

REPORT ON INFORMATION COLLECTED CONCERNING APPLICANT

Under section 60835 of title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, the Bureau of State Audits is responsible for collecting information concerning applicants for the Citizens Redistricting Commission that is needed by the Applicant Review Panel to perform its responsibilities. This is a report by Bureau staff in compliance with that responsibility.

Name of Applicant: Gabino T. Aguirre

Information: As indicated in the "Activities" section of his supplemental application, Applicant is a member of the Santa Paula City Council. He was elected to the City Council in 2002 and re-elected in 2006. Applicant served as Mayor of Santa Paula in 2004. However, his current term on the City Council expires in November 2010, and he is not running for re-election.

In addition to serving as a member of the City Council, Applicant is a member of the governing board on the Ventura Council of Governments. He also is Chairmann of Community Action of Ventura County. According to its website, Community Action of Ventura County is a nonprofit organization that seeks to address short- and long-term poverty issues and its impact on families and the community.

In the "Activities" section of his supplemental application, Applicant presented a list of his "Professional Interests/Concerns." At the top of the list was "Latino/Latina issues (health, education . . .)" and the interests of no other racial or ethnic group appeared on the list. Staff therefore asked Applicant what he has done to serve other racial or ethnic groups. Applicant stated he has worked with Community Action of Ventura County for four years and currently is the Chairman. This group reaches out to all people in need of services without regard to ethnicity. He also stated that as a member of the Santa Paula City Council and the Ventura Council of Governments, he serves the whole community on issues such as land use and transportation.

Staff observed that one of Applicant's letters of recommendation was written by Kathy Long, a Democrat who is the current Chairperson of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. Another of Applicant's letters of recommendation was written by Susan Broidy, the former Region 10 Director of the California Democratic Party. Staff also discovered that Applicant had hosted fundraiser at his home in October 2008 for Ferial Masry, a Democratic candidate for Assembly, and in June 2010 endorsed Marie Panec, a Democratic candidate for Congress. When staff asked Applicant about his partisan political activities, Applicant responded that "it's not about the party -- it's about the person's position." He related that because of his background he is drawn to the Democratic Party's "more enlightened" positions.

In reviewing Applicant's Form 700, staff noticed that Applicant did not disclose any sources of income on the form. Staff asked Applicant about this, and he replied that the income he and his wife receive all comes from governmental sources, and therefore is not required to be disclosed

on the Form 700. However, Applicant then submitted a revised Form 700 that disclosed the income that he and his wife receive from governmental sources, even though that disclosure was not required.

Staff contacted Kathy Long, the author of one of Applicant's letters of recommendation, to confirm the information provided in the letter and receive any additional information that may be relevant. Ms. Long confirmed the information in the letter, and added that Applicant works effectively with all groups on city-wide and county-wide issues. She also reiterated her strong support for Applicant.

Recommendation: None.

Name and Title of Person Submitting Report: Steven Benito Russo, Chief of Investigations

Report Date: September 19, 2010