
Safe, Clean Water Program

Conflict of Interest – Q&A

These answers are for general informational purposes only, to help committee members identify potential conflicts of interest and Brown Act-related issues and are not intended as specific legal advice to any individual or entity. Questions regarding specific issues or circumstances should be communicated to the Safe, Clean Water Program staff as soon as possible after they are identified.

- 1. Is a Form 700 statement required for committee members of the Safe, Clean Water Program? If a Form 700 is required, when should it be filed and to whom should it be addressed? How soon do committee members need to add Safe, Clean Water Program to their Form 700?**

The Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors will initiate Electronic Filing of the Safe, Clean Water Program Committee Member's Statement of Economic Interests Form 700. Form 700s are filed on an annual basis with Los Angeles County Public Works. Future updates to incoming and outgoing committee members will be coordinated by the filing officer for the Safe, Clean Water Program.

- 2. Is there a conflict of interest if a committee member owns property or a business within the jurisdiction of the Watershed Area Steering Committee he/she serves?**

Typically, no. But if there are specific questions or concerns, please contact SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov and 833-275-7297.

- 3. Would it be prohibited for a non-profit organization to enter into a contract with Los Angeles County Public Works to provide consultation services related to the Safe, Clean Water Program if an individual who works for that non-profit is an appointee on one of the committees?**

If the individual plays no role in making the decision to contract with the non-profit or recuses themselves from participating in the decision, then there would not be a conflict. If the individual is involved in making or participating in the decision to contract, the answer hinges on whether the individual has a financial interest in the governmental decision.

The regulation that speaks to this issue is found in the FPPC's Regulations index (<http://www.fppc.ca.gov/the-law/fppc-regulations/regulations-index.html>).

- 4. If Person 1 gives a committee member a gift and Person 1 works for Company A, does the committee member report that the gift was from Company A or Person 1? What if Person 1 bought the gift themselves? Is the committee member responsible for determining if Person 1 was reimbursed by their Company?**

If Person 1 is a friend with whom you would normally exchange gifts, then this is not generally not considered a reportable gift.

If Person 1 is not a friend or family member with whom you typically exchange gifts, then the source of the gift must be reported.

Under most circumstances it is clear who the source of a gift is, but if the gift is being provided by an intermediary, then one must determine both the donor and the intermediary in reporting the gift. If this situation arises and it is unclear who the source of the gift is, please contact SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov and 833-275-7297.

- 5. What are the restrictions on members of different WASCs from the same organization meeting internally to discuss proposed projects?**

Members of different WASCs may speak with each other about proposed projects so long as the discussion does not involve a majority of the members of any WASC. Any discussion involving a majority of the members of the same WASC should only take place during an official WASC meeting.

- 6. How should committee members respond to applicants that request project briefing meetings separate from the scheduled WASC meetings.**

Please refer to the Safe, Clean Water Program [Ex Parte Communication Guidelines](#).

- 7. Who should I contact if I have a question about a specific conflict of interest issue?**

Questions regarding specific conflict of interest issues can be submitted to SafeCleanWaterLA@pw.lacounty.gov and/or 833-275-7297.