

California Fair Political Practices Commission
MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Ravel, Commissioners Eskovitz, Garrett, Montgomery and Rotunda
From: John W. Wallace, Acting Executive Director
Re: Executive Director's Report
Date: February 27, 2012

GENERAL MATTERS

Access to Email Advice: With the introduction of the new website on March 1, 2012 (see the Administration Division's report), we have also taken the opportunity to expand the options available to the public to request email advice. Prior to the expansion, a single advice mailbox existed on the website, monitored by the Lynda Cassady and her Technical Assistance Division.

We have now added several more mailboxes for the public.

1. First, we have added a "conflict of interest" mailbox where officials can request advice from an attorney. The advice will still be considered informal assistance, but will be responded to by an attorney in Legal Division.
2. Second, the website now offers a feedback mailbox. This will be available for suggestions, compliments and complaints and I will be reviewing these emails personally.

Finally, we have added more specific document request mailboxes. In addition to the existing California Public Records Act mailbox, we now have a mailbox specifically available for requesting copies of Form 700s that are filed with the Commission. Requests for these forms, is frequent.

FINDINGS OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Pursuant to Regulation 18361, I have found sufficient evidence in the following cases to lead a person of ordinary caution and prudence to believe or entertain a strong suspicion that the following respondents committed or caused a violation of the Political Reform Act.

This finding of probable cause does not constitute a finding that a violation has actually occurred. The respondents are presumed to be innocent of any violation of the Act unless a violation is proved in a subsequent proceeding.

The following cases were determined based on the papers submitted since in each case the respondent did not request a probable cause conference.

In the Matter of Doreen Cease
FPPC No. 10/910

COUNT 1: As a California Mental Health Planning Council member, Respondent Doreen Cease failed to file a 2009 annual statement of economic interests, by the April 1, 2010, due date, in violation of Section 87300 of the Government Code.

COUNT 2: As a California Mental Health Planning Council member, Respondent Doreen Cease failed to file a combined 2010 annual and leaving office statement of economic interests, within 30 days of leaving office, in violation of Section 87300 of the Government Code.

**In the Matter of Gabriel Gonzalez,
Friends of Gabriel Gonzalez, Claudia Solano, Eddy Olivares
FPPC No. 10/746**

COUNT 1: Respondents Gabriel Gonzalez, Friends of Gabriel Gonzalez, and Claudia G. Solano failed to file a Semi-Annual Statement (Form 460) for the January 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009, reporting period by the July 31, 2009, due date in violation of Government Code Section 84200, subdivision (a).

COUNT 2: Respondents Gabriel Gonzalez, Friends of Gabriel Gonzalez, and Claudia G. Solano failed to file a Semi-Annual Statement (Form 460) for the July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009, reporting period by the February 1, 2010, due date in violation of Government Code Section 84200, subdivision (a).

COUNT 3: Respondents Gabriel Gonzalez, Friends of Gabriel Gonzalez, and Claudia G. Solano failed to file a Semi-Annual Statement (Form 460) for the January 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010, reporting period by the August 2, 2010, due date in violation of Government Code Section 84200, subdivision (a).

COUNT 4: Respondents Gabriel Gonzalez, Friends of Gabriel Gonzalez, and Eddy Olivares failed to file a Pre-Election Statement (Form 460) for the October 1, 2010 through October 16, 2010, reporting period by the October 21, 2010, due date in violation of Government Code Sections 84200.5, subdivision (b), and 84200.7, subdivision (b)(1).

COUNT 5: Respondents Gabriel Gonzalez, Friends of Gabriel Gonzalez, and Eddy Olivares failed to file a Semi-Annual Statement (Form 460) for the October 17, 2010 through December 31, 2010, reporting period by the January 31, 2011, due date in violation of Government Code Section 84200, subdivision (a).

**In the Matter of Luis Artiga
FPPC No. 11/113**

COUNT 1: On or about May 24, 2010, as a City Councilmember for the City of Bell, Respondent accepted a gift of travel valued at approximately \$737.12, which exceeded the applicable \$420 gift limit, from Robert Rizzo, then Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Bell, in violation of Government Code Section 89503, subdivision (a).

COUNT 2: On or about July 22, 2010, as a City Council member for the City of Bell, Respondent made a governmental decision concerning the employment status of then Chief Administrative Officer Robert Rizzo, who was the source of a gift of travel which equaled or exceeded the annual gift limit applicable to Respondent, in which he knew or should have known was in violation of Government Code Section 87100.