

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission

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September 2, 2021 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Update of LAFCO's Conflict of Interest Code

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution that adopts amendments to the Conflict of Interest Code of the Local Agency Formation Commission.

DISCUSSION

The Political Reform Act, Government Code section 81000 et seq., require state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate conflict of interest codes. Santa Barbara LAFCO's existing code was adopted in 1994. Despite this passage of time, the LAFCO Code has been adequate as there have been no LAFCO administrative or other changes since that time that required an update to the Code.

The current LAFCO Code adopts by reference Title 2, California Code of Regulation section 18730, which is the Fair Political Practices Commission adopted terms for a standard conflict of interest code. Section 18730(a) provides that its terms together with the designation of employees and formulation of disclosure categories may constitute a local agency's conflict of interest code. LAFCO's Code also provides that any amendments to Section 18730 "duly adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission are hereby incorporated by reference . . ." This type of incorporation by reference is a standard practice of California local agencies in adopting a Conflict of Interest Code.

The following amendments are proposed for the LAFCO Code.

- Add a new "disclosure category" for "Consultants/New Positions" is recommended. This amendment includes authority of the Executive Officer to

Commissioners: Roger Aceves ♦ Cynthia Allen ♦ Jay Freeman ♦ Craig Geyer ♦ Joan Hartmann ♦ Steve Lavagnino
Holly Sierra ♦ Shane Stark ♦ Etta Waterfield, Chair ♦ Roger Welt, Vice-Chair ♦ Das Williams **Executive Officer:** Mike Prater

BUSINESS ITEM No. 1

determine in writing that a particular consultant or new position is hired to perform a range of duties that is limited in scope and thus is not required to fully comply with the disclosure requirements of the Code. The Executive Officer's determination is a public record and shall be retained for public inspection in the same manner and location as other filings under the conflict of interest code.

- Delete unnecessary reference to "fair market value" re interests in real property, as this is covered by 2 CCR sec. 18730(9)(B), which is part of LAFCO's Code.
- Add an acknowledgement to the Code that Board of Supervisor's members and council persons file disclosure statements pursuant to Gov. Code section 87200 rather than a local code. The LAFCO Code, however, still lists such positions for informational purposes.
- There are also minor corrections for typographical errors in the Code.

The proposed action is not a "project" under California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines §15378(b)(5) in that it is an organizational or administrative activity of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment

After approval by the Commission, the LAFCO Amended Code will be sent the the Board of Supervisors, which is the code reviewing body for local agencies in Santa Barbara County.

Attachments

Attachment A – Resolution Approving Amendments to the LAFCO Conflict of Interest Code, Section 8 of the Commissioner Handbook

Exhibit A – Conflict of Interest Code with amendments

Attachment B – Title 2 CCR Section 18730.

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mike Prater
Executive Officer



William Dillon
Legal Counsel

RESOLUTION OF THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Resolution of the Local Agency Formation)
Commission Approving Amendments to the)
LAFCO Conflict of Interest Code, Section 8)
of the Commissioner Handbook)
_____)

Resolution No. 21-11

WHEREAS, the Political Reform Act, Government Code section 81000 et seq., requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate conflict of interest codes.

WHEREAS, the Fair Political Practices Commission has adopted Title 2, California Code of Regulation section 18730, which contains the terms of a standard conflict of interest code, which may be incorporated by reference by a state or local government agency, and which may be amended by the Fair Political Practices Commission from time to time to conform to amendments to the Political Reform Act. And, further, a state or local agency may resolve that such amendments shall automatically be amendments to the state or local conflict of interest code.

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted a Conflict of Interest Code to meet the requirements of state law.

WHEREAS, there is need to update LAFCO's Conflict of Interest Code to reflect LAFCO administrative changes and make technical corrections to the Code to be consistent with state law and regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that:

1. The Conflict of Interest Code, as set forth in Attachment A, as amended, is hereby adopted as the Conflict of Interest Code of LAFCO.
2. Section 18730 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, which has previously been adopted by the Commission as part of the Conflict of Interest Code, as set forth in Attachment B, shall continue to include any future amendments duly adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission.

3. The proposed action is not a "project" under California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines §15378(b)(5) in that it is an organizational or administrative activity of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment

This Resolution was adopted on the 2nd day of September, 2021, in Santa Barbara County, California, and is effective when signed by the Chair.

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

Etta Waterfield, Chair

Date: September ____, 2021

ATTEST:

Jacquelyne Alexander,
Clerk of the Commission

Resolution Exhibit A: Conflict of Interest Code With Amendments

CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

- A. The Political Reform Act, Government Code Sections 81,000 et seq., requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate Conflict of Interest Codes.
- B. The Fair Political Practices Commission has adopted a regulation, 2 California Code of Regulations Section 18730, which contains the terms of a standard Conflict of Interest Code, which can be incorporated by reference, and which may be amended by the Fair Political Practices to conform to amendments to the Political Reform Act after public notice and hearing.
- C. The provisions Section 18730, and any amendments to it duly adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission, are hereby incorporated by reference, and along with the attached Appendix “A” in which officials and employees are designated and Appendix B which sets forth disclosure categories, constitute the Conflict of Interest Code of the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission.
- D. Pursuant to Section 4 of the standard Code, designated officers and employees shall file statements of economic interest with the Executive Officer. Upon receipt of the statements filed, a copy shall be retained and the original shall be forwarded to the Elections Division of the Santa Barbara County Clerk-Recorder.

Adopted April 7, 1994
Amended (Proposed) September 2, 2021

Persons occupying the following positions are designated employees and must disclose financial interests in those categories described in Appendix B which are listed opposite their respective designated positions.

<u>Designated Positions</u>	<u>Disclosure Categories</u>
Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners ¹	1, 2, 3, 4
Executive Officer	1, 2, 3, 4
Legal Counsel	1, 2, 3, 4
<u>Consultants/New Positions</u>	1, 2, 3, 4

1. Pursuant to Government Code section 87200, members of the board of supervisors and members of city councils of cities file statements of disclosure pursuant to the state code. These positions are listed here for informational purposes.

2. The disclosure by consultants and new positions is subject to the following limitation: The LAFCO Executive Officer may determine in writing that a particular consultant or new position is hired to perform a range of duties that is limited in scope and thus is not required to fully comply with the disclosure requirements in this section. Such written determination shall include a description of the duties and, based upon that description, a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements. The Executive Officer's determination is a public record and shall be retained for public inspection in the same manner and location as this conflict of interest code.

CATEGORIES OF DISCLOSURE

Officers and employees shall report investments, interest in real property, income, and any business entity in which the person is an owner, director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or holds any position of management which materially by any decision made or participated in by an officer or employee by virtue of his or her position with the Commission.

Category 1.

Interests in real property which is located in whole or in part within the jurisdiction of Santa Barbara County, including any leasehold, beneficial or ownership interest or option to acquire such interest in real property, ~~if the fair market value of the interest is \$1,000 or more.~~

Category 2.

Business positions or investments in or income from persons or business entities engaged in appraisal, acquisition, or disposal of real property within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Category 3.

Business ~~positions~~ positions or investments in business entities and income from any source or sources of income if the business entities or the source of sources of income are of the type which, within the previous two years, have provided or contracted to provide, or in the future with reasonable foreseeability, might provide or contract to provide services, supplies, materials, machinery or equipment to or for the use of the Commission.

Category 4.

Business positions or investments in business entities and income from any source or sources of income, if the business entities or source or sources of income are of the type which are subject to the regulation or supervision of the Commission ~~and~~ and the designated officer or employee's duties involve the supervision or regulation (including, but not limited to, the issuance or granting or franchise, building permits or other use or business permits or any other land use control or regulation) of that type of business entity or source of income.

Attachment B

Fair Political Practices Commission Code 18730

Also by using the following link:

<http://www.fppc.ca.gov/content/dam/fppc/NS-Documents/LegalDiv/Regulations/Index/Chapter7/Article2/18730.pdf>

2 C.C.R 18730.

§ 18730. Provisions of Conflict of Interest Codes

(a) Incorporation by reference of the terms of this regulation along with the designation of employees and the formulation of disclosure categories in the Appendix referred to below constitute the adoption and promulgation of a conflict of interest code within the meaning of Section 87300 or the amendment of a conflict of interest code within the meaning of Section 87306 if the terms of this regulation are substituted for terms of a conflict of interest code already in effect. A code so amended or adopted and promulgated requires the reporting of reportable items in a manner substantially equivalent to the requirements of article 2 of chapter 7 of the Political Reform Act, Sections 81000, et seq. The requirements of a conflict of interest code are in addition to other requirements of the Political Reform Act, such as the general prohibition against conflicts of interest contained in Section 87100, and to other state or local laws pertaining to conflicts of interest.

(b) The terms of a conflict of interest code amended or adopted and promulgated pursuant to this regulation are as follows:

(1) Section 1. Definitions.

The definitions contained in the Political Reform Act of 1974, regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission (Regulations 18110, et seq.), and any amendments to the Act or regulations, are incorporated by reference into this conflict of interest code.

(2) Section 2. Designated Employees.

The persons holding positions listed in the Appendix are designated employees. It has been determined that these persons make or participate in the making of decisions which may foreseeably have a material effect on economic interests.

(3) Section 3. Disclosure Categories.

This code does not establish any disclosure obligation for those designated employees who are also specified in Section 87200 if they are designated in this code in that same capacity or if the geographical jurisdiction of this agency is the same as or is wholly included within the jurisdiction in which those persons must report their economic interests pursuant to article 2 of chapter 7 of the Political Reform Act, Sections 87200, et seq.

In addition, this code does not establish any disclosure obligation for any designated employees who are designated in a conflict of interest code for another agency, if all of the following apply:

(A) The geographical jurisdiction of this agency is the same as or is wholly included within the jurisdiction of the other agency;

(B) The disclosure assigned in the code of the other agency is the same as that required under article 2 of chapter 7 of the Political Reform Act, Section 87200; and

(C) The filing officer is the same for both agencies.¹

Such persons are covered by this code for disqualification purposes only. With respect to all other designated employees, the disclosure categories set forth in the Appendix specify which kinds of economic interests are reportable. Such a designated employee shall disclose in the employee's statement of economic interests those economic interests

the employee has which are of the kind described in the disclosure categories to which the employee is assigned in the Appendix. It has been determined that the economic interests set forth in a designated employee's disclosure categories are the kinds of economic interests which the employee foreseeably can affect materially through the conduct of the employee's office.

(4) Section 4. Statements of Economic Interests: Place of Filing.

The code reviewing body shall instruct all designated employees within its code to file statements of economic interests with the agency or with the code reviewing body, as provided by the code reviewing body in the agency's conflict of interest code.²

(5) Section 5. Statements of Economic Interests: Time of Filing.

(A) Initial Statements. All designated employees employed by the agency on the effective date of this code, as originally adopted, promulgated and approved by the code reviewing body, shall file statements within 30 days after the effective date of this code. Thereafter, each person already in a position when it is designated by an amendment to this code shall file an initial statement within 30 days after the effective date of the amendment.

(B) Assuming Office Statements. All persons assuming designated positions after the effective date of this code shall file statements within 30 days after assuming the designated positions, or if subject to State Senate confirmation, 30 days after being nominated or appointed.

(C) Annual Statements. All designated employees shall file statements no later than April 1. If a person reports for military service as defined in the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act, the deadline for the annual statement of economic interests is 30 days following the person's return to office, provided the person, or someone authorized to represent the person's interests, notifies the filing officer in writing prior to the applicable filing deadline that the person is subject to that federal statute and is unable to meet the applicable deadline, and provides the filing officer verification of the person's military status.

(D) Leaving Office Statements. All persons who leave designated positions shall file statements within 30 days after leaving office.

(5.5) Section 5.5. Statements for Persons Who Resign Prior to Assuming Office.

Any person who resigns within 12 months of initial appointment, or within 30 days of the date of notice provided by the filing officer to file an assuming office statement, is not deemed to have assumed office or left office, provided the person did not make or participate in the making of, or use the person's position to influence any decision and did not receive or become entitled to receive any form of payment as a result of the person's appointment. Such persons shall not file either an assuming or leaving office statement.

(A) Any person who resigns a position within 30 days of the date of a notice from the filing officer shall do both of the following:

(1) File a written resignation with the appointing power; and

(2) File a written statement with the filing officer declaring under penalty of perjury that during the period between appointment and resignation the person did not make, participate in the making, or use the position to influence any decision of the

agency or receive, or become entitled to receive, any form of payment by virtue of being appointed to the position.

(6) Section 6. Contents of and Period Covered by Statements of Economic Interests.

(A) Contents of Initial Statements.

Initial statements shall disclose any reportable investments, interests in real property and business positions held on the effective date of the code and income received during the 12 months prior to the effective date of the code.

(B) Contents of Assuming Office Statements.

Assuming office statements shall disclose any reportable investments, interests in real property and business positions held on the date of assuming office or, if subject to State Senate confirmation or appointment, on the date of nomination, and income received during the 12 months prior to the date of assuming office or the date of being appointed or nominated, respectively.

(C) Contents of Annual Statements.

Annual statements shall disclose any reportable investments, interests in real property, income and business positions held or received during the previous calendar year provided, however, that the period covered by an employee's first annual statement shall begin on the effective date of the code or the date of assuming office whichever is later, or for a board or commission member subject to Section 87302.6, the day after the closing date of the most recent statement filed by the member pursuant to Regulation 18754.

(D) Contents of Leaving Office Statements.

Leaving office statements shall disclose reportable investments, interests in real property, income and business positions held or received during the period between the closing date of the last statement filed and the date of leaving office.

(7) Section 7. Manner of Reporting.

Statements of economic interests shall be made on forms prescribed by the Fair Political Practices Commission and supplied by the agency, and shall contain the following information:

(A) Investment and Real Property Disclosure.

When an investment or an interest in real property³ is required to be reported,⁴ the statement shall contain the following:

1. A statement of the nature of the investment or interest;
2. The name of the business entity in which each investment is held, and a general description of the business activity in which the business entity is engaged;
3. The address or other precise location of the real property;
4. A statement whether the fair market value of the investment or interest in real property equals or exceeds \$ 2,000, exceeds \$ 10,000, exceeds \$ 100,000, or exceeds \$ 1,000,000.

(B) Personal Income Disclosure. When personal income is required to be reported,⁵ the statement shall contain:

1. The name and address of each source of income aggregating \$ 500 or more in value, or \$ 50 or more in value if the income was a gift, and a general description of the business activity, if any, of each source;

2. A statement whether the aggregate value of income from each source, or in the case of a loan, the highest amount owed to each source, was \$ 1,000 or less, greater than \$ 1,000, greater than \$ 10,000, or greater than \$ 100,000;
3. A description of the consideration, if any, for which the income was received;
4. In the case of a gift, the name, address and business activity of the donor and any intermediary through which the gift was made; a description of the gift; the amount or value of the gift; and the date on which the gift was received;
5. In the case of a loan, the annual interest rate and the security, if any, given for the loan and the term of the loan.

(C) Business Entity Income Disclosure. When income of a business entity, including income of a sole proprietorship, is required to be reported,⁶ the statement shall contain:

1. The name, address, and a general description of the business activity of the business entity;
2. The name of every person from whom the business entity received payments if the filer's pro rata share of gross receipts from such person was equal to or greater than \$ 10,000.

(D) Business Position Disclosure. When business positions are required to be reported, a designated employee shall list the name and address of each business entity in which the employee is a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or in which the employee holds any position of management, a description of the business activity in which the business entity is engaged, and the designated employee's position with the business entity.

(E) Acquisition or Disposal During Reporting Period. In the case of an annual or leaving office statement, if an investment or an interest in real property was partially or wholly acquired or disposed of during the period covered by the statement, the statement shall contain the date of acquisition or disposal.

(8) Section 8. Prohibition on Receipt of Honoraria.

(A) No member of a state board or commission, and no designated employee of a state or local government agency, shall accept any honorarium from any source, if the member or employee would be required to report the receipt of income or gifts from that source on the member's or employee's statement of economic interests.

(B) This section shall not apply to any part-time member of the governing board of any public institution of higher education, unless the member is also an elected official.

(C) Subdivisions (a), (b), and (c) of Section 89501 shall apply to the prohibitions in this section.

(D) This section shall not limit or prohibit payments, advances, or reimbursements for travel and related lodging and subsistence authorized by Section 89506.

(8.1) Section 8.1. Prohibition on Receipt of Gifts in Excess of \$ 520.

(A) No member of a state board or commission, and no designated employee of a state or local government agency, shall accept gifts with a total value of more than \$ 520 in a calendar year from any single source, if the member or employee would be required to report the receipt of income or gifts from that source on the member's or employee's statement of economic interests.

(B) This section shall not apply to any part-time member of the governing board of any public institution of higher education, unless the member is also an elected official.

(C) Subdivisions (e), (f), and (g) of Section 89503 shall apply to the prohibitions in this section.

(8.2) Section 8.2. Loans to Public Officials.

(A) No elected officer of a state or local government agency shall, from the date of the election to office through the date that the officer vacates office, receive a personal loan from any officer, employee, member, or consultant of the state or local government agency in which the elected officer holds office or over which the elected officer's agency has direction and control.

(B) No public official who is exempt from the state civil service system pursuant to subdivisions (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) of Section 4 of Article VII of the Constitution shall, while he or she holds office, receive a personal loan from any officer, employee, member, or consultant of the state or local government agency in which the public official holds office or over which the public official's agency has direction and control. This subdivision shall not apply to loans made to a public official whose duties are solely secretarial, clerical, or manual.

(C) No elected officer of a state or local government agency shall, from the date of the election to office through the date that the officer vacates office, receive a personal loan from any person who has a contract with the state or local government agency to which that elected officer has been elected or over which that elected officer's agency has direction and control. This subdivision shall not apply to loans made by banks or other financial institutions or to any indebtedness created as part of a retail installment or credit card transaction, if the loan is made or the indebtedness created in the lender's regular course of business on terms available to members of the public without regard to the elected officer's official status.

(D) No public official who is exempt from the state civil service system pursuant to subdivisions (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) of Section 4 of Article VII of the Constitution shall, while the official holds office, receive a personal loan from any person who has a contract with the state or local government agency to which that elected officer has been elected or over which that elected officer's agency has direction and control. This subdivision shall not apply to loans made by banks or other financial institutions or to any indebtedness created as part of a retail installment or credit card transaction, if the loan is made or the indebtedness created in the lender's regular course of business on terms available to members of the public without regard to the elected officer's official status. This subdivision shall not apply to loans made to a public official whose duties are solely secretarial, clerical, or manual.

(E) This section shall not apply to the following:

1. Loans made to the campaign committee of an elected officer or candidate for elective office.
2. Loans made by a public official's spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, parent-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, nephew, niece, aunt, uncle, or first cousin, or the spouse of any such persons, provided that the person making the loan is not acting as an agent or intermediary for any person not otherwise exempted under this section.
3. Loans from a person which, in the aggregate, do not exceed \$ 500 at any given time.

4. Loans made, or offered in writing, before January 1, 1998.

(8.3) Section 8.3. Loan Terms.

(A) Except as set forth in subdivision (B), no elected officer of a state or local government agency shall, from the date of the officer's election to office through the date the officer vacates office, receive a personal loan of \$ 500 or more, except when the loan is in writing and clearly states the terms of the loan, including the parties to the loan agreement, date of the loan, amount of the loan, term of the loan, date or dates when payments shall be due on the loan and the amount of the payments, and the rate of interest paid on the loan.

(B) This section shall not apply to the following types of loans:

1. Loans made to the campaign committee of the elected officer.
2. Loans made to the elected officer by his or her spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, parent-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, nephew, niece, aunt, uncle, or first cousin, or the spouse of any such person, provided that the person making the loan is not acting as an agent or intermediary for any person not otherwise exempted under this section.
3. Loans made, or offered in writing, before January 1, 1998.

(C) Nothing in this section shall exempt any person from any other provision of Title [9 of the Government Code](#).

(8.4) Section 8.4. Personal Loans.

(A) Except as set forth in subdivision (B), a personal loan received by any designated employee shall become a gift to the designated employee for the purposes of this section in the following circumstances:

1. If the loan has a defined date or dates for repayment, when the statute of limitations for filing an action for default has expired.
2. If the loan has no defined date or dates for repayment, when one year has elapsed from the later of the following:
 - a. The date the loan was made.
 - b. The date the last payment of \$ 100 or more was made on the loan.
 - c. The date upon which the debtor has made payments on the loan aggregating to less than \$ 250 during the previous 12 months.

(B) This section shall not apply to the following types of loans:

1. A loan made to the campaign committee of an elected officer or a candidate for elective office.
2. A loan that would otherwise not be a gift as defined in this title.
3. A loan that would otherwise be a gift as set forth under subdivision (A), but on which the creditor has taken reasonable action to collect the balance due.
4. A loan that would otherwise be a gift as set forth under subdivision (A), but on which the creditor, based on reasonable business considerations, has not undertaken collection action. Except in a criminal action, a creditor who claims that a loan is not a gift on the basis of this paragraph has the burden of proving that the decision for not taking collection action was based on reasonable business considerations.

5. A loan made to a debtor who has filed for bankruptcy and the loan is ultimately discharged in bankruptcy.

(C) Nothing in this section shall exempt any person from any other provisions of [Title 9 of the Government Code](#).

(9) Section 9. Disqualification.

No designated employee shall make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use the employee's official position to influence the making of any governmental decision which the employee knows or has reason to know will have a reasonably foreseeable material financial effect, distinguishable from its effect on the public generally, on the official or a member of the official's immediate family or on:

(A) Any business entity in which the designated employee has a direct or indirect investment worth \$ 2,000 or more;

(B) Any real property in which the designated employee has a direct or indirect interest worth \$ 2,000 or more;

(C) Any source of income, other than gifts and other than loans by a commercial lending institution in the regular course of business on terms available to the public without regard to official status, aggregating \$ 500 or more in value provided to, received by or promised to the designated employee within 12 months prior to the time when the decision is made;

(D) Any business entity in which the designated employee is a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or holds any position of management; or

(E) Any donor of, or any intermediary or agent for a donor of, a gift or gifts aggregating \$ 500 or more provided to, received by, or promised to the designated employee within 12 months prior to the time when the decision is made.

(9.3) Section 9.3. Legally Required Participation.

No designated employee shall be prevented from making or participating in the making of any decision to the extent the employee's participation is legally required for the decision to be made. The fact that the vote of a designated employee who is on a voting body is needed to break a tie does not make the employees' participation legally required for purposes of this section.

(9.5) Section 9.5. Disqualification of State Officers and Employees.

In addition to the general disqualification provisions of section 9, no state administrative official shall make, participate in making, or use the official's position to influence any governmental decision directly relating to any contract where the state administrative official knows or has reason to know that any party to the contract is a person with whom the state administrative official, or any member of the official's immediate family has, within 12 months prior to the time when the official action is to be taken:

(A) Engaged in a business transaction or transactions on terms not available to members of the public, regarding any investment or interest in real property; or

(B) Engaged in a business transaction or transactions on terms not available to members of the public regarding the rendering of goods or services totaling in value \$ 1,000 or more.

(10) Section 10. Disclosure of Disqualifying Interest.

When a designated employee determines that the employee should not make a governmental decision because the employee has a disqualifying interest in it, the determination not to act may be accompanied by disclosure of the disqualifying interest.

(11) Section 11. Assistance of the Commission and Counsel.

Any designated employee who is unsure of the duties under this code may request assistance from the Fair Political Practices Commission pursuant to Section 83114 and Regulations 18329 and 18329.5 or from the attorney for the employee's agency, provided that nothing in this section requires the attorney for the agency to issue any formal or informal opinion.

(12) Section 12. Violations.

This code has the force and effect of law. Designated employees violating any provision of this code are subject to the administrative, criminal and civil sanctions provided in the Political Reform Act, Sections 81000-91014. In addition, a decision in relation to which a violation of the disqualification provisions of this code or of Section 87100 or 87450 has occurred may be set aside as void pursuant to Section 91003.

1 Designated employees who are required to file statements of economic interests under any other agency's conflict of interest code, or under article 2 for a different jurisdiction, may expand their statement of economic interests to cover reportable interests in both jurisdictions, and file copies of this expanded statement with both entities in lieu of filing separate and distinct statements, provided that each copy of such expanded statement filed in place of an original is signed and verified by the designated employee as if it were an original. See Section 81004.

2 See Section 81010 and Regulation 18115 for the duties of filing officers and persons in agencies who make and retain copies of statements and forward the originals to the filing officer.

3 For the purpose of disclosure only (not disqualification), an interest in real property does not include the principal residence of the filer.

4 Investments and interests in real property which have a fair market value of less than \$ 2,000 are not investments and interests in real property within the meaning of the Political Reform Act. However, investments or interests in real property of an individual include those held by the individual's spouse and dependent children as well as a pro rata share of any investment or interest in real property of any business entity or trust in which the individual, spouse and dependent children own, in the aggregate, a direct, indirect or beneficial interest of 10 percent or greater.

5 A designated employee's income includes the employee's community property interest in the income of the employee's spouse but does not include salary or reimbursement for expenses received from a state, local or federal government agency.

6 Income of a business entity is reportable if the direct, indirect or beneficial interest of the filer and the filer's spouse in the business entity aggregates a 10 percent or greater interest. In addition, the disclosure of persons who are clients or customers of a business entity is required only if the clients or customers are within one of the disclosure categories of the filer.