FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 26, 2020

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jay Wierenga, FPPC (916) 322-7761

## FPPC to extend Form 700 deadline due to COVID-19

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Fair Political Practices Commission is allowing a 60-day extension until June 1, 2020 for those required to file a 2019 annual Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700). This two-month extension means Form 700's that are normally due on April 1, 2020 will be accepted by the Commission as timely until June first. The extension will apply to all officials required to file in April pursuant to Commission Regulations 18723 and 18730. The Commission intends to formally ratify this extension at its April 2 special meeting.

"We recognize the unique and serious nature of this pandemic and its effects on the public, as well as the work and effort now demanded of public officials around the State," said FPPC Chair Richard C. Miadich. "We don't want to place undue burdens on people when their and all of our primary efforts should be to help California get through this pandemic."

The FPPC still encourage filers to file when they can, as soon as they are able. Those who have access to an electronic Form 700 filing system are encouraged to take advantage of its use. If electronic filing is not available, filers can submit Form 700's by mail. Statements postmarked on or before the new, extended deadline will be considered filed on time.

"I'm proud of how Californians are responding to the calls by our public health and elected officials to do their part in helping us all get through the COVID-19 pandemic," said Miadich. "Form 700's are vital and necessary for transparency among our public officials and are still required. But these extenuating circumstances require flexibility, and that's what we're trying to achieve.

The Fair Political Practices Commission's advice telephone line is closed until further notice. The FPPC will, however, continue to timely respond to requests for advice received via email. If you have an advice question related to Form 700 filing, please send your question to <a href="mailto:Form700@fppc.ca.gov">Form700@fppc.ca.gov</a>. If you do not have access to email you may call 916-322-1052 and leave a message, however responses from that line may be delayed.