and ensuring compliance with legal requirements.

ANALYSIS

"Other Public Officials Who Manage Public Investments" Under Section 87200 and Regulation 18700.3(b)(1).

The Act requires public officials to disclose specified interests that may require the officials to recuse themselves from governmental decisions with a financial effect on the interests. (See Sections 87100 through 87105, General Prohibitions; Sections 87200 through 87211, Disclosure; and 87300 through 87314, Conflict of Interest Codes.)

Section 87200 lists those officials with the broadest decision-making authority, including certain high-ranking local officials like the members of City Councils, mayors, city treasurers, city managers, and public officials who manage public investments, and imposes on them the broadest disclosure requirements under the Act.

Last year, the Legislature passed a bill that required certain categories of filers to file online using the FPPC's electronic filing system. That bill inadvertently left off one category of 87200 filers from that list: public officials who manage public investments. SB 852, approved by the Governor on October 03, 2025, corrects that inadvertent omission and adds public officials who manage public investments to the list of individuals for whom the Commission is the filing officer for statements of economic interest and requires those officials to file their statements of economic interest using the Commission's electronic filing system. Public officials who manage public investments are now specifically enumerated in Section 87500(a)(2)(O).

Under Regulation 18700.3(b)(1), “Others public officials who manage public investments” is defined to include:

(B) High-level officers and employees of public agencies who exercise primary responsibility for the management of public investments such as chief or principal investment officers or chief financial managers...

(C) Individuals who, pursuant to a contract with a state or local government agency, perform the same or substantially all the same functions that would otherwise be performed by the public officials described in subdivision (b)(1)(B).

“Public investments” is defined as “the investment of public moneys in real estate, securities, or other economic interest for the production of revenue or other financial return.” (Regulation 18700.3(c).) Moreover, “public money is defined as “all money belonging to, received by, or held by, the state or any city, county, town, district, or public agency therein, or by an officer thereof acting in the officer’s official capacity...” (Regulation 18700.3(d).)

Under these definitions, the “management of public investments” is not limited to active portfolio management, but includes any economic interest invested in for the production of revenue or other financial return. In this case, the money held by PCTPA is received by and held by Placer County and, the Executive Director of PCTPA is responsible for depositing funds and ensuring compliance with legal requirements. Although PCTPA’s investment policy restricts investment of public moneys to specific types of low-risk accounts, those accounts are still economic interests intended to produce revenue or other financial return. Accordingly, the Executive Director of PCTPA is a public official who manages a public investment and must now file Statements of Economic Interests directly with the Commission pursuant to Section 87500(a)(2)(O).

If you have other questions on this matter, please contact me at znorton@fppc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Dave Bainbridge
General Counsel

Zachary W. Norton

By: Zachary W. Norton
Senior Counsel, Legal Division

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