

# CENTRAL COAST TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

August 18, 2020

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Richard C. Miadich, Chairman  
Commissioners Frank Cardenas, Brian Hatch, Allison Hayward  
& E. Dotson Wilson  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
1102 Q Street, Ste. 3000  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: Approval of Los Angeles County Matter, FPPC Case 2017-00150

Dear Chairman Miadich and Commissioners,

The Central Coast Taxpayers Association joins the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association urging your approval of the proposed settlement of Agenda Item # 13, the lawsuit *Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, et. al. v. Los Angeles County*.

First, we want to thank the Commission and its Enforcement Division for your recent efforts enforcing the Act against cities, counties, school districts, special districts and other public agencies that have abused the public trust and misused taxpayer funds on unlawful campaign activities promoting ballot measures.

Your approval of this *record* settlement will send a stronger signal to the many abusers in this area and the cottage industry of campaign consultants that have encouraged and abetted these illegal activities. We believe this settlement will serve as an important deterrent to other cities, counties, school districts, special districts and other public agencies that may be considering such illegal activity in connection with the upcoming election. For example, in San Luis Obispo County, the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLO-COG) has been a past offender, and at present six of seven local cities are conducting campaigns to raise sales and transit occupancy taxes at the November 3, 2020 general election. We hope to promote the deterrent effects of the *Los Angeles County* settlement agreement by sharing it with these governmental agencies.

We have supported your past legislative efforts (AB 1306, 2019-2020 Session) to obtain additional powers to enforce the law that prohibits such abusive campaign practices. We will continue to monitor and report to the Commission illegal taxpayer- funded campaign activities by cities, counties, school districts and other special districts. If necessary, we will institute complaints and litigation to enforce the Act.

Sincerely,



Andrea Seastrand  
President, Central Coast Taxpayers Association