

November 13, 2023

The Honorable City Council
c/o Holly Wolcott, City Clerk
200 North Spring Street
City Hall—3rd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Approved Updates to the Los Angeles Administrative Code
*FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION***

Action Required by January 7, 2024

Dear Councilmembers:

On November 8, 2023, the Ethics Commission voted unanimously to adopt minor technical updates to the Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC). These updates correct outdated references to sections of the Campaign Finance Ordinance (CFO). Language to effectuate the updates is provided in section B.

A. Background

The Los Angeles City Charter (Charter) requires the Ethics Commission to routinely review the laws under its jurisdiction to ensure their effectiveness and consistency. Charter § 702(f). These laws are diverse and include sections of the Charter, the LAAC, and the Los Angeles City Municipal Code (LAMC). Because of the complex interplay between these laws, many provisions under the authority of the Ethics Commission include cross-references and internal citations.

In 2019, the Ethics Commission approved several amendments to the City's matching funds program. These amendments included the streamlining of LAMC section 49.7.27, which eliminated its subsections. As a result of that change, a reference in LAAC section 24.34(c)(2) to the now-deleted subsection must be removed.

Additionally, in January of 2020, the City amended the CFO by adopting new restrictions on campaign contributions by certain developers. Those amendments required the renumbering of LAMC sections 49.7.38 through 49.7.41. As a result of that change, a reference in LAAC section 24.38(b) to the previous LAMC section 49.7.38 must now be changed to its current number, 49.7.39.

B. Approved Language

Language to effectuate the approved changes is provided on the next page.

LAAC § 24.34. MATCHING FUNDS PAYMENTS.

...

c. Payment and Claim Windows.

...

2. Matching funds claims must identify at least \$10,000 in matchable portions of qualified contributions, as determined by the formula in Municipal Code Section 49.7.27(A), except in the following circumstances:

LAAC § 24.38. VIOLATIONS.

...

- b. The failure of a candidate, controlled committee, or treasurer to comply with any provision of this chapter is a violation of this chapter and is subject to the penalties and remedies in Charter Section 706 and Municipal Code Section 49.7.389.

C. Process

Within 60 days after the Ethics Commission adopts a regulation, the City Council is required to hold a public hearing and either approve or disapprove the regulation by ordinance. Charter § 703(b). The Mayor may approve or veto. *Id.* If the City Council and the Mayor fail to act, the regulation becomes law. *Id.* The deadline for acting on these updates is January 7, 2024.

D. Conclusion

To maintain accuracy and consistency across the laws under its jurisdiction, the Ethics Commission has adopted updates to the LAAC as indicated above in section B. We urge you to approve the adopted updates.

We would be happy to discuss the updates with you at any time. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Policy Director Tyler Joseph.

Sincerely,



David Tristan
Executive Director