



Press Releases

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:

Lewis Fein, Executive Director

Telephone:(310) 472-0520

PUBLIC INTEREST WATCH (PIW) CALLS ON ATTORNEY GENERAL AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS TO INVESTIGATE “KEEP IT RURAL, CALAVERAS (KIR)”

STATE AND FEDERAL NON PROFIT REPORTING REQUIREMENT VIOLATIONS ALLEGED

Sacramento-- Public Interest Watch ("PIW") today called on California Attorney General Jerry Brown to enforce the law, and compel ALL non-profit scofflaws to file the proper documents required by law to prevent abuse that reflects poorly on legitimate tax-exempt organizations.

“One bad apple can spoil the whole barrel,” said Lewis Fein PIW Executive Director. “according to information provided to me, KIR has failed to file an initial statement of registration with the Attorney General’s office of Charitable Trusts, submit tax forms (990s) or submit a renewal fee and the organization, and it’s self identified representatives Lewis & Kathleen Mayhew may now be liable for fines and penalties under California and Federal law,” said Fein.

“I am more than willing to give Keep it Rural Calaveras the benefit of the doubt but according to the Attorney General’s website, failure to register with the California Attorney General's office within six months of collecting assets violates California Government Code Section 12585. Documents provided to PIW suggest that local tax and law enforcement authorities are also investigating possible improprieties, said Fein.”

Tax-exempt organizations effectively run on taxpayer money. With that privilege, comes a responsibility to fully disclose the details of their operations to the taxpayers who are footing the bill. PIW encourages the public to report non-profit abuse to expose those who take advantage of the public trust.

Public Interest Watch (PIW) was established in 2002 in response to the growing misuse of charitable funds by nonprofit organizations and the lack of effort by government agencies to deal with the

problem. PIW works to fight charitable trust abuse by exposing individual cases of abuse and advocating for stronger governmental oversight, including requirements for greater financial disclosure by charitable organizations.