



# Ethics Office Monthly Report

**June 2022**

## **POLICY**

Began drafting proposed revisions to ethics-related provisions in the Administrative Code consistent with the California State Auditor's report of findings and recommendations.

Collaborated with the Water System Operations section manager responsible for safety on incorporating information about retaliation and how to report potential retaliation into the employee safety manual.

## **COMPLIANCE**

*Lobbying* – Launched Metropolitan's Lobbyist and Lobbying Firm Registration Program. Registration forms will be available to the public.

*Form 700* – Continued management of the Form 700 annual filing season, which began January 1, 2022 and ended April 1, 2022. To date, filings from one director and four employees are pending and 673 filings have been received and filed. Staff continues efforts to obtain full compliance for Metropolitan.

Sent notices to 42 employees whose positions were added to Metropolitan's Conflict of Interest Code in March and who had not timely filed their Assuming Office statements. As of the date of this report, filings from 11 employees are pending.

Assisted employees with Assuming Office and Leaving Office Form 700 filings. Assistance included troubleshooting the electronic filing system and notifications of deadlines.

Monitored the status of past due Assuming Office and Leaving Office Form 700 filings;

obtained compliance from nine current employees and one former employee.

## **ADVICE**

Addressed 19 advice matters involving: conflicts of interest, financial disclosure, recusal, gift and outside employment policies, and other ethics-related topics.

## **INVESTIGATIONS**

Received complaints alleging in part that: 1) There is systemic racial discrimination in the hiring and promotional processes at Metropolitan, and 2) A Metropolitan official misused their authority to take actions that harmed other Metropolitan officials.

## **ETHICS OFFICER FINDINGS**

The Ethics Officer found that allegations that a supervisor attempted to influence matters in which they had a personal conflict of interest and/or misused their authority to provide a private advantage to another person were not substantiated. The investigation was conducted by Ethics Office staff and the findings were based on evidence that the supervisor did not have a personal conflict of interest and their actions were driven by legitimate business purposes.

## **ADVICE AND INVESTIGATIVE DATA**

Advice Matters	19
Compliance Assistance	88
Complaints Received	2
Investigations Opened	0
Pending Investigations	3