

# MONTHLY OPINION REPORT

## CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE



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### OPINION UNIT

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The Attorney General's Opinion Unit is responsible for researching and drafting the formal opinions of the Attorney General. This Monthly Opinion Report lists all of the questions that are currently under consideration for formal opinions.

If you would like to give us your input on any of these questions, the Opinion Unit would be delighted to hear from you. The Attorney General welcomes and solicits the views of all interested persons concerning the legal issues raised in any question submitted for an opinion. Views should be in writing and directed to the deputy assigned to prepare the opinion. All views submitted before publication will be considered, but early submissions are greatly preferred. All submissions will be treated as public records subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act.

For more information about the Opinion Unit, or to retrieve a copy of a published opinion, please see our website at <http://oag.ca.gov/opinions>.

### QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN OPINION REQUESTS ASSIGNED DURING FEBRUARY 2017

**17-101** requested by City of Moreno City Prosecuting Attorney Martin D. Koczanowicz concerning the following question:

May a city validly set health and welfare benefits for its city council members at a dollar amount equal to a set percentage of the benefits provided to the city's highest-income employee group, and, if not, what are the consequences of overpayment?  
(Assigned to Deputy Attorney General Catherine Bidart)

**17-103** requested by Alameda County Counsel Donna R. Ziegler concerning the following question:

Does the county procurement process pose a conflict of interest or violate anti-competition laws? (Assigned to Deputy Attorney General Lawrence M. Daniels)

**17-202** requested by Mendocino County Counsel Katharine L. Elliott concerning the following question:

Does state law preempt the enforcement of a county ordinance that declares “intentionally killed and left standing trees” to be a public nuisance? (Assigned to Deputy Attorney General Catherine Bidart)

### **OPINIONS PENDING**

- 11-201** Is a California charter school and its board of directors subject to: a) the Ralph M. Brown Act; or b) the California Public Records Act; or c) the Political Reform Act of 1974; or d) Government Code section 1090; or e) the review and inspection of books and records, by a Grand Jury formed pursuant to Penal Code section 888? (Most notably, the Grand Jury whose function it is to investigate and inquire into county functions of civil concern, *see also* Penal Code section 933.6.) (Medeiros)
- 11-705** May a court impose a probation condition on a DUI defendant to make a specified payment to the DUIRR Program? (Eisenberg)
- 12-1203** May a former local agency employee serve on that public agency’s elected Board of Directors while still being carried on that agency’s employee payroll solely for purposes of utilizing unused vacation leave remaining from his/her time as an active employee? (Eisenberg)
- 14-101** May non-attorneys represent parties in (1) administrative proceedings conducted before the Office of Administrative Hearings, or (2) “due process hearings” conducted under the Education Code? (Medeiros)
- 14-202** May the “premium” generated from a school district bond sale be used to pay for expenses of issuance and other transaction costs? (Medeiros)
- 14-301** May an attorney who sits on a city council represent clients with interests adverse to that city? (Daniels)
- 14-403** What is the scope of intergovernmental immunity (Gov. Code §§ 53090-53091) where a city owns and leases real property in an unincorporated area of a county? (Nolan)
- 15-101** May the Prison Industry Authority deposit funds in a commercial bank account not subject to immediate access or control by other state agencies? (Binsacca)

- 15-301** Is the time for filing the report required under Business and Professions Code section 805 tolled when a healing arts licentiate requests a hearing on the action that triggered the filing requirement? (Binsacca)
- 15-1102** Request for advice on the jurisdictional authority of a local housing authority and an out-of-state housing authority under state law. (Binsacca)
- 16-201** May a local jurisdiction require a subdivision applicant to eliminate the designation of a remainder parcel on a tentative parcel map, or require an applicant to provide additional analysis of a remainder parcel that has already been approved for development? (Eisenberg)
- 16-301** May a water district provide retirement contributions to members of its governing board without violating statutory compensation limits? (Medeiros)
- 16-402** Must specified prior offenders receive a formal pardon from the Governor in order to obtain a “certificate of rehabilitation and pardon” and qualify for a classified employment position at a school or community college district? (Eisenberg)
- 16-603** Does the Voter Participation Rights Act apply to charter cities and school districts? (Daniels)
- 16-702** Does Elections Code section 10515(a) require a county Board of Supervisors to appoint water district directors under circumstances where incompatible office holding would result? (Daniels)
- 16-801** May a fire protection district chief enforce regulations of the State Fire Marshal? (Bidart)
- 17-101** May a city validly set health and welfare benefits for its city council members at a dollar amount equal to a set percentage of the benefits provided to the city's highest-income employee group, and, if not, what are the consequences of overpayment? (Bidart)
- 17-102** May the California Legislature lawfully retain the services of private legal counsel? (Nolan)
- 17-103** Does the county procurement process pose a conflict of interest or violate anti-competition laws? (Daniels)
- 17-108** Does the ban on state-funded travel set forth in Government Code section 11139.8 apply to University of California and California State University athletic team staffs? (Eisenberg)
- 17-202** Does state law preempt the enforcement of a county ordinance that declares “intentionally killed and left standing trees” to be a public nuisance? (Bidart)

**CONCLUSIONS OF OPINIONS ISSUED IN FEBRUARY 2017**

No opinions were issued in February.

**OPINIONS CANCELLED IN FEBRUARY 2017**

16-401 Cancelled 2/24/17

The deputies assigned to the questions submitted can be reached at the following addresses and telephone numbers:

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