

Fair Political Practices Commission  
1102 Q Street, Suite 3000  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Public Comment: March 24, 2022

Subject: San Simeon's black comedy

Dear Commissioners,

While I thank you for your attention to the recent issues in the tiny community of San Simeon, but the story of your precedent setting action prosecuting Charles Grace and fining him \$4,500 for violating 1090 -- does not end there. In fact, the end of the story is worse than the beginning. Immediately after your action in November, Grace's attorney, Amber Maltbie threatened the San Simeon district with litigation if they did not pay Mr. Grace's legal fees associated with the FPPC's investigation and the \$4,500 fine. Additionally, she requests legal fees associated with defending Grace from FPPC and the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's office complaint.

Like a black comedy, the joke is on San Simeon ratepayers. In the March meeting of the San Simeon Board, on a 3-1 vote approved paying nearly \$50,000 in legal fees based on the word "inadvertent" used in describing the nature of the 1090 violation by your staff.

This disadvantaged community has been harmed repeatedly since the hiring of Grace in 2016. It continues to be harmed by the board and its board members that have open investigations into their conflicts by your agency.

In a dangerous twist, it now appears the district is investigation how they can recover funds from the activists/complainants through the court. At the last meeting of the San Simeon Board, it's Chair stated, *"I would like to have an add to the agenda item, that if it is possible for the District to sue the people that are costing us a small fortune in legal bills and with the amount of frivolous various in sundry whatever's that they keep applying to us. There has to be some way that we can recoup the expenditures based on what several people have classified, with way more knowledge than I have, of what they refer to as "frivolous" charges. So I would like to add that to a future agenda."*

It is certain that your Commission never intended these unintended consequences to cascade upon the complainants. Yet, these threats of litigation and intimidation continue by Grace's legal counsel and the San Simeon majority board.

When will the people have the right to criticize their government without reprisal?

From the Desk of Julie Tacker

Please consider continuing your path to obtaining the authority to void contracts entered into under 1090 conflicts so that your agency can take protect those small communities, such as San Simeon, from self-serving individuals who prey upon the disadvantaged.

Thank you for your continued work and service to the greater good, the people of the State of California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Tacker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Tacker  
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