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Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 3:30 PM
Subject: [External_Sender] UCLA records have not been forthcoming

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Foot dragging by public agencies continue in effort to cover criminal actions by CPUC leaders.
Joe Holtzman
The Buffalo Republic

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From: George Courser <gcourser@hotmail.com>
Date: December 21, 2015 at 10:42:07 AM MST
To: "shutsanonofre@citizenoversight.org" <shutsanonofre@citizenoversight.org>
Subject: [ShutSanOnofre] UCLA records have not been forthcoming

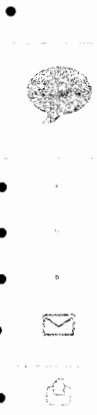
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- WATCHDOG

UCLA records have not been forthcoming



By Jeff McDonald | 6 a.m. Dec. 21, 2015



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In early April, days before The San Diego Union-Tribune reported that state criminal investigators had raised questions about UCLA dealings with the California Public Utilities Commission, the newspaper requested emails and other documents from the university under the state Public Records Act.

The law requires public institutions to comply within 10 days, but this week UCLA notified the Union-Tribune that it would delay its response for the sixth time and records now are expected to be released early next year.

Previously

- Utilities scandal now touches UCLA
- Utilities boss pushed hard for UCLA
- UCLA had plans for \$25 million
- Peevey and UCLA remain linked

“Although we previously provided you with an estimated availability date of December 18th for the records that are responsive to your request, the review of records is still ongoing,” wrote Rebecca Katsura of the Information Practices office at the University of California Los Angeles.

The records pertain to ongoing investigations by state prosecutors, who want to know how UCLA researcher Stephanie Pincetl learned that \$25 million in research funding would become available months before state utility regulators made the information public.

According to previously released emails, Pincetl and former commission President Michael Peevey discussed the grant as early as December 2013 and by spring of 2014 she put together a six-page proposal for the money.

The money was not announced publicly until September 2014, when Utilities Commissioner Michel Florio said Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric should improve settlement terms for the San Onofre closure by adding \$25 million in grants to study greenhouse gas emissions.

The state Attorney General’s Office is investigating Peevey and other commission officials for potentially illegal communications with utility executives.

Among other things, investigators are examining notes from a March 2013 meeting in Warsaw, Poland, where Peevey and an Edison official sketched out deal points for dividing the costs of the premature closing of the San Onofre power plant between customers and shareholders.

The terms included tens of millions of dollars for greenhouse-gas research for an unspecified institution.

In May 2014, Pincetl emailed Peevey a “concept proposal” for the \$25 million made available by the San Onofre closure, saying the shutdown “offers a unique and timely opportunity for a reconsideration of energy supply and use in Southern California.”

Peevey was also invited to join a special advisory committee at the university.

The Union-Tribune filed a public records request with UCLA on April 3, seeking “all emails or written correspondence” between Pincetl and other university officials and Peevey, Florio and other commission officials.

Similar requests filed with the commission yielded no documents. The commission is spending more than \$5 million of ratepayer funds on criminal-defense lawyers who are, in many cases, determining that legal privileges prevent release of requested documents.

By contrast, UCLA has repeatedly indicated it would comply with the request for public documents.

On April 14, the university said it would respond by April 27 with an estimated compliance date. On April 27, the school said the release would be delayed until Oct. 30.

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On May 4, after being pressed by the newspaper, the university provided a copy of the proposal Pincetl had sent to Peevey a year earlier. A week after that, UCLA released a handful of internal emails, some of which were dated early this year — after Peevey left the commission.

“We look forward to working with you, brainstorming and pushing the envelope,” Pincetl wrote. “Your leadership and support has been invaluable to our work, but also in changing the dialogue in the state. Your legacy will be remembered and I am also sure you are not done.”

Last week, Katsura said the records requested in April will be released by Jan. 29, 2016.

Shutsanonofre mailing list

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