



# California Fair Political Practices Commission

January 9, 1992

Charles E. Alsop  
Star Route 1, Box 2990-A  
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Re: Your Request for Advice  
Our File No. I-91-499

Dear Mr. Alsop:

You have requested assistance under the campaign provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act").<sup>1/</sup> Because your request is a general inquiry, we treat it as one for informal assistance pursuant to Regulation 18329(c).<sup>2/</sup>

## QUESTION

1. Are there any restrictions on the use by a candidate of an individual's mailing permit?
2. If a candidate spends less than \$200, is the amount required to be reported? What forms are required to be completed and what is the filing deadline for these forms?
3. Have candidates running for the Stallion Springs Community Services District Board of Directors filed a Statement of Intention Form 501 and a Campaign Bank Account Form 502?

## CONCLUSIONS

1. Candidates may use an individual's mailing permit. However, they must report the difference between the bulk permit rate and the regular postage rate as a contribution.

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<sup>1/</sup> Government Code Sections 81000-91015. All statutory references are to the Government Code unless otherwise indicated. Commission regulations appear at 2 California Code of Regulations Section 18000, et seq. All references to regulations are to Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations.

<sup>2/</sup> Informal assistance does not provide the requestor with the immunity provided by an opinion or formal written advice. (Section 83114; Regulation 18329(c).)

2. Candidates who do not have a controlled committee and who do not anticipate receiving or spending \$1,000 or more in the calendar year may file the Officeholder and Candidate Campaign Statement Short Form 470. Form 470 is filed once a year and may be filed with the declaration of candidacy or on or before the first campaign statement is required to be filed for the current calendar year. The Form 470 does not require disclosure of contributions received or expenditures made. It merely indicates that less than \$1,000 has been or will be received or spent.

3. A list of candidates who have filed Forms 501 and 502 for the Stallion Springs Community Services District is enclosed.

#### ANALYSIS

Government Code Section 82015 defines contribution as:

"..... the granting of discounts or rebates not extended to the public generally....."

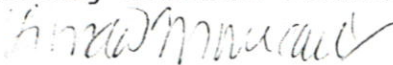
A candidate who uses another person's bulk mail permit has received a discount. The discount is the difference between the bulk mail rate and the regular postage rate the candidate would be required to pay. Therefore, this difference is deemed a contribution and should be reported on the candidate's campaign report.

A candidate or officeholder who plans to receive contributions totaling less than \$1,000 and who plans to make expenditures (including expenditures from personal funds) totaling less than \$1,000 in a calendar year may file a short form campaign statement (Form 470) for that calendar year. No other campaign statements must be filed by a candidate or officeholder who has filed the short form for activity in that calendar year unless the candidate or officeholder receives \$1,000 or more in contributions or makes \$1,000 or more in expenditures. In that case, the candidate or officeholder must file a long form campaign statement (Form 490). (Regulation 18406.) Please refer to the enclosed Information Manual on Campaign Disclosure Provisions of the Political Reform Act for detailed information concerning the filing deadlines for campaign disclosure statements.

I hope this information has been helpful. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 322-5662.

Sincerely,

Scott Hallabrin  
Acting General Counsel

  
By: Linda Moureaux  
Political Reform Consultant

Enclosures