



CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
CNPA Services, Inc.

2701 K Street Sacramento, CA 95816 ♦ Ph: 916.288.6000 ♦ Fax: 916.288.6002 ♦ www.cnpa.com

January 15, 2016

Emelyn Rodriguez, Senior Commission Counsel
Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street, 8th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95184

Dear Ms. Rodriguez:

I am writing to you on behalf of the California Newspaper Publishers Association to express the Association's support of the FPPC's proposed amendment to Regulation 18616 regarding reporting requirements applicable to lobbyists and lobbyist employers.

Newspaper reporters commonly use information collected by the FPPC to analyze and inform the public on spending by lobbyists in order to illuminate what lobbying activities may have impacted elected and administrative officials' decisions. But not all of this information is being collected in a meaningful way.

Lobbyists' spending in the "other payment to influence" category (including PR, advertising, compensation of employees who aren't lobbyists, and other legislative related services) is reported only in a lump sum, creating a significant and glaring gap in disclosure. For example, California Drivers Alliance spent \$4.8 million in "other" payments during the second half of 2014, but there is no detailed reporting on what that money went to. Journalists' access to this information would give them an opportunity provide a more detailed picture of how interest groups attempt to influence decision makers.

We applaud your efforts to promote transparency and close a gap in current disclosure requirements.

Sincerely,

Nikki Moore
CNPA Legal Counsel

cc: Dean Eckenroth, CNPA President, Publisher, *The Coronado Eagle and Journal*
Jeffrey Glasser, CNPA Governmental Affairs Committee Chair, Vice President and Senior Counsel, *Los Angeles Times*
Thomas W. Newton, CNPA Executive Director
James W. Ewert, CNPA General Counsel