



JOHN CHIANG
California State Controller

November 27, 2007

Ross Johnson
Commission Chairman
Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Independent Citizens Oversight Committee Conflict of Interest

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I recently became aware through media reports that Dr. John Reed, an appointee to the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee ("ICOC"), may have violated state conflict-of-interest rules.

As chair of the Citizens Financial Accountability and Oversight Committee and as the State's Chief Fiscal Officer, I am requesting that you take immediate action to investigate the charges outlined in these articles and present a report on the results and recommendations for action as soon as possible.

Media reports allege that last summer, Dr. Reed attempted to reverse a decision rejecting a grant proposal by a scientist who works for him at the Burnham Institute of Medical Research in La Jolla, California. The article correctly indicates that, under the conflict-of-interest code adopted by the agency, board members are prohibited from discussing funding requests from organizations they represent.

If such an action resulted in a violation of the Political Reform Act, it could undermine the ICOC's credibility with the citizens of this state who overwhelmingly voted for the establishment of the ICOC and who placed their trust in the proper administration of grants from the State's bond proceeds.

Sincerely,

JOHN CHIANG
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Page 2

cc:

Enforcement Division
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