

REPORTS ANALYSIS REFERRAL

TO

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

DATE: APR 16 1997

ANALYST: Jacques P. Andre'

- I. COMMITTEE: Valley Citizens for Accountability
(C00299446)
Bruce B. Sanborn, Treasurer
(8/24/95 to Present)
P.O. Box 1057
Reedley, CA 93654
- II. RELEVANT STATUTE: 2 U.S.C. §434(a)(4)(A)(ii) and (iii)
11 CFR §104.5(c)(1)(ii)(A) and (iii)(A)

III. BACKGROUND:

Failure to Timely File the 1996 12 Day Pre-General and 30 Day Post-General Reports

The Valley Citizens for Accountability ("the Committee") failed to timely file the 1996 30 Day Post-General Report of Receipts and Disbursements covering the period from October 1, 1996 to November 25, 1996. On December 29, 1995, September 30 and November 8, 1996, Prior Notices were sent to the Committee informing it that the 1996 30 Day Post-General Report was due on December 5, 1996 (Attachments 2, 3 and 4). A Non-Filer Notice was sent to the Committee via mailgram on January 6, 1997 (Attachment 5).

The Committee filed the 1996 30 Day Post-General Report on February 7, 1997 (Attachment 6), which disclosed \$4,413.47 in independent expenditures during the 12 Day Pre-General reporting period (10/1/96-10/16/96), thus requiring the filing of such a Report (Attachment 7).

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
1995-1996
COMMITTEE INDEX OF DISCLOSURE DOCUMENTS - (C)

Attachment #1

DATE 15APR97

PAGE 1

COMMITTEE	DOCUMENT	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	COVERAGE DATES	# OF PAGES	MICROFILM LOCATION TYPE OF FILER
VALLEY CITIZENS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY				ID 8C00299446		NON-PARTY NON-QUALIFIED
CONNECTED ORGANIZATION	NONE					
1995	STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION - AMENDMENT			6SEP95	2	95FEC/996/3354
	MID-YEAR REPORT	10.575	7.934	1JAN95 - 30JUN95	11	95FEC/988/3510
	YEAR-END	5.095	5.586	1JUL95 - 31DEC95	9	96FEC/1030/1183
1996	24 HOUR CONTRIBUTION NOTICE			29OCT96	2	96FEC/125/3542
	24 HOUR CONTRIBUTION NOTICE			5NOV96	3	96FEC/126/1890
	APRIL QUARTERLY	17.049	18.104	1JAN96 - 31MAR96	9	96FEC/145/4933
	JULY QUARTERLY	22.025	20.436	1APR96 - 30JUN96	24	96FEC/166/2504
	1ST LETTER INFORMATIONAL NOTICE			1APR96 - 30JUN96	2	96FEC/177/1541
	OCTOBER QUARTERLY	3.149	4.003	1JUL96 - 30SEP96	5	96FEC/198/2730
	POST-GENERAL	46.060	45.102	1OCT96 - 5NOV96	13	97FEC/184/1140
	NOTICE OF FAILURE TO FILE			1OCT96 - 25NOV96	2	97FEC/165/1973
	YEAR-END	0	121	6NOV96 - 31DEC96	4	97FEC/184/1118
1997	MISCELLANEOUS NOTICE FROM FEC			24JAN97	3	97FEC/169/3608
	TOTAL	103.953	0 101.286		89	TOTAL PAGES

All Reports Have Been Reviewed.

Ending Cash-on-Hand as of 12/31/96: 43160

Debts and Obligations Owed to the Committee as of 12/31/96: \$0

Debts and Obligations Owed by the Committee as of 12/31/96: \$0

YEAR-END REPORT NOTICE

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

PARTIES AND PACS

December 29, 1995

WHO MUST FILE

Party committees and PACs (nonconnected committees and separate segregated funds) must file a Year-End Report on January 31, 1996.

REPORT CONTENT AND DATES

I. Semiannual Filers

REPORT	REPORTING PERIOD*	REG./CERT. MAILING DATE**	FILING DATE
Year-End	07/01/95 - 12/31/95	01/31/96	01/31/96

Semiannual filers must disclose financial activity that occurred from July 1 through December 31, 1995, on their Year-End Report.

II. Monthly Filers

REPORT	REPORTING PERIOD*	REG./CERT. MAILING DATE**	FILING DATE
Year-End	12/01/95 - 12/31/95	01/31/96	01/31/96

Monthly filers must disclose financial activity from December 1 through December 31, 1995, on their Year-End Report.

CHANGE IN FILING FREQUENCY

Committees wishing to change their reporting schedule (for example, from semiannual to monthly) must notify the Commission in writing when they file their next report due under their current reporting schedule. Committees may change their filing frequencies no more than once per calendar year.

LABEL

Committees should affix the peel-off label from the envelope to Line 1 of the report. Corrections should be made on the label.

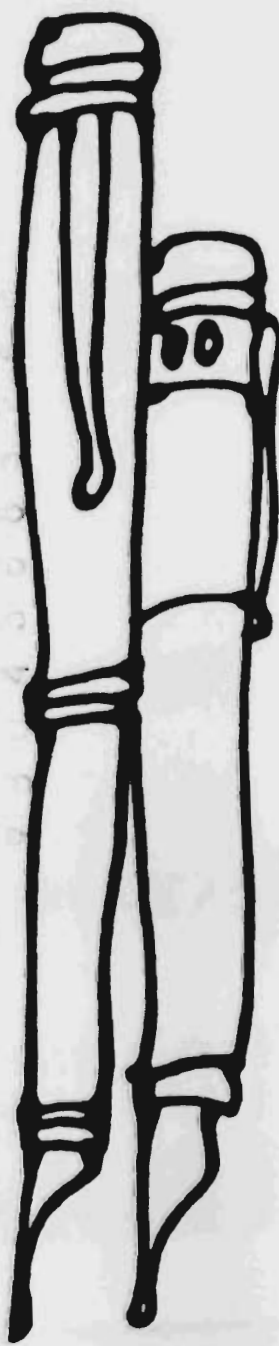
COMPLIANCE

Treasurers of political committees are responsible for filing all reports on time. Failure to do so is subject to enforcement action. Committees filing illegible reports or using non-FEC forms (except for FEC approved computer generated forms) will be required to refile.

*These dates indicate the beginning and the end of the reporting period. A reporting period always begins the day after the closing date of the last report filed. If the committee is new and has not previously filed a report, the first report must cover all activity that occurred before the committee registered.

**Reports sent by registered or certified mail must be postmarked by the mailing date; otherwise, they must be received by the filing date.

(over)



PARTIES AND PACS

YEAR-END

1996 FILING SCHEDULE

I. Quarterly Filers

REPORT	REPORTING PERIOD*	REG./CERT. MAILING DATE**	FILING DATE
April	01/01/96 - 03/31/96	04/15/96	04/15/96
July	04/01/96 - 06/30/96	07/15/96	07/15/96
October	07/01/96 - 09/30/96	10/15/96	10/15/96
Pre-General	10/01/96 - 10/16/96	10/21/96	10/24/96
-----24 Hour Reports***-----			
Post-General	10/17/96 - 11/25/96	12/05/96	12/05/96
Year-End	11/26/96 - 12/31/96	01/31/97	01/31/97

II. Monthly Filers

REPORT	REPORTING PERIOD*	REG./CERT. MAILING DATE**	FILING DATE
February	01/01/96 - 01/31/96	02/20/96	02/20/96
March	02/01/96 - 02/29/96	03/20/96	03/20/96
April	03/01/96 - 03/31/96	04/20/96	04/20/96
May	04/01/96 - 04/30/96	05/20/96	05/20/96
June	05/01/96 - 05/31/96	06/20/96	06/20/96
July	06/01/96 - 06/30/96	07/20/96	07/20/96
August	07/01/96 - 07/31/96	08/20/96	08/20/96
September	08/01/96 - 08/31/96	09/20/96	09/20/96
October	09/01/96 - 09/30/96	10/20/96	10/20/96
Pre-General	10/01/96 - 10/16/96	10/21/96	10/24/96
-----24 Hour Reports***-----			
Post-General	10/17/96 - 11/25/96	12/05/96	12/05/96
Year-End	11/26/96 - 12/31/96	01/31/97	01/31/97

*These dates indicate the beginning and the end of the reporting period. A reporting period always begins the day after the closing date of the last report filed. If the committee is new and has not previously filed a report, the first report must cover all activity that occurred before the committee registered.

**Reports sent by registered or certified mail must be postmarked by the mailing date; otherwise, they must be received by the filing date.

***PACs that make independent expenditures aggregating \$1,000 or more after the 20th day, but more than 24 hours before the election must file 24 Hour Reports. Party committees may not make independent expenditures.

FOR INFORMATION, CALL: 800/424-9530 or 202/219-3420

GENERAL ELECTION REPORT NOTICE

Attachment 3
Page 1 of 2

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

PARTIES AND PACS

September 30, 1996

I. ALL MONTHLY FILERS

REPORT	REPORTING PERIOD*	REG./CERT. MAILING DATE**	FILING DATE
Pre-General	10/01/96 - 10/16/96	10/21/96	10/24/96
Post-General	10/17/96 - 11/25/96	12/05/96	12/05/96

II. QUARTERLY FILERS THAT MAKE GENERAL ELECTION CONTRIBUTIONS OR EXPENDITURES FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 16

REPORT	REPORTING PERIOD*	REG./CERT. MAILING DATE**	FILING DATE
Pre-General	10/01/96 - 10/16/96	10/21/96	10/24/96
Post-General	10/17/96 - 11/25/96	12/05/96	12/05/96

III. QUARTERLY FILERS THAT DO NOT MAKE GENERAL ELECTION CONTRIBUTIONS OR EXPENDITURES FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 16***

REPORT	REPORTING PERIOD*	REG./CERT. MAILING DATE**	FILING DATE
Post-General	10/01/96 - 11/25/96	12/05/96	12/05/96

WHO MUST FILE

Party committees and PACs must follow the above charts in order to determine whether they must file a report 12 days before the general election on November 5 (the Pre-General Report). All Party committees and PACs, regardless of financial activity, must file a report 30 days after the general election (the Post-General Election Report).

*These dates indicate the beginning and the end of the reporting period. A reporting period always begins the day after the closing date of the last report filed. If the committee is new and has not previously filed a report, the first report must cover all activity that occurred before the committee registered.

**Reports sent registered or certified mail must be postmarked by the mailing date; otherwise, they must be received by the filing date.

***Committees that made general election contributions or expenditures before October 1 and did not previously report then must also follow Chart II reporting requirements.

(over)

PARTIES AND PACS

PRE/POST GENERAL ELECTION

24 HOUR REPORT ON INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES

Any PAC that makes independent expenditures aggregating \$1,000 or more during the period beginning October 17 and ending November 3 must report them within 24 hours.

LABEL

Committees should affix the peel-off label from the envelope to Line 1 of the report. Corrections should be made on the label.

COMPLIANCE

Treasurers of political committees are responsible for filing all reports on time. Failure to do so is subject to enforcement action. Committees filing illegible reports or using non-FEC forms (except for FEC approved computer generated forms) will be required to refile.

FOR INFORMATION, CALL: 800/424-9530 or 202/219-3420

GENERAL ELECTION

REPORT NOTICE

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



REMINDER

REMINDER

REMINDER

November 8, 1996

All party committees and PACs (nonconnected committees and separate segregated funds) must file a Post-General Election Report. Reports sent by registered or certified mail must be postmarked by the mailing date (December 5, 1996); otherwise, they must be received by the filing date (December 5, 1996). FEC Form 3X is enclosed.

FOR INFORMATION, CALL: 800/424-9530 or 202/219-3420

RQ-7

(This is a copy of the text of a mailgram sent to the committee listed below on January 6, 1997.)

Bruce B. Sanborn, Treasurer
Valley Citizens for Accountability
P.O. Box 1057
Reedley, CA 93654

Identification Number: C00299446

Reference: 30 Day Post-General Report (10/1/96-11/25/96)

Dear Mr. Sanborn:

It has come to the attention of the Federal Election Commission ("the Commission") that your committee may be in violation of 2 U.S.C. §434(a) for failing to file the above referenced Report of Receipts and Disbursements. You were previously notified of the due date for this report.

It is important that you file this report immediately with the Federal Election Commission, 999 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20463 (or with the Secretary of the Senate). A copy of the report or its relevant portions should also be filed with the Secretary of State or equivalent state officer. 11 CFR §§108.2, 108.3, 108.4

Although the Commission may initiate an audit or legal enforcement action concerning this matter, your prompt response and a letter of explanation will be taken into consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact J.P. Andre' on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530. Our local number is (219) 219-3580.

Sincerely,

John D. Gibson
Assistant Staff Director
Reports Analysis Division

98043065240

REPORT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

For Other Than An Authorized Committee
(Summary Page)

Attachment 6
Page 1 of 2
MAY 1997

FEB 14 11 35 AM '97

USE FEC MAILING LABEL
OR
TYPE OR PRINT

1. NAME OF COMMITTEE (in full) Valley Citizens for Accountability		2. FEC IDENTIFICATION NUMBER C00299446
ADDRESS (number and street) <input type="checkbox"/> Check if different than previously reported P O Box 1057		
CITY, STATE and ZIP CODE Reedley CA 93654		
		3. <input type="checkbox"/> This committee has qualified as a multicandidate committee (see FEC FORM 1M)

4. TYPE OF REPORT

- (a) ☐ April 15 Quarterly Report
☐ July 15 Quarterly Report
☐ October 15 Quarterly Report
☐ January 31 Year End Report
☐ July 31 Mid Year Report (Non-election Year Only)
☐ Termination Report

Monthly Report Due On

- ☐ February 20 ☐ June 20 ☐ October 20
☐ March 20 ☐ July 20 ☐ November 20
☐ April 20 ☐ August 20 ☐ December 20
☐ May 20 ☐ September 20 ☐ January 31

☐ Twelfth day report preceding _____ (Type of Election)
election on _____ in the State of _____

☒ Thirtieth day report following the General Election on
11/5/96 in the State of California

(b) Is this Report an Amendment? ☐ YES ☒ NO

SUMMARY		COLUMN A This Period	COLUMN B Calendar Year-to-Date
5	Covering Period <u>10/1/96</u> through <u>11/5/96</u>		
6	(a) Cash on Hand January 1, 19 <u>96</u>		\$ 2645.95
	(b) Cash on Hand at Beginning of Reporting Period	\$ 2324.96	
	(c) Total Receipts (from Line 1B)	\$ 46060.00	\$ 88283.00
	(d) Subtotal (add Lines 6(b) and 6(c) for Column A and Lines 6(a) and 6(c) for Column B)	\$ 48384.96	\$ 90928.95
7	Total Disbursements (from Line 3D)	\$ 45102.61	\$ 87646.60
8	Cash on Hand at Close of Reporting Period (subtract Line 7 from Line 6(d))	\$ 3282.35	\$ 3282.35
9	Debts and Obligations Owed TO the Committee (Itemize all on Schedule C and/or Schedule D)	\$ - 0 -	For further information contact: Federal Election Commission 999 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20463 Toll Free 800-424-9530 Local 202-219-3420
10	Debts and Obligations Owed BY the Committee (Itemize all on Schedule C and/or Schedule D)	\$ - 0 -	
I certify that I have examined this Report and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete			
Type or Print Name of Treasurer Bruce B. Sanborn			
Signature of Treasurer			Date <u>1/31/97</u>

NOTE: Submission of false, erroneous, or incomplete information may subject the person signing this Report to the penalties of 2 U.S.C. 6437g.

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FEC FORM 3X
(revised 9/95)

The Commission has added this page to the end of this filing to indicate how it was received.

FEC FORM 70-2 (12-50-62)

ITEMIZED INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES

Page 1 of 2 Pages

(See Reverse Side for Instructions)

Name of Committee (in Full)		C00299446		
Full Name, Mailing Address & ZIP Code of Each Payee	Purpose of Expenditure	Date (month, day, year)	Amount	Name of Federal Candidate supported or opposed by the expenditure & office sought
American Radio Systems P O Box 70002 Fresno CA 93744	Radio Ads	10/10/96	3000.00	Calvin Dooley House (Federal) <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose
J Pax Communications P O Box 36 Sanger CA 93657	Radio Ads Advertising	10/10/96 10/14/96 11/5/96	126.00 835.10 237	Calvin Dooley House (Federal) <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose
Sierra Aviation	Advertising	10/14/96	350.00	Calvin Dooley House (Federal) <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose
KIGS Radio 6165 Hwy 198 Hanford CA 93230	Radio Ads	10/30/96	490.00	Calvin Dooley House (Federal) <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose
KJUG Radio 717 North Mooney Blvd. Tulare CA 93274-2499	Radio Ads	10/30/96	720.00	Calvin Dooley House (Federal) <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose
KMSG P O Box 3790 Fresno CA 93650	Advertising	10/31/96	2957.60	Calvin Dooley House (Federal) <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose
(a) SUBTOTAL of Itemized Independent Expenditures				
(b) SUBTOTAL of Unitemized Independent Expenditures				
(c) TOTAL Independent Expenditures				

Under penalty of perjury I certify that the independent expenditures reported herein were not made in cooperation, consultation, concert with, or at the request or suggestion of any candidate or any authorized committee or agent of such candidate or authorized committee. Furthermore, these expenditures did not involve the financing of dissemination, distribution, or reproduction in whole or in part of any campaign materials prepared by the candidate, his campaign committee, or their agent.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____

19

My Commission expires _____

NOTARY PUBLIC

Signature

Date

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

DEC 12 11 43 AM '97

FIRST GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

SENSITIVE

RAD REFERRAL: 97NF-11

DATE ACTIVATED: November 14, 1997

STAFF MEMBER: Mary L. Taksar
Deborah L. Rice

SOURCE: INTERNALLY GENERATED

RESPONDENTS: Valley Citizens for Accountability and Dolores T. Petersen, as treasurer

RELEVANT STATUTE: 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(4)(A)(ii) and (iii)

INTERNAL REPORTS CHECKED: Disclosure Reports

FEDERAL AGENCIES CHECKED: None

I. GENERATION OF MATTER

The Reports Analysis Division ("RAD") referred the Valley Citizens for Accountability ("the Committee") and its treasurer to the Office of the General Counsel on April 18, 1997. The basis for the RAD referral is the failure of the Committee to file the 1996 12 Day Pre-General Report and to timely file the 1996 30 Day Post-General Report.

II. FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

Based on the Factual and Legal Analysis, see Attachment 1, this Office recommends that the Commission find reason to believe the respondents violated 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(4)(A)(ii) and (iii).

III. DISCUSSION OF CONCILIATION AND CIVIL PENALTY

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IV. **RECOMMENDATIONS**


1. Open a MUR.
2. Find reason to believe Valley Citizens for Accountability and Dolores T. Petersen, as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(4)(A)(ii) and (iii), and enter into conciliation prior to a finding of probable cause to believe.
3. Approve the attached Factual and Legal Analysis.

4. Approve the attached proposed conciliation agreement.
5. Approve the appropriate letter.

Lawrence M. Noble
General Counsel

12/11/97
Date

BY:


Lois G. Lerner
Associate General Counsel

Attachments:

1. Factual and Legal Analysis
2. Proposed agreement

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MUIA 4707

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1. Open a MUR.
2. Find reason to believe Valley Citizens for Accountability and Dolores T. Petersen, as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(4)(A)(ii) and (iii), and enter into conciliation prior to a finding of probable cause to believe.
3. Approve the Factual and Legal Analysis, as recommended in the General Counsel's Report dated December 11, 1997.
4. Approve the proposed conciliation agreement, as recommended in the General Counsel's Report dated December 11, 1997.

(continued)

5. Approve the appropriate letter, as recommended in the General Counsel's Report dated December 11, 1997.

Commissioners Aikens, Elliott, McDonald, McGarry, and Thomas voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

12-29-97
Date

Marjorie W. Emmons
Marjorie W. Emmons
Secretary of the Commission

Received in the Secretariat: Fri., Dec. 12, 1997 11:23 a.m.
Circulated to the Commission: Mon., Dec. 15, 1997 11:00 a.m.
Deadline for vote: Tues., Dec. 30, 1997 4:00 p.m.

lrd



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

January 7, 1998

Dolores T. Petersen, Treasurer
Valley Citizens for Accountability
Post Office Box 1105
Orange Cove, California 93646

RE: MUR 4707

Dear Ms. Petersen:

On December 29, 1997, the Federal Election Commission found that there is reason to believe Valley Citizens for Accountability ("Committee") and you, as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(4)(A)(ii) and (iii), provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"). The Factual and Legal Analysis, which formed a basis for the Commission's findings, is attached for your information.

You may submit any factual or legal materials that you believe are relevant to the Commission's consideration of this matter. Please submit such materials to the General Counsel's Office within 15 days of your receipt of this letter. Where appropriate, statements should be submitted under oath. In the absence of additional information, the Commission may find probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred and proceed with conciliation.

In order to expedite the resolution of this matter, the Commission has also decided to offer to enter into negotiations directed towards reaching a conciliation agreement in settlement of this matter prior to a finding of probable cause to believe. Enclosed is a conciliation agreement that the Commission has approved.

If you are interested in expediting the resolution of this matter by pursuing preprobable cause conciliation, and if you agree with the provisions of the enclosed agreement, please sign and return the agreement, along with the civil penalty, to the Commission. In light of the fact that conciliation negotiations, prior to a finding of probable cause to believe, are limited to a maximum of 30 days, you should respond to this notification as soon as possible.

Requests for extensions of time will not be routinely granted. Requests must be made in writing at least five days prior to the due date of the response and specific good cause must be demonstrated. In addition, the Office of the General Counsel ordinarily will not give extensions beyond 20 days.

Celebrating the Commission's 20th Anniversary

YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW
DEDICATED TO KEEPING THE PUBLIC INFORMED

If you intend to be represented by counsel in this matter, please advise the Commission by completing the enclosed form stating the name, address, and telephone number of such counsel, and authorizing such counsel to receive any notifications and other communications from the Commission.

This matter will remain confidential in accordance with 2 U.S.C. §§ 437g(a)(4)(B) and 437g(a)(12)(A), unless you notify the Commission in writing that you wish the investigation to be made public.

For your information, we have attached a brief description of the Commission's procedures for handling possible violations of the Act. If you have any questions, please contact Deborah Rice, the staff member assigned to this matter, at (202) 219-3690.

Sincerely,

Joan D. Aikens

Joan D. Aikens
Chairman

Enclosures

Factual and Legal Analysis
Procedures
Designation of Counsel Form
Conciliation Agreement

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

RESPONDENTS: Valley Citizens for Accountability
and Dolores T. Petersen, as treasurer

MUR: 4707

This matter was generated based on information ascertained by the Federal Election Commission ("the Commission") in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities. See 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(2).

A. THE LAW

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), requires that all political committees other than authorized committees of a candidate shall file a pre-election report, which shall be filed no later than the 12th day before (or posted by registered or certified mailed no later than the 15th day before) any election in which the committee makes a contribution to or expenditure on behalf of a candidate in such election, and which shall be complete as of the 20th day before the election, and a post-general election report, which shall be filed no later than the 30th day after the general election and which shall be complete as of the 20th day after such general election. 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(4)(A)(ii) and (iii).

B. THE FACTS

The Valley Citizens for Accountability ("the Committee") is a political committee that is not an authorized committee of a candidate. Dolores T. Petersen is the current treasurer of the Committee and Bruce B. Sanborn was the treasurer of the Committee until March 1997. The Committee elected to file its reports with the Commission on a quarterly basis.

The Committee failed to timely file the 1996 30 Day Post-General Report of Receipts and Disbursements covering the period from October 17, 1996 to November 25, 1996.

On December 29, 1995, September 30 and November 8, 1996, Prior Notices were sent to the Committee informing them that the 1996 30 Day Post-General Report was due on December 5, 1996 and that the coverage dates for the 30 Day Post-General were from October 17, 1996 to November 25, 1996. A Non-Filer Notice was sent to the Committee via mailgram on January 6, 1997.

The Committee filed its 1996 30 Day Post-General Report on February 7, 1997, 64 days late. The report filed covered the period from October 1, 1996 to November 5, 1996 instead of the required coverage period from October 17, 1996 to November 25, 1996. This report disclosed \$4,411.10 in independent expenditures during the 12 Day Pre-General reporting period (October 1, 1996 to October 16, 1996), thus requiring the filing of a 12 Day Pre-General Report. The Committee failed to file a 12 Day Pre-General Report but disclosed the \$2,750.00 in receipts and \$4,411.10 in disbursements made during the 12 Day Pre-General period in its 30 Day Post-General Report, 106 days late.

The Committee filed its 1996 Year-End Report covering the period from November 6, 1996 to December 31, 1996 instead of the required coverage period from November 26, 1996 to December 31, 1996. Therefore, the remainder of the coverage period for the 30 Day Post-General Report (November 6, 1996 through November 25, 1996) was included in the Committee's Year-End Report. The Committee had \$38,300.00 in receipts and \$40,666.50 in disbursements during the time period for the 30 Day Post-General Report and consequently, these receipts and disbursements were reported 64 days late.

Therefore, there is reason to believe Valley Citizens for Accountability and Dolores T. Petersen, as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(4)(A)(ii) and (iii).

Federal Election Commission
999 "E" Street, NW
Washington, D.C., 20463
Attn: Joan D. Aikens

RE
FEDER,
COM
SEC

January 14, 1998

JAN 21 1999

Dear Joan,

This letter is in response to MUR 4707, dated January 7, 1998. I am the founder of the group Valley Citizens for Accountability, (VCA), a volunteer group of citizens in the Central Valley of California. VCA is made up of volunteers, most of which have little or no prior political experience.

On January 14, I spoke with Deborah Rice about MUR 4707, and she suggested I write this letter to you explaining our case.

The reports for 1996 were filed by our former treasurer, Bruce Sanborn, a retired CPA who suffers from Multiple Sclerosis. Mr. Sanborn offered his services as treasurer without any prior experience with political campaign filings. His wife had to help him fill out the reports, and between them neither were aware of the election year requirements for filing.

Letters requesting the late filings were sent to Mr. Sanborn, and he did, to the best of my recollection, fill out the reports albeit late. In February of 1997, Mr. Sanborn apologetically informed me of the late filings, and requested he be replaced as treasurer in so far as he was unable to fulfill that role adequately.

In March of 1997, I asked my mother to take the treasurer position and she agreed to do so. Dolores Petersen, (my mother), has filed the 1997 reports on time and I believe correctly.

In Feb/March of 1997 I called the FEC to check up on the late filings as per Mr. Sanborn. At that time the person I spoke with said that since the required reports were filed, albeit late, and if the reports for 1997 were on time, we would not face any penalties, as we were not habitually or flagrantly violating the campaign filing laws.

Our intentions have always been to comply fully with the requirements of the FEC codes.

If you have any questions, please call me at (209) 626-7866, as I desire to rectify this situation as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


John Rankin

Federal Election Commission
999 "E" Street, NW
Washington, DC, 20463
Attn: Mary Taksar

January 28, 1998

Dear Mary,

I spoke with Deborah Rice today and she informed me of the decision to impose a fine on Valley Citizens for Accountability (VCA) for late filings (MUR 4707). We received a letter dated January 7, 1998, informing us about filing violations. I had responded with a letter detailing mitigating circumstances that I believe merit consideration.

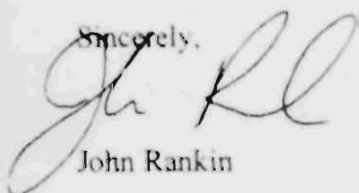
The treasurer responsible for the late filings was a volunteer, not a professional, paid political treasurer. He tried his best to comply with the election code, but his condition, multiple sclerosis, made it difficult for him to serve in that capacity adequately. He did not express any problems with his ability or the filings until February of 1997, when he apologetically stepped down from the treasurer's position. At that time I was made aware of the late filings and contacted the FEC to see how we could resolve the situation.

At that time, an information specialist informed me that since we had filed the reports, albeit late, that there would not be any further action taken provided future reports were filed on time. We have complied with this, as we should have all along.

Our group, VCA, is not an arm of any political party. We act independently to promote issues important to our geographic area. We have no brilliant strategists who flaunt campaign laws in order to achieve an objective. We do not seek contributions that are laundered through other sources to accomplish an air of legitimacy. We simply brought forward an issue, asked for donations to broadcast it, and filed the reports as required by law. There is no ongoing fundraising for our group, and if you look at our latest report you will find that we have raised -0- in contributions in this last reporting period.

If I can be of any further assistance, please call me at (209) 626-7866.

Sincerely,



John Rankin



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

May 18, 1998

TWO WAY MEMORANDUM

TO: OGC Docket
FROM: Rosa E. Swinton *RES*
Accounting Technician
SUBJECT: Account Determination for Funds Received

We recently received a check from **Valley Citizens for Accountability**, check number **178**, dated **May 14, 1998**, for the amount of **1,250.00**. A copy of the check and any correspondence is being forwarded. Please indicate below which account the funds should be deposited and give the MUR/Case number and name associated with the deposit.

=====

TO: Rosa E. Swinton Leslie D. Brown
Accounting Technician Disbursing Technician
FROM: OGC Docket
SUBJECT: Disposition of Funds Received

In reference to the above check in the amount of \$ 1250.00, the MUR/Case number is 4707 and in the name of Valley Citizens for Accountability. Place this deposit in the account indicated below:

- ☒ Budget Clearing Account (OGC), 95F3875.16
☐ Civil Penalties Account, 95-1099.160
☐ Other: _____

Kim Stevens
Signature

5-19-98
Date

VALLEY CITIZENS ACCOUNTABILITY

P. O. BOX 1057
REEDLEY, CA 93654

178

5/14 1991

11-24
12/91

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF

Federal Elections Comm.

\$ 1250.00

Twelve Hundred Fifty Dollars + no/100 DOLLARS

WELLS FARGO BANK

MEMO

Jh RL

1:1210002481:0178 0431 03292911

9804363265

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
MAY 20 11 33 AM '98

In the Matter of)
) MUR 4707
Valley Citizens for Accountability)
and Dolores T. Petersen, as Treasurer)

SENSITIVE

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

I BACKGROUND

Attached is a conciliation agreement which has been signed by John Rankin, founder of Valley Citizens for Accountability

A check for \$1,250.00 was received

on May 18, 1998

II RECOMMENDATIONS

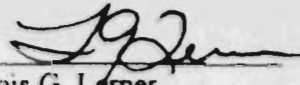
1. Accept the attached conciliation agreement with Valley Citizens for Accountability and Dolores T. Petersen, as Treasurer.
2. Close the file
3. Approve the appropriate letter

Lawrence M. Noble
General Counsel

Date

5/27/98

BY


Lois G. Lerner
Associate General Counsel

Attachments

- 1--Conciliation Agreement
- 2--Photocopy of civil penalty check

Staff Assigned Mary L. Taksar
Deborah L. Rice

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
Valley Citizens for Accountability) MUR 4707
and Dolores T. Petersen, as treasurer.)

CERTIFICATION

I, Marjorie W. Emmons, Secretary of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on June 2, 1998, the Commission decided by a vote of 5-0 to take the following actions in MUR 4707:

1. Accept the conciliation agreement with Valley Citizens for Accountability and Dolores T. Petersen, as Treasurer, as recommended in the General Counsel's Report dated May 27, 1998.
2. Close the file.
3. Approve the appropriate letter, as recommended in the General Counsel's Report dated May 27, 1998.

Commissioners Aikens, Elliott, McDonald, McGarry, and Thomas voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

6-3-98
Date

Marjorie W. Emmons
Marjorie W. Emmons
Secretary of the Commission

Received in the Secretariat: Thurs., May 28, 1998 11:33 a.m.
Circulated to the Commission: Thurs., May 28, 1998 4:00 p.m.
Deadline for vote: Tues., June 02, 1998 4:00 p.m.

lrd



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

Mr. John Rankin
Valley Citizens for Accountability
Post Office Box 1105
Orange Cove, California 93646

June 9, 1998

RE MUR 4707
Valley Citizens for Accountability

Dear Mr. Rankin:

On June 2, 1998, the Federal Election Commission accepted the signed conciliation agreement and civil penalty submitted on your behalf in settlement of a violation of 2 U.S.C. §434(a)(4)(ii) and (iii), provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"). Accordingly, the file has been closed in this matter.

The confidentiality provisions at 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(12) no longer apply and this matter is now public. In addition, although the complete file must be placed on the public record within 30 days, this could occur at any time following certification of the Commission's vote. If you wish to submit any factual or legal materials to appear on the public record, please do so as soon as possible. While the file may be placed on the public record before receiving your additional materials, any permissible submissions will be added to the public record upon receipt.

Information derived in connection with any conciliation attempt will not become public without the written consent of the respondent and the Commission. See 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(4)(B). The enclosed conciliation agreement, however, will become a part of the public record.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the fully executed conciliation agreement for your files. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Rice
Paralegal Specialist

Enclosure
Conciliation Agreement

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

MAY 18 11 12 AM '97

In the Matter of)

MUR 4707

Valley Citizens for Accountability)

and Dolores T. Petersen, as Treasurer)

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

This matter was initiated by the Federal Election Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to information ascertained in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities. The Commission found reason to believe that Valley Citizens for Accountability and Dolores T. Petersen, as treasurer, ("Respondents") violated 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(4)(A)(ii) and (iii).

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission and the Respondents, having participated in informal methods of conciliation, prior to a finding of probable cause to believe, do hereby agree as follows:

I. The Commission has jurisdiction over the Respondents and the subject matter of this proceeding, and this agreement has the effect of an agreement entered pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(4)(A)(i).

II. Respondents have had a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate that no action should be taken in this matter.

III. Respondents enter voluntarily into this agreement with the Commission.

IV. The pertinent facts in this matter are as follows:

1. Valley Citizens for Accountability ("the Committee") is a political committee within the meaning of 2 U.S.C. § 431(4), and is not the authorized committee of any candidate. The Committee elected to file its reports with the Commission on quarterly basis.

2. Dolores T. Petersen is the current treasurer of Valley Citizens for Accountability Committee.

3. Bruce B. Sanborn was the treasurer of the Committee until March 1997.

4. The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), requires that all political committees other than authorized committees of a candidate shall file a pre-election report, which shall be filed no later than the 12th day before (or posted by registered or certified mail no later than the 15th day before) any election in which the committee makes a contribution to or expenditure on behalf of a candidate in such election, and which shall be complete as of the 20th day before the election, and a post-general election report, which shall be filed no later than the 30th day after the general election and which shall be complete as of the 20th day after such general election. 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(4)(A)(ii) and (iii).

5. The Committee filed its 1996 30 Day Post-General Report on February 7, 1997, 64 days late. The report filed covered the period from October 1, 1996 to November 5, 1996 instead of the required coverage period from October 17, 1996 to November 25, 1996. This report disclosed \$4,411.10 in independent expenditures during the 12 Day Pre-General reporting period (October 1, 1996 to October 16, 1996), thus requiring the filing of a 12 Day Pre-General Report. The Committee failed to file a 12 Day Pre-General Report but disclosed the \$2,750.00 in receipts and \$4,411.10 in disbursements made during the 12 Day Pre-General period in its 30 Day Post-General Report, 106 days late.

6. The Committee filed its 1996 Year-End Report covering the period from November 6, 1996 to December 31, 1996 instead of the required coverage period from November 26, 1996 to December 31, 1996. Therefore, the remainder of the coverage period for the 30 Day Post-General Report (November 6, 1996 through November 25, 1996) was included in the Committee's Year-End Report. The Committee had \$38,300.00 in receipts and \$40,666.50 in disbursements during the time period for the 30 Day Post-General Report and consequently, these receipts and disbursements were reported 64 days late.

V. The Respondents failed to timely file the 1996 12 Day Pre-General Report and the 1996 30 Day Post-General Report, in violation of 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(4)(A)(ii) and (iii).

VI. Respondents will pay a civil penalty to the Federal Election Commission in the amount of Twelve Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$1,250.00), pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(5)(A).

VII. The Commission, on request of anyone filing a complaint under 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(1) concerning the matters at issue herein or on its own motion, may review compliance with this agreement. If the Commission believes that this agreement or any requirement thereof has been violated, it may institute a civil action for relief in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

VIII. This agreement shall become effective as of the date that all parties hereto have executed same and the Commission has approved the entire agreement.


IX. Respondents shall have no more than 30 days from the date this agreement becomes effective to comply with and implement the requirement contained in this agreement and to so notify the Commission.

X. This Conciliation Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties on the matters raised herein, and no other statement, promise, or agreement, either written or oral, made by either party or by agents of either party, that is not contained in this written agreement shall be enforceable.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

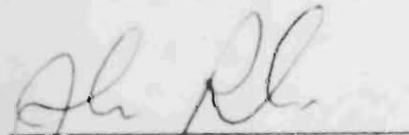
Lawrence M. Noble
General Counsel

BY:


Lois G. Lerner
Associate General Counsel

6/9/98
Date

FOR THE RESPONDENTS:


(Name)
(Position) Founder VCA

5-14-98
Date

90043000271