CITY OF OAKLAND
Public Ethics Commission

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Daniel D. Purnell, Executive Director

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TO: Public Ethics Commission
FROM: Daniel Purnell
DATE: April 7, 2010

RE: **A Staff Report And Action To Be Taken Regarding A Proposal By City Councilmember Ignacio De La Fuente To 1) Increase OCRA Contribution Limits From Persons From $700 to $1,000; 2) Increase OCRA Contribution Limits From Broad-Based Political Committees From $1,300 to $1,600; and 3) Increase All OCRA Voluntary Expenditure Ceilings 40 Percent From Current Limits**

At a regular meeting of the City Council's Rules And Legislation Committee held on Thursday, March 18, 2010, City Councilmember Ignacio De La Fuente submitted a proposal to make the following increases to expenditure and contribution limits in Oakland campaigns:

- Individual contributions adjusted from $700 to $1,000
- PAC contributions adjusted from $1,300 to $1,600; and
- Expenditure limits in all races increased 40 percent from current limits

Because there was no public notice that the Rules Committee would be taking any action other than to receive a report from the Public Ethics Commission on campaign finance, the City Attorney's Office advised Mr. De La Fuente to submit a subsequent scheduling request so the Rules Committee could consider whether or when to schedule the proposed item. The Rules Committee has scheduled a hearing on the proposal for April 15, 2010, and a hearing before the City Council on April 20, 2010. A copy of Mr. De La Fuente's actual proposed amendment or accompanying staff report was not available at the time of this writing. Commission staff will supplement this report as soon as the proposal and report become available.

At its meeting of March 4, 2010, the Commission considered a proposal from City Attorney John Russo to double current contribution and expenditure limits across the board for the upcoming November election. Commission staff submitted a report analyzing the proposal. It also

included the results from a review of campaign finance statements from the 2006 and 2008 elections. Based on the survey findings and extensive public comment, the Commission voted not to recommend that Mr. Russo's proposal be adopted. Commission staff communicated the Commission's vote to the Rules Committee on March 18, 2010.

This item is agendized to permit the Commission to discuss and take an action regarding Mr. De La Fuente's proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel D. Purnell
Executive Director