



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
PRESS RELEASE

Ethics Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Stacey Fulhorst
San Diego Ethics Commission
(619) 533-3476

**ETHICS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENTS
WITH LOBBYISTS CONCERNING LATE FILING OF REGISTRATION
FORMS AND QUARTERLY REPORTS**

The San Diego Ethics Commission announced today that it has levied \$5,200 in fines against the following 19 lobbying firms and organization lobbyists for failing to timely file registration forms and quarterly disclosure reports during the 2008 calendar year:

- Ace Parking
- Paula Avila
- Deborah Berger
- Bridge Housing Corporation
- Business Improvement District Council
- Todd Cardiff
- Cortes Communications
- Earth Media Inc.
- Ek & Ek
- Gerding/Edlen Development Company
- Julie Hamilton
- Lounsbury Ferguson Altona & Peak
- National Electrical Contractors Association
- Pacific Beach Community Development Corp.
- R. Laster Consulting Corp.
- San Diego Association of Realtors
- UNITE HERE Local 30
- Wright & L'Estrange
- YWCA

The fines paid by each lobbying entity ranged from \$100 to \$700 depending upon the number of late filings and the amount of lobbying information that was ultimately disclosed. Each entity entered into

a stipulated settlement agreement that can be viewed on the Commission’s website at www.sandiego.gov/ethics.

The City’s Lobbying Ordinance requires lobbying firms and organization lobbyists to register within 10 calendar days of meeting the applicable registration threshold, and to file quarterly reports no later than April 30, July 31, October 31, and January 31, covering the preceding calendar quarter. According to the Commission’s Executive Director Stacey Fulhorst, each entity that paid a fine filed more than 30 days late. She added that “The timely disclosure of information regarding lobbyists’ efforts to influence the City’s decision-making process is the fundamental purpose of the lobbying laws.” Finally, Ms. Fulhorst noted that the City Clerk’s Office sends letters to every lobbying firm and organization lobbyist reminding them of their quarterly filing responsibilities in advance of the filing deadlines.

Commission Chairman Richard Valdez commented that, with these enforcement actions, the Commission hopes to remind all lobbyists that the timely filing of registration forms and quarterly disclosure reports will be strictly enforced by the Commission.

Ethics Commission fines are paid to the City of San Diego’s General Fund. The stipulated settlements approved by the Commission resolve all factual and legal issues without the necessity of holding an administrative hearing.

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