

1 Amend 2 Cal. Code Regs., Section 18361.4 to read:

2 **§18361.4. Probable Cause Proceedings.**

3 (a) Probable Cause. Under Sections 83115.5 and 83116, probable cause exists when the
4 evidence sufficiently supports a reasonable belief or strong suspicion that the Act has been
5 violated.

6 (ba) Probable Cause Report. If the Chief of the Enforcement Division decides to
7 commence probable cause proceedings pursuant to Sections 83115.5 and 83116, he or she the
8 Chief of Enforcement shall direct the Enforcement Division staff to prepare a written report,
9 hereafter referred to as “the probable cause report.” The probable cause report that shall contains
10 a written summary of the law and evidence that supports a finding of probable cause that each
11 alleged violation of the Act has occurred. gathered in connection with the investigation,
12 including any exculpatory and mitigating information of which the staff has knowledge and any
13 other relevant material and arguments. The probable cause report may include hearsay evidence.
14 The evidence recited in the probable cause report may include hearsay, including declarations of
15 investigators or others relating the statements of witnesses or concerning the examination of
16 physical evidence.

17 (cb) No probable cause hearing will take place until at least 21 calendar days after the
18 Enforcement Division staff provides the following, by service of process or registered or
19 certified mail with return receipt requested, to all proposed each respondents:

20 (1) A copy of the probable cause report;

21 (2) Notification that ~~the proposed each~~ respondents have the right to respond in writing
22 to the probable cause report and to request a probable cause conference at which the ~~proposed~~

1 respondent may be present in person and represented by counsel, notification of all deadlines to
2 file a written response, and request a probable cause conference ~~and;~~

3 (3) If the Commission met in executive session on this matter pursuant to Regulation
4 18361.2, a copy of any staff memoranda submitted to the Commission at that time along with the
5 recording of any discussion between the Commission and the staff at the executive session as
6 required in subdivision (b) of Regulation 18361.2.; and

7 (4) A probable cause checklist form which includes information regarding a respondent's
8 options for a probable cause conference, written response, and evidence, as well as the
9 respondent(s) best contact information, available dates, and preferred method of service.

10 (de) Response to Probable Cause Report; Request for Probable Cause Conference;
11 Waiver.

12 (1) Not later than 21 days following service of the probable cause report, a respondent
13 may submit a written response to the probable cause report. The response may should contain a
14 summary of law and evidence that supports a finding that the probable cause report fails to
15 establish probable cause that any or all of the alleged violations of the Act occurred. evidence,
16 legal arguments, and any mitigating or exculpatory information. Any proposed respondent who
17 submits a response must shall be filed it with the Commission Assistant by electronic mail at
18 CommAsst@fppc.ca.gov or U.S. mail, who will forward the response to the General Counsel or
19 an attorney in the Legal Division (the "hearing officer") and send provide a copy, by service of
20 process or registered or certified mail with return receipt requested, to all other proposed
21 respondents parties listed named in the probable cause report within 2 business days. not later
22 than 21 days following service of the probable cause report.

1 (2) Not later than 21 days following service of the probable cause report. ~~Within 21~~
2 ~~calendar days following the service of the probable cause report,~~ a any proposed respondent may
3 request a probable cause conference which shall be filed with the Commission Assistant by
4 electronic mail at CommAsst@fppc.ca.gov or U.S. mail, who will provide a copy to all other
5 parties named in the probable cause report and forward the request to the hearing officer
6 assigned to the matter from the Legal Division within two business days. The Commission
7 Assistant shall schedule the probable cause conference and if the probable cause checklist has
8 not been returned, make efforts to obtain the information from the respondent(s). The conference
9 shall proceed no later than 75 days after receipt by the Commission Assistant of the filed request
10 for a probable cause conference unless the assigned hearing officer extends the time for good
11 cause based on an extension request filed by any party with the Commission Assistant. The
12 hearing officer shall conduct the conference informally. ~~discovery of evidence in the possession~~
13 ~~of the Enforcement Division. This request must be sent by registered or certified mail to the~~
14 ~~Commission Assistant. Upon receipt of the request, the Enforcement Division shall provide~~
15 ~~discovery of evidence relied upon by the Enforcement Division sufficient to lead a person of~~
16 ~~ordinary caution and prudence to believe or entertain a strong suspicion that a proposed~~
17 ~~respondent committed or caused a violation, along with any exculpatory or mitigating evidence.~~
18 ~~This is not a right to full discovery of the Enforcement Division file. The Enforcement Division~~
19 ~~shall provide access to documents for copying by the Respondent, or upon agreement among the~~
20 ~~parties, the Enforcement Division will provide copies of the requested documents upon payment~~
21 ~~of a fee for direct costs of duplication. The Enforcement Division shall provide such evidence by~~
22 ~~service of process or registered or certified mail with return receipt requested to all respondents,~~
23 ~~with a copy to the Commission Assistant. A respondent may submit a written response to the~~

1 ~~probable cause report described in subsection (1) no later than 21 calendar days after service of~~
2 ~~discovery.~~

3 (3) Within 21 calendar days following the service of the probable cause report, a
4 respondent may request by electronic mail at CommAsst@fppc.ca.gov or U.S. mail a copy of
5 evidence in the possession of the Enforcement Division that supports a finding of probable cause
6 for each alleged violation of the Act. This is not a right to all evidence in the Enforcement
7 Division file. The Enforcement Division will provide copies of the requested documents upon
8 payment of a fee for direct costs of duplication or provide electronically without cost. The
9 Enforcement Division shall provide such evidence by electronic mail or U.S. mail to all
10 respondents, with a copy to the Commission Assistant. A respondent may submit a written
11 response to the probable cause report described in subsection (1) no later than 21 calendar days
12 after the evidence is sent. The Enforcement Division is not required to produce any confidential
13 or otherwise protected information. The evidence produced by the Enforcement Division
14 pursuant to this subdivision shall be considered the final production at the Probable Cause level
15 and is not appealable.

16 ~~(3) The Commission staff may submit any evidence or argument in rebuttal to the~~
17 ~~response. When the Commission staff submits evidence or argument in rebuttal to the response,~~
18 ~~it shall provide a copy, by service of process or registered or certified mail with return receipt~~
19 ~~requested, to all proposed respondents listed in the probable cause report not later than 10~~
20 ~~calendar days following the date the response was filed with the Commission Assistant. The~~
21 ~~hearing officer may extend the time limitations in this section for good cause. At any time prior~~
22 ~~to a determination of probable cause, the hearing officer may allow additional material to be~~
23 ~~submitted as part of the initial response or rebuttal.~~

1 (4) If a respondent fails to file a timely response, make a timely request for a probable
2 cause conference, or if the probable cause conference does not timely proceed absent a finding of
3 good cause, as required under subdivisions (d)(1) or (d)(2), the respondent waives the right to
4 further probable cause proceedings under Section 83115.5, and the Enforcement Division may
5 transmit copies of the Probable Cause Report, Request for a Finding of Probable Cause, and
6 Order that an Accusation be Prepared to the Commission Assistant requesting that a hearing
7 officer from the Legal Division find probable cause based on the information provided. Upon a
8 finding of probable cause, the hearing officer will issue an Order Finding Probable Cause and
9 serve it on all parties.

10 (e) Rebuttal. Not later than 14 calendar days following the date the response was filed
11 with the Commission Assistant, Enforcement Division staff may submit any evidence or
12 argument in rebuttal to the response which shall be filed with the Commission Assistant by
13 electronic mail at CommAsst@fppc.ca.gov who will provide a copy to all parties. These are the
14 only briefings to be considered by the hearing officer when making the determination of
15 probable cause.

16 ~~(f) Probable Cause Conference. Any proposed respondent may request a probable cause~~
17 ~~conference. The request shall be served upon the Commission Assistant and all other proposed~~
18 ~~respondents not later than 21 days after service of the probable cause report unless the hearing~~
19 ~~officer extends the time for good cause. The Commission Assistant shall fix a time for the~~
20 ~~probable cause conference and the hearing officer shall conduct the conference informally. The~~
21 ~~conference shall be closed to the public unless a proposed respondent requests, and all other~~
22 ~~proposed respondents agree, to a public conference. If the conference is not public, then only~~
23 ~~members of the Commission staff, any proposed respondent and his or her legal counsel or~~

1 ~~representative~~ the parties named in the probable cause report, their legal counsel or
2 representative and Enforcement Division staff shall have the right to be present and participate.
3 Any party may send a request to the Commission Assistant at least 7 days before the probable
4 cause conference that ~~the hearing officer may allow witnesses to attend and participate in part~~
5 ~~or all of the probable cause conference. The request shall be sent to all parties. The hearing~~
6 officer. ~~In making this determination, the hearing officer shall consider the relevancy of the~~
7 witness' proposed testimony, whether the witness has a substantial interest in the proceedings,
8 and whether fairness requires that the witness be allowed to participate. Representatives of any
9 civil or criminal prosecutor with jurisdiction may attend the conference at the discretion of the
10 hearing officer if they agree to respect the confidential nature of the proceedings. If the
11 conference is not open to the public ~~and none of the parties and the presiding officer object, then~~
12 the conference may be conducted in whole or in part by telephone. The Enforcement Division
13 shall record the probable cause conference ~~shall be recorded~~. The hearing officer may determine
14 whether there is probable cause based solely on the probable cause report, any responses or
15 rebuttals, ~~filed~~ evidence submitted, and any arguments presented at the probable cause
16 conference by the interested parties. ~~If the hearing officer requires additional information before~~
17 ~~determining whether there is probable cause, he or she may~~ The hearing officer may, based on a
18 showing of good cause, permit any party to submit additional evidence at or after the probable
19 cause conference.

20 (g) Finding of Probable Cause. ~~The hearing officer may find there is probable cause to~~
21 ~~believe a violation has occurred if the evidence is sufficient to lead a person of ordinary caution~~
22 ~~and prudence to believe or entertain a strong suspicion that a proposed respondent committed or~~
23 ~~caused a violation.~~ A finding of probable cause by the hearing officer does not constitute a

1 finding that a violation ~~has actually~~ occurred. The hearing officer shall not make a finding of
2 probable cause if ~~he or she is~~ presented with clear and convincing evidence that, at least 21
3 working days prior to the alleged violation, the respondent requested written advice from the
4 Commission staff pursuant to Section 83114(b), a time prior to the alleged violation, the violator
5 ~~consulted with the staff of the Commission in good faith~~, disclosed truthfully all the material
6 facts, and committed the acts complained of ~~either~~ in reliance on formal ~~the~~ advice of ~~the~~
7 Commission staff or because of ~~the~~ Commission staff's failure to provide advice. If the hearing
8 officer makes a finding of probable cause, then the Enforcement Division shall prepare an
9 Accusation pursuant to Section 11503 and have it served upon the person or persons who are
10 subjects of the probable cause finding. The hearing officer shall publicly announce the finding of
11 probable cause. The announcement shall contain a summary of the allegations and a cautionary
12 statement that the respondent is presumed to be innocent of any violation of the Act unless a
13 violation is proved in a subsequent proceeding. The Chief of the Enforcement Division shall be
14 responsible for the presentation of the case in support of the Accusation at an administrative
15 hearing held pursuant to Section 83116.

16 Note: Authority cited: Section 83112, Government Code. Reference: Sections 83115,
17 83115.5 and 83116, Government Code.