



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
PRESS RELEASE

Ethics Commission

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**NEW LOBBYING LAWS REVEAL THAT LOBBYING FIRMS
RECEIVED \$3.8 MILLION TO INFLUENCE CITY OFFICIALS
DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2008**

New lobbying laws that went into effect on January 1, 2008, require more entities to register as lobbyists and require registered lobbyists to disclose substantially more information to the public than was previously required under the old laws, according to the Ethics Commission's Executive Director, Stacey Fulhorst. She noted that the Registration Forms and Quarterly Disclosure Reports filed with the City Clerk indicate that Lobbying Firms and Organization Lobbyists have registered a total of 495 lobbyists in the first six months of 2008, as compared to 165 registered lobbyists in all of 2007.

In addition, according to a review of Lobbyist Quarterly Reports filed for the first and second quarters of 2008, lobbying firms earned a total of \$3.8 million in the first six-months of 2008 to influence decision-makers in the City of San Diego. Specifically, from January through June of this year, 68 lobbying firms reported earning a total of \$3,800,751.76 in fees from their clients. In addition, 35 organization lobbyists (companies that employ in-house lobbyists) reported making a total of 1,520 lobbying contacts with high-level City Officials.

The most lobbied projects in the City during the first and second quarters of 2008 were as follows:

<u>Municipal Decision</u>	<u>Money Earned by Firms</u>	<u>Contacts by Organizations</u>
Otay Mesa Community Plan Update	\$119,617	31 lobbying contacts
General Plan Update	\$ 56,000	85 lobbying contacts
Quarry Falls Project	\$ 31,000	57 lobbying contacts

Because the City's new lobbying laws also require disclosure of campaign contributions and campaign fundraising activities, the Quarterly Disclosure Reports filed by lobbying entities reveal that lobbyist-related campaign contributions to City candidates totaled \$52,699.70 in the first six months of the year. The Quarterly Disclosure Reports also reveal that lobbying-related fundraising activities resulted in a total of \$192,418.65 being raised for City candidates from January to June of 2008, with some lobbying firms taking credit for raising more than \$50,000 for individual City candidates.

The Commission's Chairman, Gil Cabrera, pointed out that the Commission proposed the new laws in 2007 "in order to create more transparency and reinforce public trust in the integrity of the City's decision-making process." He added that, based on the information disclosed in the first six months of the year, the new laws seem to be working as intended because "the public now has substantially more information about the people who are paid to influence City Officials." Finally, Chairman Cabrera noted that, thanks to the diligent efforts of the City Clerk's Office, the Registration Forms and Quarterly Disclosure Reports are now available on-line, which greatly enhances the public's ability to access relevant information.

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