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Re: 1999 Ethics Orientation Videotape

Dear Sir or Madam:

In 1999, the Office of the Attorney General and the Fair Political Practices Commission ("FPPC") collaborated in the making of a videotape that would satisfy the ethics orientation requirement imposed by Government Code section 11146 on each agency in state government. The original videotape produced in 1999 remains an available tool for training agency staff. Since the original videotape was produced, several provisions of law have been amended so as to place several portions of the videotape at variance with current law. Below is a summary of the provisions at issue.

Amendments To The Political Reform Act

- **Investments:** The videotape states that the threshold for disclosure and disqualification pertaining to investments is \$1,000 or more. Current law sets this threshold at \$2,000 or more.
- **Real Property:** The videotape states that the threshold for disclosure and disqualification pertaining to real property is \$1,000 or more. Current law sets this threshold at \$2,000 or more.
- **Sources of Income:** The videotape states that the threshold for disclosure and disqualification pertaining to a source of income is \$250 or more. Current law sets this threshold at \$500 or more.
- **Gifts:** The videotape states that the gift limit for a calendar year is \$300. Current law sets the gift limit at \$340 through 2004. The videotape states that the disqualification threshold for a source of gifts is \$300 during the past 12 months. Current law provides that the disqualification threshold is \$340.

- FPPC fines: The videotape indicates that the FPPC may impose fines of up to \$2,000 for each violation of the Act. Current law permits the FPPC to impose fines of up to \$5,000 per violation.

Amendments To The Public Contract Code

In addition to the prohibition discussed in the videotape under the section titled “State Contracts Only,” the Legislature added a new prohibition in 2002.

- In addition to the general prohibition set forth in Public Contract Code section 10410, section 10515 specifically prohibits any outside consultant from bidding on or being awarded a contract for services, goods or supplies or any related action that is required, suggested or otherwise deemed appropriate in the end product of their original consulting contract. Certain limited exceptions are set forth in subdivision (b) of section 10515.

Reminder: There are hypothetical questions posed in the videotape to test the viewer’s understanding of the course materials. These questions are tied to the thresholds that were in effect in 1999, not the current thresholds. Accordingly, the questions should be answered based on the 1999 thresholds.

Correction Note: In the discussion of gift limits, there is a question involving the application of the lobbyist gift limit. Viewers are asked whether Leslie may accept a \$15 lunch. The video indicates that the answer is “**yes**” because the \$15 lunch exceeds the \$10 lobbyist gift limit. The correct answer is “**no**” because the \$15 lunch exceeds the \$10 lobbyist gift limit.