

September 5, 2006

Honorable Mayor and Members of
the Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular Meeting of
September 12, 2006

AB1234 ETHICS TRAINING

Recommendation:

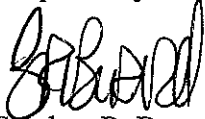
That the City Council acknowledge the date for the required training on Monday, October 30, 2006 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

Background:

As you are aware, all local officials are required to receive two (2) hours of ethics training by the end of the year. Thereafter, the training is required on a two year basis. There are often opportunities at League of California Cities events to receive the training. Those that have taken advantage of those opportunities would not need to attend.

The training will be conducted by the City Attorney. It will be offered to all commissioners and board members as well as anyone that has not received the training. The training will be conducted in the City Council chambers and we intend to allow other cities to participate if they wish.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen R. Burrell
City Manager



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Local Ethics Training Requirement - Assembly Bill 1234

(Updated July 11, 2006)

On October 7, 2005, the Governor signed **Assembly Bill No. 1234**. AB 1234 requires (among other things) that all local agencies that provide compensation, salary, or stipend to, or reimburses the expenses of, members of a legislative body must provide ethics training to local agency officials by January 1, 2007, and every two years thereafter. The term "legislative body" includes not only the governing body of a local agency, but also a commission, committee, board, or other body of a local agency, whether permanent or temporary, decision-making or advisory.

The bill further provides that if an entity develops criteria for the ethics training, the Commission and the Attorney General's Office must be consulted regarding the proposed course content. **Please note that the enacted statute (Government Code section 53235) is not in the Political Reform Act. Therefore, other than the consultation requirement regarding the training course, the Commission has no jurisdiction to interpret the new legislation.**

[Link to text of Assembly Bill 1234](#)

Commission memorandum and proposed regulation 18371 (as amended as of January 10, 2006) implementing Assembly Bill 1234 was considered by the Commission on January 20, 2006:

[Memorandum](#)

[Proposed 18371](#)

[Comment Letter](#)

On January 20, 2006, the Commission adopted proposed regulation 18371 to implement AB 1234.

[Final version Regulation 18371: Local Agency Ethics Training. \(Filed 02-21-06; effective 02-21-06.\)](#)

[Resource Chart](#)

[Attorney General's Office AB 1234 Criteria \(.pdf file\)](#)

[Institute for Local Government Resources](#)

As of the last update, both the Attorney General and The Fair Political Practices Commission completed their statutory tasks associated with the training required by AB 1234. The Commission developed a regulation which provides guidance on content concerning the Political Reform Act, and the Attorney General issued guidelines concerning accuracy and sufficiency of the remaining course content: <http://caag.state.ca.us/ethics/index.htm>.

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Since that last update, interested parties have been collaborating on the development of a on-line training program that will allow local officials to satisfy the requirements of AB 1234 on a cost-free basis. The Institute for Local Government and the County of Monterey have taken the lead in the program's creation. Because the program applies to members of part-time boards and commissions, as well as county supervisors and city councilmembers, there has been a conscious attempt to minimize legalistic language, case citations, and references to statutes and regulations in the body of the training. This training program will meet with the full approval of the Commission and the Attorney General.

While no hard and fast completion dates can be provided at present, it is anticipated that the program will be available on the internet in time to satisfy this year's training requirement. Please consult the FPPC website for future updates.

If you would like to receive periodic updates on the status of the implementation project, please e-mail your name, firm, address, phone number and e-mail address to jwallace@fppc.ca.gov.



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