

**CITY OF OAKLAND**  
**Public Ethics Commission**

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**TO:** Public Ethics Commission  
**FROM:** Daniel Purnell  
**DATE:** July 7, 2003

**RE: A Status Report And Action To Be Taken Regarding Proposed Amendments To The Limited Public Financing Act**

At its regular meeting of June 19, 2003, the Oakland City Council adopted a budget for Fiscal Years 2003-2005. Deleted from that budget was the proposed funding for the Limited Public Financing Act for the March, 2004, and November, 2004, municipal elections. The City Manager's proposed budget initially budgeted \$300,000 for candidates in the March, 2004, election, and \$140,000 for the November, 2004, election, for a total of \$440,000. The City council voted unanimously to use these funds for other generally funded programs.

An amendment to exempt the March and November, 2004, elections from the Limited Public Financing Act will be considered by the City Council at its July 15, 2003, meeting. This amendment is required to effect the City Council's decision not to fund the program for those elections.

At issue before the Commission is what action to take regarding the administrative amendments the Commission drafted and discussed earlier this year. Since the program will not likely be in effect until the March, 2006, election at the earliest, one option would be to submit the proposed amendments sometime prior to the preparation of the next two-year budget (i.e., FY 2005-2007). The Commission would then have time to propose what elective offices the program should fund, at what levels, and let that policy recommendation guide the next budget request. Another option is to submit the proposed administrative changes to the City Council sometime after its summer legislative recess.

Commission staff recommends that the Commission submit a single set of administrative and policy amendments prior to the preparation of the City's next two-year budget.