

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

PRESS RELEASE

Ethics Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ETHICS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENTS WITH TWO LOBBYING FIRMS CONCERNING LATE FILING OF QUARTERLY REPORTS

Stacey Fulhorst, Executive Director of the City of San Diego Ethics Commission, announced today the Commission's approval of stipulated settlement agreements with two lobbying firms: Coast Law Group and Lancaster Consulting Corporation. According to Ms. Fulhorst, both firms agreed to pay a fine of \$500 for failing to timely file their disclosure reports for the first quarter of 2009.

The City's Lobbying Ordinance requires lobbying firms to file quarterly reports no later than April 30, July 31, October 31, and January 31, covering the preceding calendar quarter. Ms. Fulhorst explained that the principals of both Coast Law Group and Lancaster Consulting Corporation are experienced lobbyists, and that both were several months late with their respective filings. However, Ms. Fulhorst noted that neither firm has a history of late filing, which was a key factor in determining the amount of the fine.

Commission Chairman Richard Valdez commented that "The timely disclosure of lobbying and related activities is the cornerstone of the City's lobbying laws."

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.