



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

Via Electronic Mail Only
info@thekerngop.org

July 28, 2020

Laurel Sheffield, Treasurer Kern
County Republican Central
Committee (FED)
P.O. Box 1144
Bakersfield, CA 93302

RE: RR 20L-13

Dear Ms. Sheffield:

The Federal Election Commission ("Commission"), has ascertained information in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities indicating you may have violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the "Act"). The matter has been referred by the Reports Analysis Division to the Commission's Office of General Counsel for possible enforcement action under 52 U.S.C. § 30109.¹ Specifically, the Committee has been referred for apparent unauthorized disbursements totaling \$218,546.39 on the 2019 Mid-Year Report. We have numbered this referral RR 20L-13.

The Act affords you the opportunity to demonstrate in writing that no action should be taken against you. If you wish to file a response, you may submit any factual or legal materials that you believe are relevant to the Commission's consideration of this matter. Where appropriate, statements should be submitted under oath by persons with relevant knowledge. Your response, which should be addressed to the General Counsel's Office, must be submitted within 15 days of receipt of this letter. If no response is received within 15 days, the Commission may take further action based on the available information.

This matter will remain confidential in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(B) and § 30109(a)(12)(A) unless you notify the Commission in writing that you wish the matter to be made public. Please be advised that, although the Commission cannot disclose information regarding an investigation to the public, it may share information on a confidential basis with other law enforcement agencies.²

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

¹ Notification of this referral is being provided to you pursuant to the Commission's Agency Procedure for Notice to Respondents in Non-Complaint Generated Matters, as published in the Federal Register on August 4, 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 38,617).

² The Commission has the statutory authority to refer knowing and willful violations of the Act to the Department of Justice for potential criminal prosecution, 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(5)(C), and to report information regarding violations of law not within its jurisdiction to appropriate law enforcement authorities. *Id.* § 30107(a)(9).

RR 20L-13
Page 2

counsel, and authorizing such counsel to receive any notifications and other communications from the Commission. Please note that you have a legal obligation to preserve all documents, records, and materials relating to the subject matter of the complaint until such time as you are notified that the Commission has closed its file in this matter. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 1519.

Any correspondence sent to the Commission, such as a response, must be addressed to **one** of the following (note, if submitting via email this Office will provide an electronic receipt by email):

Mail
Federal Election Commission
Office of Complaints Examination
& Legal Administration
Attn: Christal Dennis, Paralegal
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463

OR

Email
cela@fec.gov

As indicated in the FEC's Notice found at https://www.fec.gov/resources/cms-content/documents/website_notice_regarding_status_of_FEC_operations_3-17-20.pdf, the office's mailroom is not processing correspondence at this time and, therefore, we strongly encourage you to file your response via email.

If you have any questions, please contact Christal Dennis at (202) 694-1519. For your information, we have enclosed a brief description of the Commission's procedures for handling complaints.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff S. Jordan".

Jeff S. Jordan
Assistant General Counsel
Complaints Examination &
Legal Administration