



CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE
300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, California 93950

AGENDA REPORT

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Councilmember Lisa Bennett
MEETING DATE: February 15, 2006
SUBJECT: CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM / CONFLICT OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

RECOMMENDATION: Establish a short-term *ad hoc* committee to create and deliver by the end of April a model campaign finance reform/conflict of financial interest ordinance for Council action.

DISCUSSION: One of our four major goals developed at our retreat is to re-establish trust of our electorate in City government. A positive, visible step in this direction would be to take pre-emptive action (i.e., pass an ordinance) which would reduce or remove the influence of money on local politics. In Pacific Grove, we have not had major problems with this, although there have been problems in Monterey County, and are certainly problems in California as a whole. This is one way we could act *before* problems arise and serve as a model to the whole county, none of whose jurisdictions currently have such an ordinance.

A couple of applicable quotes:

“Easily accessible and transparent disclosure of political information lies at the heart of any democracy. Full and open disclosure of campaign finance information is a critical safeguard for preserving that democracy.”

- quote from the Introduction to the “Campaign Finance Disclosure Model Law,” a publication of the Campaign Disclosure Project, a collaboration between the California Voter Foundation, the UCLA School of Law and the Center for Governmental Studies
(10951 W. Pico Blvd., Suite 120
Los Angeles, CA 90064
(310) 470-6590
center@cgs.org)
sponsored by a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts.

This is not something we – or the *ad hoc* committee – would have to invent. Much research has already been done at the national, state, and local level about what works and what doesn’t. Model ordinances exist from which the committee could draw.

This is an opportunity to take relatively easy action to advance one of our goals.

FISCAL IMPACT: Review by City Attorney David Laredo.

ATTACHMENTS: Nov. 7, 2003 letter of endorsement for the concept of creating a law to disconnect campaign contributions from political decision-making, signed by ten local public-interest organizations.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Lisa Bennett

Digitally signed: document author.

Lisa Bennett
COUNCILMEMBER

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JK

FEB 08 2006

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE

HOPE - Helping Our Peninsula's Environment

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Monterey County Supervisors

November 7, 2003

Clean Government Commission Creation Request

Good Day Supervisors:

The credibility of Monterey County and its Supervisor's decisions has been damaged by a Supervisor accepting a \$1,000 campaign contribution less than two months after casting a key vote for the contributor's development.

The credibility of Monterey County absolutely depends upon governmental decisions free of any hint of corruption.

We strongly insist that you immediately appoint a non-financially conflicted Commission to objectively evaluate and recommend solutions to the potential problem of Supervisors' votes being tainted with campaign contributions.

- Helping Our Peninsula's Environment David Dilworth, Exec Dir.
- Women's International League for Peace & Freedom Peggy Olson, co-chair
- Green Party of Monterey County Pete Smith, Secretary
- Save Our Peninsula Committee Ed Leeper.
- Carmel Valley Women's Network Rosemary Watson
- Say No to Ft. Ord's Toxic Burning Denise Moore
- Concerned Citizens of Monterey Co Aurea Truesell
- Pacific Grove Neighbors Terrence B. Zito
- Save Our Waterfront Committee Barbara Ben Evans
- Vision Inspiring the Sanctity and Integrity of Nature Dena Ibrahim

