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December 11, 2014

The Honorable Glenda Sanders
Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive
Santa Ana, California 92701

Re: Follow-up Response to August 7, 2014 Letter - Recommendation #3 Conflicts of Interest

Dear Judge Sanders:

This letter is to provide a response to the Grand Jury Recommendation #3 Conflict of Interest as outlined in Coast District's August 7, 2014 letter. All other findings and recommendations were addressed except Recommendation #3, which required additional research and analysis with response due by December 2014.

On further analysis, we have examined the scope and parameters of the Political Reform Act of 1974 (PRA) This law was first initiated and approved by the voters as Proposition 9. The law has been perfected by amendments and approved by the State Legislature. The PRA is now embodied in Title 9 of the Government Code, Sections 81000 through 91014.

The Legislature has determined that disclosure of conflicts of interest is an individual official's responsibility and obligation. The Political Reform Act of 1974, as amended, makes clear it is the responsibility of each public official, including Board members, to not "make, participate in making or in any way attempt to use his official position to influence a governmental decision in which he knows or has reason to know he has a financial interest. (Government Code section 87101 et seq.) Section 87105 dictates when certain public officials must recuse themselves from participation in governmental decisions, and section 87200 et seq. establishes the obligation of public officials to file full and complete disclosures of their economic interests. Trustees recuse themselves from matters where there is even an appearance of a conflict of interest.

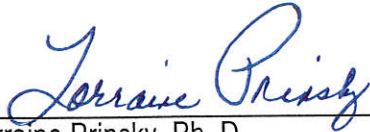
Pursuant to the law the Legislature has created an independent Fair Political Practices Commission to implement, oversee and enforce the legislation through many Administrative Regulations with forms and procedures which apply to candidates and incumbent elected officials and their campaign committees.

This statewide system is very extensive and complete. All Election Committees must have a Treasurer who is required to file the Form 460 with contribution amounts and sources of contribution. Also these committees must report their expenditure amounts and the source of payment and purpose. There are penalties for late filings as well as not filing the correct and accurate forms. The forms are filed with the FPPC for public review.

Each elected official and some of the appointed officials must also file FPPC Form 700 "Statement of Economic Interest" which is very specific and extensive. This form is filed with the local District in addition to the FPPC.

After review and research of this matter we have determined that our current practice of compliance with state law and FPPC rules and regulations completely satisfies this matter, and therefore as authorized by Penal Code Section 933.05 (b)(4) this recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable.

Thank you for your consideration to this response.



Lorraine Prinsky, Ph. D.
President of the Board of Trustees



Tom K. Harris, Ed.D.
Chancellor on behalf of the Board of Trustees

cc: Orange County Grand Jury