



ETHICS COMMISSION

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

By Electronic Mail

Agenda Item 8 – Attachment 3

PAUL A. RENNE
CHAIRPERSON

February 14, 2017

PETER KEANE
VICE-CHAIRPERSON

The Honorable Jodi Remke, Chair
Fair Political Practices Commission

BEVERLY HAYON
COMMISSIONER

428 J Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814

DAINA CHIU
COMMISSIONER

RE: Support for the Political Reform Act Revision Project

QUENTIN L. KOPP
COMMISSIONER

Dear Chair Remke,

LEEANN PELHAM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you for leading the effort at the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to re-shape the Political Reform Act into a document that is more understandable and easier to follow. For local regulatory agencies like ours, for those we directly regulate, and for the public we serve, the FPPC's Political Reform Act Revision Project is an important opportunity to help demystify the State's comprehensive framework of political reform.

We understand that the Project was undertaken to update the Political Reform Act into "plain English" by minimizing the use of legal jargon and using simpler and more straightforward language to express its provisions. We've seen the FPPC working to incorporate key regulations into the text of the Act, reorganize the Act to place related provisions in the same chapter, and update the Act to reflect the status of existing, settled caselaw.

Achieving those aims would reduce unnecessary complexity and enhance understanding of the law among those who are regulated and those who do the regulating, lawyers and non-lawyers alike. We appreciate the significant challenge this effort presents, but we also see and support the very important benefits that can result from it.

With a deep and shared interest in delivering effective political reform in practice, the San Francisco Ethics Commission is hopeful that the PRA Revision Project will result in an updated and more effective tool for all of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "LeeAnn Pelham".

Executive Director
San Francisco Ethics Commission