

Quarterly Report

January – March 2020

Office of Campaign Finance and Ethics Commission



Jan-Mar 2020

Project	Status
Ethics (AB 1234) Monitoring	ON GOING — The 2020 bi-annual renewal has begun. We are pleased to report a significant response to the requirement. Certificates are routinely compliant for the 2 hour time limitation and being processed by the Commissions in an effective manner. The on-line database similar to the Form 700 filing system was placed on hold due to it being a discretionary expenditure.
Newly Elected and Appointed Official and Staff training program	COMPLETED —All elected officials and staff as December 2019 have received the approved training. A new program will be developed in 2020 based on identified improvement potential.
Campaign Disclosure Review	ON GOING — Audits for the second semi-annual disclosure in 2019 have been completed. Three notices of violations were issued in this audit. Three Letters of Resolutions have been provided to the Commission. Requests for voluntary refunds were at an all time low of less than \$5,000. Significant time was once again spent on cor-
Education Outreach	ON GOING — Public outreach included sessions to County organizations, Chapman students and the League of Women Voters. After March 2020, OCEthics will return to the Commission to determine if public outreach is still recommended.

Oct - Dec 2019

Project	Status
Lobbyist Portal/registration	ON GOING —In-house project has been a complete success. New registrations continue even during the time of the nationwide social distancing programs. Moreover, lobbyists continue to contact the office to update information as required by law.
Campaign Contribution Database	ON GOING —Orange County Information Technology (OCIT) has provided a working database for investigations. The same public searches can now be done on-line via the Registrar of Voters system (NetFile) due to upgrades on that system.
Complaint Program	ON GOING — A total of 5 written complaints were received through March 2020. One remains open while the others were not within the office’s jurisdiction. Multiple calls are received on a weekly basis but are being referred to proper local, County or State services.

Oct - Dec 2019

Project	Status
Finance and Budget	ON GOING —All non-discretionary spending has been frozen in all County departments. The current Covid-19 crisis is requiring each County department to do everything possible to conserve and assist in everyway possible. OCEthics stopped the acquisition of the on-line database for the AB1234 ethics certificate tracking and has suspended hard copy correspondence except in the cases of Notices of Violations.

Summary of 2020 Complaints:

20-01: Complaint received on January 29, 2020 related to Veteran's Cemetery issues in Irvine. Complainant has been previously told that matters related to City of Irvine decisions are not within jurisdiction of this office. No action taken.

20-02: Complaint received on January 29, 2020 related to fraud in national, state and corporate pharmaceutical sales. No action taken as not within jurisdiction and not certain the email was safe to respond to.

20-03: Campaign finance complaint – still open.

20-04: Complaint received on March 4, 2020. Complaint was incoherent and clearly not within the Office's jurisdiction. No action taken.

20-05: Complaint received on March 31, 2020 related to Treasurer Tax Collector employee. Provided information on how to obtain records being sought and explained to complainant that Office did not have jurisdiction over employees. Matter closed April 3, 2020.