January 20, 2016

Public Records Act Request
Governor’s Office
Attention: Sara Curtis, Legal Department

Pursuant to California Government Code § 6253(b) of the Public Records Act, and SEC. 3 Art. 1 of the California Constitution, Consumer Watchdog requests copies of the records described below:

• Written evidence of Executive Secretary Nancy McFadden’s recusal from any discussions, deliberations, or decisions in the Governor’s Office on matters to do with utilities. This recusal would cover Pacific Gas & Electric, where Ms. McFadden was a top executive before joining Governor Brown’s staff, as well as Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas, and San Diego Gas & Electric.

• Written evidence (including, but not limited to, memos, meeting notes, and emails) of any decisions taken by any member of the Governor’s staff on the recusal of Nancy McFadden from utility discussions, deliberations, or decisions.

• Written evidence of all contacts with the utilities themselves, (including, but not limited to, telephone conversation notes, memos, emails, and meetings noted in daily diaries of her own or that of any other staff member to which she was invited).

• Written evidence of recusal, or of contact (including, but not limited to emails, memos, hand-written notes, daily diary entries of Nancy McFadden’s or any other person working in the Governor’s Office, including Governor Jerry Brown) on any specific matters to do with, related to, or including but not limited to PG&E’s San Bruno explosion, the closure of Southern California Edison’s San Onofre nuclear-powered generating plant, and Southern California Gas’s leak at Porter Ranch. Ms. McFadden should have an official record of her recusal from all the matters above.

Consumer Watchdog requests these records in an electronic format such as a Portable Document Format (“PDF”) or Microsoft Word document.
Any records withheld from production for inspection should be separately identified, and should be accompanied by the claimed justification for withholding those records as required by Government Code section 6255. The justification should state the nature of the record withheld, the specific exemption under which the record is being withheld, and provide an explanation of why the public interest is served by withholding withheld, and provide an explanation of why the public interest is served by withholding the record. We reserve the right to appeal the Governor’s Office’s decision to withhold any materials.

Should you contend that a portion of a particular record is exempt from disclosure due to confidentiality, we also request pursuant to Government Code section 6253(a) that the exempt portion be redacted and the remaining portion be produced for inspection.

Consumer Watchdog is prepared to pay reasonable search and duplication fees in connection with this request. However, agencies have discretion to waive fees in order to provide greater access to public records pursuant to Government Code section 6253(e). (See North Co. Parents Org. v. California Dept. of Educ. (1994) 23 Cal.App.4th 144, 148.) As the information that is the subject of this request is of primary benefit to the public regarding how taxpayer dollars are being spent by public agencies, we ask that the Governor’s Office waive all search and duplication fees.

Consistent with Government Code section 6253(c), we expect to hear from the Governor’s Office within ten days. If you have any questions concerning the scope of this Public Records Act request, please contact me at (310) 392-7931 or email me at liza@consumerwatchdog.org

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Liza Tucker, Consumer Advocate
CONSUMER WATCHDOG