



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Contractor Code of Conduct

Adopted: 12/00; Revised: 11/02, 11/06

Preamble

Los Angeles Unified School District's Contractor Code of Conduct was adopted to enhance public trust and confidence in the integrity of LAUSD's decision-making process. This Code is premised on three concepts:

- *Ethical and responsible use of scarce public tax dollars is a critical underpinning of effective government*
- *Contracting integrity and quality of service are the shared responsibilities of LAUSD and our Contractors*
- *Proactive and transparent management of potential ethics concerns improves public confidence*

This Code sets forth the ethical standards and requirements that all Contractors and their Representatives shall adhere to in their dealings with or on behalf of LAUSD. Failure to meet these standards could result in sanctions including, but not limited to, avoidance of current or future contracts.

1. Contractors

All LAUSD Contractors and their Representatives are expected to conduct any and all business affiliated with LAUSD in an ethical and responsible manner that fosters integrity and public confidence. A "Contractor" is any individual, organization, corporation, sole proprietorship, partnership, nonprofit, joint venture, association, or any combination thereof that is pursuing or conducting business with and/or on behalf of LAUSD, including, without limitation, consultants, suppliers, manufacturers, and any other vendors, bidders or proposers. A Contractor's "Representative" is also broadly defined to include any subcontractors, employees, agents, or anyone else who acts on a Contractor's behalf.

2. Mission Support

LAUSD relies on Contractors and their Representatives to support our LAUSD mission statement of "*educating students to a higher level of achievement that will enable them to be responsible individuals and productive members of the greater society.*" Contractors and their Representatives must provide high-value products, services and expertise which advance LAUSD's mission or provide mission-related benefits that support our goals for the students, employees, stakeholders, and the communities we serve.

3. Ethical Responsibilities

All LAUSD contracts must be developed and maintained within an ethical framework. LAUSD seeks to promote public trust and confidence in our contracting relationships and we expect every individual, regardless of position or level of responsibility, who is associated with an LAUSD procurement process or contract, to commit to exemplifying high standards of conduct in *all phases* of any relationship with LAUSD.

Given that the business practices and actions of Contractors and their Representatives may impact or reflect upon LAUSD, strict observance with the standards in this Code, all applicable local, state and federal laws, and any other governing LAUSD policies or agreements is not only a minimum requirement for all Contractors and their Representatives, but an ethical obligation as well.

In addition to any specific obligations under a Contractor's agreement with LAUSD, all Contractors and their Representatives shall comply with the following requirements:

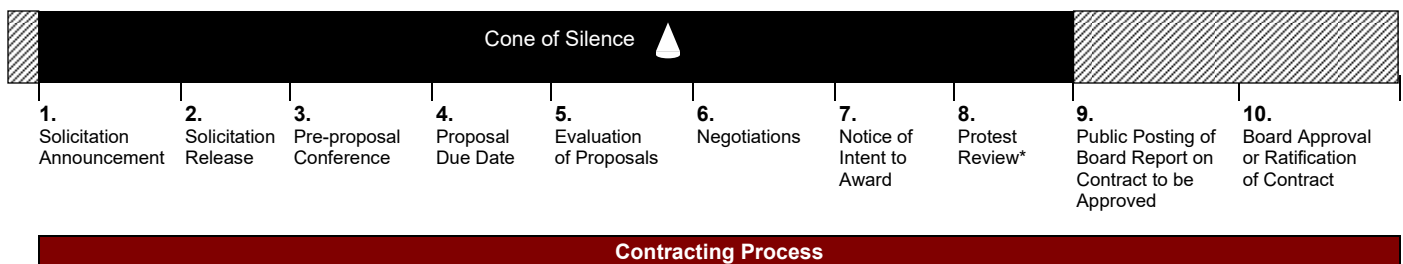
- Demonstrate Honesty and Integrity* – Contractors shall adhere to the highest standards of honesty and integrity in all their dealings with and/or on behalf of LAUSD. As a general rule, Contractors must exercise caution and avoid *even the appearance of impropriety or misrepresentation*. All communications, proposals, business information, time records, and any other financial transactions must be provided truthfully, accurately, and completely.
- Be a Responsible Bidder* – Contractors shall demonstrate a record of integrity and business ethics in accordance with all policies, procedures, and requirements established by LAUSD.
 - Critical Factors* – In considering a Contractor's record of integrity and business ethics, LAUSD may consider factors including, but not limited to: criminal investigations, indictments, injunctions, fines, convictions, administrative agreements, suspensions or debarments imposed by other governmental agencies, tax

delinquencies, settlements, financial solvency, past performance, prior determinations of failure to meet integrity-related responsibilities, and violations by the Contractor and its Representatives of any LAUSD policies and Codes in prior procurements and contracts. LAUSD reserves the right to reject any bid, proposal and contract, and to impose other sanctions against Contractors who fail to comply with our district policies and requirements, or who violate the prohibitions set forth below in Section 6, Prohibited Activities.

C. **Maintain the Cone of Silence** – Contractors shall maintain a Cone of Silence during required times of the contracting process to ensure that the process is shielded from even the appearance of undue influence. Contractors and their Representatives risk disqualification from consideration and/or other penalties outlined in Section 8, Enforcement Provisions, if they engage in prohibited communication during the restricted period(s).

(1) **Competitive Contracting Process** – To ensure a level playing field with an open and uniform *competitive* contracting process, Contractors and their Representatives must maintain a Cone of Silence from the time when an Invitation for Bid (IFB), Request for Proposal (RFP), Request for Interest and Bid (RFIB), Request for Quote, Request for Qualification, or any other solicitation release is announced until the time a contract award recommendation is made public by the Board Secretariat’s posting of the board report for the contract to be approved. During the time under the Cone of Silence, Contractors and their Representatives are prohibited from making any contact on any part of a proposal, negotiation or contract with any LAUSD official as this could appear to be an attempt to curry favor or influence. An “LAUSD official” is broadly defined to include “any board member, employee, consultant or advisory member of LAUSD” who is involved in making recommendations or decisions for LAUSD.

Schematic of LAUSD’s Competitive Contracting Process (Illustrative Only)



Lobbying in this period may require registration and disclosure in LAUSD’s Lobbying Disclosure Program, if the triggers are met.

* Note: Protests can sometimes extend past the contract approval process

- (a) **Prohibited Communication** – Examples of prohibited communication by Contractors and their Representatives under the Cone of Silence include, but are not limited to:
 - (i) contact of LAUSD Officials, including members of the department initiating a contract, or members who will serve on an evaluation team for any contract information that is not uniformly available to all other bidders, proposers or contractors;
 - (ii) contact of LAUSD Officials, including Board Members and their staff, to lobby on any aspect relating to a contract matter under consideration, negotiation, protest or dispute;
 - (iii) contact of LAUSD Officials in the particular department requesting a competitive contract to discuss other business or partnership opportunities.
- (b) **Exceptions** – The following are exceptions to the Cone of Silence:
 - (i) open and uniform communications which are made as part of the procurement process such as the pre-bid or pre-proposal meetings or other exchanges of information which are given to all proposers;
 - (ii) interviews or presentations to evaluation committee members which are part of the procurement process;
 - (iii) clarification requests made in writing, under the terms expressly allowed for in an LAUSD contracting document, to the appropriate designated contract official(s);
 - (iv) negotiations with LAUSD’s designated negotiation team members;
 - (v) protests which follow the process outlined by LAUSD’s protest policies and procedures; and
 - (vi) requests for technical assistance approved by LAUSD contract officials (for example questions relating to LAUSD’s Small Business Enterprise Program, or requests for formal guidance on ethics matters from the Ethics Office).

(2) **Non-Competitive Contracting Process** – To ensure the integrity of the non-competitive contracting process, Contractors and their Representatives must maintain a Cone of Silence from the time when a proposal is submitted to LAUSD until the time the contract is fully executed. During this designated time, Contractors and their Representatives are prohibited from making any contact with LAUSD officials on any of the terms of the contract under consideration as this could appear to be an attempt to curry improper favor or influence. The only

exceptions to this Cone of Silence are clarification requests made with the Contract Sponsor or the appropriate designated contract official(s) in the Procurement Services Group or Facilities Contracts Branch.

Examples of Maintaining the Cone of Silence

- (3) Mai Vien Da is the CEO of a firm that wants to do business with LAUSD. She is at a party when she sees the head of the LAUSD division that has just issued an RFP that her company is interested in bidding on.

Mai can say "hello," but she must not discuss her proposal or the contracting process at all with the division head.

- (4) Mai is also interested in having her sales team meet with LAUSD officials district-wide to promote her firm's services, so that they can sell work on smaller projects that do not need to be competitively bid.

Mai and her employees may attempt to meet with district officials to discuss potential services outside of a competitive process, but she needs to recognize that her marketing activities may require her to register her firm and her employees in LAUSD's Lobbying Disclosure Program. (See Section 5, Disclosure Obligations).

- D. **Manage Potential Conflicts** – Contractors shall disclose all potential or actual conflicts to LAUSD on an ongoing basis with a Meaningful Conflict Disclosure. A "Meaningful Conflict Disclosure" is a written statement to LAUSD which lays out full, accurate, timely, and understandable information with regard to any potential conflicts involving Contractors and their work for LAUSD. The specific requirements for a Meaningful Conflict Disclosure are set forth in Section 3.D.(2) below. LAUSD relies on these proactive disclosures by Contractors to manage potential conflicts before they become actual conflicts of interest. A potential for conflict is present whenever a situation arises which creates a real or apparent advantage or a competing professional or personal interest for a Contractor. Such situations become conflicts of interest, if appropriate safeguards are not put into place. Examples of potential or actual conflicts include, but are not limited to situations when:

- a financial relationship (income, stocks, ownership, investments, loans, excessive gifts, etc.) or close personal relationship exists or has existed between a Contractor or its Representatives and a LAUSD official;
- a financial or close personal relationship exists between any officers, directors or key employees of a Contractor or its Representatives and a LAUSD official;
- a prior, current or potential employment relationship exists between a Contractor or its Representatives and a current or former LAUSD official;
- an overlap exists between work that a Contractor or its Representative performs or has performed for LAUSD and work he or she will perform on behalf of another client; or
- an opportunity arises in which a Contractor or its Representative can make a governmental decision within the scope of LAUSD contractual duties that impacts his or her personal financial interests or relationships,

Contractors and their Representatives have a *continuing* obligation to advise LAUSD proactively of any potential conflicts which may arise relating to a contract.

- (1) **State Conflict Standards** – LAUSD is generally prohibited by California's Political Reform Act (Government Code Section 87100) and Government Code Section 1090 from contracting with Contractors if the Contractors, their Representatives, their officers, or any household member of the preceding serve LAUSD in any way in developing, awarding, or otherwise participating in the making of the same contract.

California law also governs situations in which there has been a financial interest between a Contractor and a public official within a 12-month window leading up to a governmental decision. It does not matter whether the impact of an existing relationship is beneficial or detrimental to the interests of the Contractors, their Representatives, or the public agency. Moreover, Government Code Section 1090 defines "making a contract" broadly to include actions that are preliminary or preparatory to the selection of a Contractor such as but not limited to: involvement in the reasoning, planning, and/or drafting of scopes of work, making recommendations, soliciting bids and requests for proposals, and/or participating in preliminary discussions or negotiations.

Any contract made in violation of Section 1090 is void and cannot be enforced. When Section 1090 is violated, a government agency is not obligated to pay the Contractor for any goods or services received under the void contract. In fact, the agency can also seek repayment from the Contractor of any amounts already paid and the agency can refer the matter to the appropriate authorities for prosecution.

- (2) **Meaningful Conflict Disclosure** – Contractors shall provide a meaningful disclosure of all potential and actual conflicts in a written statement to the LAUSD Contract Sponsor, the Ethics Office and the contracting contact from the Procurement Services Group/or the Facilities Contracts Branch. This disclosure requirement is a continuing duty on all Contractors. At a minimum, a Meaningful Conflict Disclosure must identify the following:
- (a) names and positions of all relevant individuals or entities;
 - (b) nature of the potential conflict, including specific information about the financial interest or relationship; and
 - (c) a description of the suggested remedy or safeguard for the conflict.

- (3) Resolution of Conflicts – When necessary, LAUSD will advise Contractors on how a disclosed conflict should be managed, mitigated or eliminated. The Contract Sponsor, in consultation with the Procurement Services Group/Facilities Contracts Branch, the Ethics Office, and the Office of the General Counsel, shall determine necessary actions to resolve any of the Contractors' disclosed conflict(s). When it is determined that a conflict must be addressed, a written notification will be made to the Contractor, indicating the actions that the Contractor and LAUSD will need to take to resolve the conflict.

Examples of Managing Potential Conflicts

- (4) Rhoda Warrior is a consultant from Global Consulting Firm. She has been assigned by her firm to do work for a particular LAUSD department. Although she does not directly work with him, her husband, Antonio, is one of the senior officials in that department.

Global Consulting must disclose this potential problem via a Meaningful Conflict Disclosure to LAUSD. Depending on the exact nature of her work within that department, Global Consulting and the LAUSD Contract Sponsor may need to take steps to safeguard Rhoda's work from any actual conflict of interest.

- (5) Amartya Singh is a HR consultant from the Tip Top Talent Agency whose firm is providing temporary support to help LAUSD improve its recruitment efforts. Amartya is himself serving as acting deputy director for the HR division, and in that capacity has been asked to review and approve all bills for the department. In doing his work, Amartya comes across a bill for the Tip Top Talent Agency which requires approval.

Tip Top Talent Agency must disclose the conflict and work with LAUSD to ensure that someone more senior or external to Amartya's chain-of-command is the one that reviews, evaluates, or approves bills relating to Tip Top Talent Agency. Even if Amartya decides to quit Tip Top Talent to join LAUSD, he cannot be involved with matters relating to Tip Top Talent until 12 months have passed from the date he received his last payment from the firm.

- (6) Greta Planner is a technology consultant that has been hired to design all the specifications for a group of new technology labs. One of the services that Greta will be specifying is an automated wireless projection system. As it turns out, Greta owns direct stock in a firm that manufactures these types of projection systems.

Greta's direct stock ownership constitutes a financial interest in that company. She must disclose the potential conflict right away in writing to the LAUSD Contract Sponsor, so that the appropriate safeguards can be put in place to prevent any actual conflict.

- E. *Provide Contracting Excellence* – Contractors are expected to deliver high quality, innovative and cost-effective goods and services to LAUSD, so that the public is served with the best value for its dollars.
- F. *Promote Ethics Standards* – Contractors shall be responsible for ensuring that their Representatives, regardless of position, understand and comply with the duties and requirements outlined in this Code and to ensure that their behavior, decisions, and actions demonstrate the letter and spirit of this Code. Contractors may draw upon the resources provided by LAUSD, including but not limited to those made available by the Ethics Office, the Procurement Services Group, and the Facilities Contracts Branch. Such training resources and additional information about LAUSD policies can be found on LAUSD's website (<https://www.lausd.org>).
- G. *Seek Advice* – Contractors are expected and encouraged to ask questions and seek formal guidance regarding this Code or other aspects of responsible business conduct from the LAUSD Ethics Office whenever there is a doubt about how to proceed in an ethical manner. A Contractor's proactive management of potential ethics concerns is necessary and vital since this Code does not seek to address or anticipate all the issues that may arise in the course of seeking or doing business with LAUSD.

Example of Seeking Advice

- (1) Abe Iznismann is President of Accelerated Sciences, a new company that makes supplemental teaching tools in the sciences. Over the summer, Abe hired Grace Principle, a seasoned LAUSD administrator who now works in teacher recruitment, to consult with Accelerated Sciences in developing a cutting-edge learning tool. Originally, the company planned to sell the products only to schools in other states, but now it wants to sell the products in California and possibly to LAUSD. Abe wants to work with Grace to develop a win-win strategy for offering the new tools to LAUSD at a discount.

Accelerated Sciences needs to be very careful to ensure that Grace is not involved in any aspect relating to selling the product to LAUSD, especially since Grace has a financial interest with the firm. Remember, under California law, the mere existence of a financial interest creates a concern that will cause the good faith of any acts to be questioned, no matter how conscientious the individuals. Before undertaking any effort to sell to LAUSD, Abe or another manager at Accelerated Sciences should seek out advice on other safeguarding measures to ensure that their good intentions do not inadvertently create a bad outcome for the firm or Grace.

4. Relationship Management

LAUSD expects Contractors and their Representatives to ensure that their business dealings with and/or on behalf of LAUSD are conducted in a manner that is above reproach.

- A. *Employ Good Practices* – Contractors and their Representatives shall conduct their employment and business practices in full compliance with *all* applicable laws, regulations and LAUSD policies, including but not limited to the following:
- (1) *Equal Employment Opportunity* – Contractors shall ensure that there is no discrimination in hiring due to race, color, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability.
 - (2) *Health and Safety* – Contractors shall provide a safe and healthy work environment and fully comply with all applicable safety and health laws, regulations, and practices.
 - (3) *Drug Free Environment* – Contractors shall ensure that there is no manufacture, sale, distribution, possession or use of illegal drugs or alcohol on LAUSD-owned or leased property.
 - (4) *No Harassment* – Contractors shall not engage in any sexual or other harassment, physical or verbal abuse, or any other form of intimidation.
 - (5) *Sweat-Free Conditions* – Contractors shall ensure that no child and/or forced or indentured labor is used in their supply chain. Contractors shall require that all goods provided to LAUSD are made in compliance with the governing health, safety and labor laws of the countries of origin. Additionally, Contractors shall ensure that workers are free from undue risk of physical harm or exploitation and receive a non-poverty wage.
- B. *Use Resources Responsibly* – Contractors and their Representatives shall use LAUSD assets for LAUSD business-related purposes only unless given written permission for a specific exception by an authorized LAUSD official. LAUSD assets include: time, property, supplies, services, consumables, equipment, technology, intellectual property, and information.
- C. *Protect Confidentiality* – Contractors and their Representatives shall protect and maintain confidentiality of the work and services they provide to LAUSD. All communications and information obtained in the course of seeking or performing work for LAUSD should be considered confidential. No confidential information relating to LAUSD should ever be disclosed without express authorization by LAUSD in writing, unless otherwise legally mandated.
- D. *Guard the LAUSD Affiliation* – Contractors and their Representatives shall be cautious of how they portray their relationship with LAUSD to the Public. Communications on behalf of LAUSD can only be made when there is express written permission by an LAUSD official authorized by LAUSD's Office of General Counsel.
- (1) *LAUSD Name and Marks* – Contractors shall ensure that all statements, illustrations or other materials using or referencing LAUSD or its marks and logos—including the names and logos of any of our subdivisions, and/or any logos created by and for LAUSD—receive advance review and written approval of the relevant LAUSD division head prior to release or use.
 - (2) *Commercial or Advertising Message* – Contractors shall ensure that no commercial or advertising message, or any other endorsements—express or implied—are suggested or incorporated in any products, services, enterprises or materials developed for/or relating to LAUSD unless given written permission to do otherwise by LAUSD's Board of Education.
- E. *Respect Gift Limits* – Contractors and their Representatives shall abide by LAUSD's gift limits and use good judgment, discretion and moderation when offering gifts, meals or entertainment or other business courtesies to LAUSD officials, so that they do not place LAUSD officials in conflict with any specific gift restrictions:
- (1) No Contractor or their Representative shall offer, give, or promise to offer or give, directly or indirectly, any money, gift or gratuity to any LAUSD procurement official at any time.
 - (2) No Contractor or their Representative shall offer or give, directly or indirectly, any gifts in a calendar year to an LAUSD Official which exceed LAUSD's allowable gift limit.

Example of Respecting Gift Limits

- (3) It's the holidays and Sue Tienda, a Contractor, wants to take a few LAUSD officials out to lunch and to provide them with gift baskets as a token of thanks for the work they have done together.

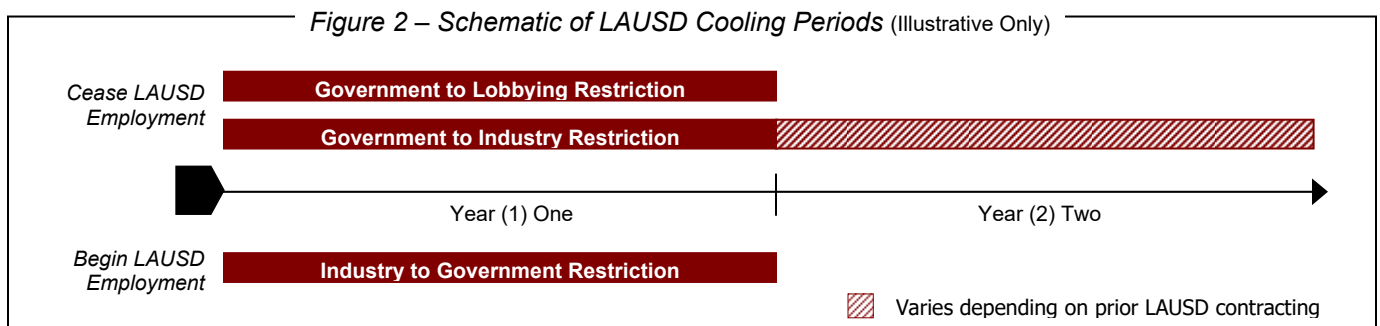
Assuming Sue is not attempting to take out any procurement officials (since they observe a zero tolerance policy on gifts), Sue needs to respect the Board-established gift limit for LAUSD officials. Sue should also be aware that giving a gift totaling over \$50 in a year to LAUSD officials will create a reporting responsibility for the officials, if

they are designated Form 700 Statement of Economic Interest filers. Additionally, if there is a procurement underway involving Sue or her firm, she should not give gifts to the LAUSD officials who are part of the evaluation process until the contract is awarded. Finally, Sue may also want to keep in mind that a nice personalized thank-you note can pack quite a punch!

Anyone doing business with LAUSD shall be charged with full knowledge that LAUSD’s contracting decisions are made based on quality, service, and value. LAUSD does not seek any improper influence through gifts or courtesies.

- F. **Observe Cooling Periods** – Contractors and their Representatives shall observe and maintain the integrity of LAUSD’s Cooling Periods. A “Cooling Period” is a mechanism used by public agencies and private organizations across the country to ensure that no unfair competitive advantage is extended due to the hiring of current or former employees. Allowing for some time to pass before a former official works on matters related to their prior agency or a new official works on matters related to their prior employer helps to mitigate concerns about the appearance of a “revolving door” where public offices are sometimes seen to be used for personal or private gain.

Contractors shall certify that they are upholding LAUSD’s revolving door provisions as part of the contracting process. In their certification, Contractors shall detail the internal firewalls that have been put in place to preserve LAUSD’s cooling periods. As with other public agencies, LAUSD observes three key types of cooling periods for safeguarding the critical transitions between public service and private industry:



- (1) **Government to Lobbying Restriction (One-Year Cooling Period)** – LAUSD will not contract with any entity that compensates a former LAUSD official who lobbies LAUSD before a one (1) year period has elapsed from that official’s last date of employment

Example of Lobbying Restriction

Ace Impact Group wants to hire Joe Knowsfolks, a former LAUSD official, to help the company cultivate new business opportunities with LAUSD and arrange meetings with key LAUSD officials.

To avoid the possibility of unfair advantage or improper influence, Ace Impact Group is prohibited from utilizing Joe to contact anyone at LAUSD on their behalf until at least one year has passed from Joe’s last date of employment. Joe may help Ace lobby other public entities, but Joe cannot communicate with anyone at LAUSD, either in person or in writing, on behalf of his new company.

- (2) **Government to Industry Restriction**

- (a) **Insider Advantage Restriction (One-Year Cooling Period)** – LAUSD will not contract with any entity that compensates any current or former LAUSD official to work on a matter with LAUSD, if that official, within the preceding 12 months, held a LAUSD position in which they personally and substantially participated in that matter.

Example of Insider Advantage Restriction

Risky Business is a small boutique firm that helps public agencies, including LAUSD, develop strategies for managing and overcoming their unfunded liability. Risky Business wants to extend an offer of employment to Nooriya, a LAUSD official, whose previous responsibilities included advising LAUSD’s Board and management on the issue of the district’s unfunded liability.

As part of its certification, Risky Business needs to identify what safeguards it will have in place to ensure that Nooriya’s work for them does not include matters relating to her prior LAUSD responsibilities for at least one year from when she left her LAUSD job. Given that “matters” include broad policy decisions, the general rule of thumb for avoiding any insider advantage is to have former LAUSD officials steer clear of LAUSD work for a year.

- (b) **Contract Benefit Restriction (Two-Year Cooling Period)** – LAUSD will not contract with any entity that employs any current or former LAUSD official who within the preceding two (2) years, substantially participated in the development of the contract’s RFP requirements, specifications or any part of the contract’s procurement process, if the official will perform any services for the Contractor relating to LAUSD on that contract.

Example of Contracting Benefit Restriction

Technology Advances has just won a big contract with LAUSD and is looking for talent to help support the company’s growing work load. The firm wishes to hire some LAUSD employees: Aisha, a LAUSD technology official, her deputy Raj who was the individual who oversaw LAUSD’s contracting process with Technology Advances, and Linda, an engineer who was on the evaluation committee that selected Technology Advances.

If Technology Advances hires any of these individuals, none may perform any work for the firm relating to this LAUSD work until two years have elapsed from the date that the contract was fully executed. This case is a good example of how the cooling period seeks to ensure that there is no benefit resulting from a public official’s awarding of a contract. All of the LAUSD employees in this example would be considered to have substantially participated in the contract – Raj due to his direct work, Linda due to her role evaluating the bid proposals, and Aisha due to the fact that supervising both employees is a part of her official responsibility. Technology Advances should consider the implications before hiring individuals involved with their LAUSD contracting process.

- (3) **Industry to Government Restriction (One-Year Cooling Period)** – In accordance with California law, Contractors and/or their Representatives who act in the capacity of LAUSD officials shall be disqualified from making any governmental decisions relating to a personal financial interest until a 12-month period has elapsed from the time the interest has been disposed or severed.

Example of Industry to Government Restriction

Sergei Konsultantov is an outside contractor that has been hired to manage a major reorganization project for LAUSD. Sergei is on the Board of Directors for several companies who do business with LAUSD.

Sergei must not participate in any governmental decisions for LAUSD relating to any private organization for whom he has served as an employee, officer, or director, even in an unpaid capacity, if less than 12 months has passed since he held such a status. Sergei should contact the Ethics Office before starting his work to put a formal disqualification into effect and to seek out any other ethical safeguards he should have in place.

- (4) In rare and unusual circumstances, LAUSD’s General Superintendent or his/her designee upon a showing of good cause may waive the Insider Advantage Restriction in writing with notification to the Board of Education, *prior* to approving a contract or its amendment.

- G. **Safeguard Prospective Employment Discussions** – Contractors and their Representatives shall safeguard any prospective employment discussions with current LAUSD officials, especially when the official is one who may participate “personally and substantially” in a matter relating to the Contractor.

Example of Safeguarding an Employment Offer

- (1) **Audit Everything**, a firm that does work for LAUSD, has been really impressed by Thora Revue, an audit manager that oversees some of their audits. Audit Everything is interested in having Thora work for their firm.

Before Audit Everything begins any prospective discussions with Thora, they should let her supervisor know of their interest and ask what safeguards need to be put in place. For example, if Thora does not outright reject the idea and is instead interested in entertaining the offer, she and her manager will have to work with the Ethics Office to put into effect a disqualification from any further involvement relating to the Contractor before any actual employment discussions are allowed to proceed. Any Contractor who engages in employment discussions with LAUSD officials before a disqualification has been completed is subject to the penalties outlined in this Code.

- H. **Conduct Political Activities Privately** – Contractors and their Representatives shall only engage in political support and activities in their own personal and voluntary capacity, on their own time, and with their own resources.
- I. **Make Philanthropy Voluntary** – Contractors and their Representatives shall only engage in philanthropic activities relating to LAUSD on their own time and with their own resources. LAUSD views philanthropic support as a strictly voluntary opportunity for Contractors to demonstrate social responsibility and good citizenship. No expressions of support should be construed to have a bearing on current or future contracts with LAUSD. And no current or potential contracting relationship with LAUSD to provide goods or services is contingent upon any philanthropic support from

Contractors and their Representatives, unless otherwise designated as part of a bid or proposal requirement in an open, competitive contracting process to solicit a specific type of support.

- (1) Guidelines for Making a Gift to a Public Agency – Contractors who wish to provide philanthropic support to LAUSD shall abide by the ethical and procedural policies and requirements established by LAUSD which build upon the “Gifts to an Agency” requirements established in California’s Code of Regulations Section 18944.2. For outside entities to make a gift or payment to LAUSD in a manner that maintains public integrity, the following minimum requirements must be met:
 - (a) LAUSD must receive and control the payment;
 - (b) LAUSD must use the payment for official agency business;
 - (c) LAUSD, in its sole discretion, must determine the specific official or officials who shall use the payment. The donor may identify a specific purpose for the agency’s use of the payment, so long as the donor does not designate the specific official or officials who may use the payment; and
 - (d) LAUSD must have the payment memorialized in a written public record which embodies the requirements of the above provisions and which:
 - Identifies the donor and the official, officials, or class of officials receiving or using the payment;
 - Describes the official agency use and the nature and amount of the payment;
 - Is filed with the agency official who maintains the records of the agency’s Statements of Economic Interests (i.e. the Ethics Office); and
 - Is filed as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days of receipt of the payment by LAUSD.

5. Disclosure Obligations

LAUSD expects Contractors and their Representatives to satisfy the following public disclosure obligations:

- A. *Identify Current and Former LAUSD Officials* – To ensure against conflict or improper influence resulting from employment of current or former LAUSD employees, Contractors and their Representatives shall disclose any of their employees, subcontractors or consultants who within the last three years have been or are employees of LAUSD. The disclosure will be in accordance with LAUSD guidelines and will include at a minimum the name of the former LAUSD employee(s), a list of the LAUSD positions the person held in the last three years, and the dates the person held those positions. Public agencies that provide contract services are not subject to this requirement.
 - (1) In rare and unusual circumstances, LAUSD’s General Superintendent or his/her designee upon a showing of good cause may waive this disclosure requirement in writing with notification to the Board of Education, *prior* to approving a contract or its amendment.
- B. *Be Transparent about Lobbying* – Contractors and their Representatives shall abide by *LAUSD’s Lobbying Disclosure Code* and register and fulfill the associated requirements, if they meet the trigger(s). LAUSD’s lobbying policy seeks to enhance public trust and confidence in the integrity of LAUSD’s decision-making process by providing transparency via a public record of the lobbying activities conducted by individuals and organizations. A “lobbying activity” is defined as any action taken with the principal purpose of supporting, promoting, influencing, modifying, opposing, delaying or advancing any rule, resolution, policy, program, contract, award, decision, or other proposal under consideration by LAUSD officials.
For further information on LAUSD’s lobbying policy, Contractors and their Representatives shall review the resource materials available on the Ethics Office website (<https://www.lausd.org/ethics>). Failure to comply with LAUSD’s Lobbying Disclosure Code can result in fines and sanctions including debarment from contracting with LAUSD.
- C. *Fulfill the State-Mandated Statement of Economic Interests (“Form 700”) Filing Requirement* – Contractors and their Representatives shall abide by the financial disclosure requirements of California’s Political Reform Act (Gov. Code Section 81000-91015). Under the Act, individual Contractors and their Representatives may be required to disclose economic interests that could be foreseeably affected by the exercise of their public duties in a disclosure filing called the Statement of Economic Interests or Form 700. A Form 700 serves as a tool for aiding public officials at all levels of government to ensure that they do not make or participate in making, any governmental decisions in which they have an interest.
 - (1) Applicability – Under the law, individual Contractors and their Representatives are considered public officials and need to file a Form 700 as “consultants”, if the services they are contracted to provide fit the triggers identified by the Political Reform Act. Meeting either of the test triggers below requires a Contractor’s Representative(s) to file a Form 700:
 - (a) Individual Makes Governmental Decisions – Filing is required if an individual is involved in activities or decision-making such as: obligating LAUSD to any course of action; authorizing LAUSD to enter into, modify, or renew a contract; granting approval for contracts, plans, designs, reports, studies or other items; adopting

or granting approval on policies, standards or guidelines for any subdivision of LAUSD; or negotiating on behalf of LAUSD without significant intervening review.

- (b) Individual Participates in the Making of Governmental Decisions for LAUSD and Serves in Staff-like Capacity – Filing is also required if an individual is performing duties for LAUSD on a continuous or ongoing basis extending beyond one year such as: advising or making recommendations to LAUSD decision makers without significant intervening review; conducting research or an investigation; preparing a report or analysis which requires the individual to exercise their judgment; or performing duties similar to an LAUSD staff position that is already designated as a filer position in *LAUSD's Conflict of Interest Code*.
- (2) Filing Timelines – Individuals who are legally required to complete a Statement of Economic Interests form must submit a filing:
- upon commencement of work with LAUSD,
 - on an ongoing basis thereafter in accordance with the April 1st annual deadline, and
 - upon termination of work with LAUSD.
- (3) Process – Contractors and their Representatives shall coordinate with their LAUSD Contract Sponsor(s) to ensure that they meet this state mandate in the manner required by law. Form 700s must be received by the LAUSD Ethics Office to be considered properly filed in accordance with the Political Reform Act.
- (4) Disqualifications – Individuals who must file financial disclosure statements are subject to the requirements of the Political Reform Act as is the case with any other “public official” including disqualification when they encounter decision-making that could affect their financial interests. Contractors and their Representatives shall be responsible for ensuring that they take the appropriate actions necessary, so as not to violate any aspect of the Act.

Examples of Form 700 Filers and Non-Filers

- (5) Maria Ley is an attorney for the firm of Legal Eagles which serves as outside counsel to LAUSD. In her capacity as outside counsel, Maria provides ongoing legal services for LAUSD and as such participates in the making of governmental decisions. Maria’s role involves her in advising or making recommendations to government decision-makers and also gives her the opportunity to impact decisions that could foreseeably affect her own financial interests.

Maria would be considered a consultant under the Political Reform Act and would need to file a Form 700.

- (6) The Research Institute has been hired by LAUSD to do a major three-year policy study which will help LAUSD decide the shape and scope of a major after-school tutoring initiative, including the total funding that should be allocated. As part of the Institute’s work, their researchers will help LAUSD design and decide on some additional contracts for supplemental survey research. The Institute knows that all the principal researchers on their team will have to be Form 700 filers because their work is ongoing and will influence LAUSD’s governmental decision. However, the Institute is unsure of whether their trusty secretary, Bea Addman, would have to be a filer.

Bea does not need to file. Even though she will be housed at LAUSD for the three years and act in a staff-like capacity, she will provide clerical support primarily and will not participate in making any governmental decisions.

- (7) Bob Builder works for a construction company that will be supporting LAUSD’s school-building initiative on a continuous basis. Bob will direct activities concerning the planning and construction of various schools facilities, coordinate land acquisition, supervise teams, set policies, and also prepare various budgets for LAUSD.

Bob meets the trigger defined under the law because as part of the services he will provide, he has the authority to affect financial interests and commit LAUSD to government actions at his discretion. Additionally, in his role, he will be performing essentially the same tasks as an LAUSD Facilities Project Manager which is a position that is already designated in LAUSD’s Conflict of Interest Code. Therefore, Bob is required to file a Form 700.

6. Prohibited Activities

A Contractor, its Representative(s) and all other agent(s) acting on its behalf are prohibited from engaging in the following activities:

GENERAL PROHIBITIONS

- Acting in a manner that would be reasonably known to create or lead to a perception of improper conduct that could result in direct or indirect damage to LAUSD or our reputation*
- Acting with the purpose or intent of placing an LAUSD official under personal obligation to any Contractor or its Representatives*
- Conducting business with or on behalf of LAUSD in a manner that would be reasonably known to create or lead to a perception of self-dealing*

- D. *Conducting work on behalf of another client on a matter that would be reasonably seen as in conflict with work performed for LAUSD*
- E. *Disclosing any proprietary or confidential information, including employee or student health information, about LAUSD, our employees, students, or contractors to anyone not authorized by a written LAUSD re-disclosure agreement to receive the information*
- F. *Knowingly deceiving or attempting to deceive an LAUSD official about any fact pertaining to any pending or proposed LAUSD decision-making*
- G. *Making or arranging for any gift(s) or gratuities that violate LAUSD's policies, including:*
 - (1) *Providing any gifts at all to a procurement employee;*
 - (2) *Providing any gifts in excess of LAUSD's gift limit in a calendar year to any LAUSD official or to a member of his/her household; and*
 - (3) *Providing gifts without the necessary public disclosure when disclosure is required*
- H. *Offering any favor, gratuity, or kickback to an LAUSD official for awarding, modifying, or providing preferential treatment relating to an LAUSD contract*
- I. *Receiving or dispersing compensation contingent upon the defeat, enactment, or outcome of any proposed policy or action*
- J. *Taking any action to circumvent LAUSD's system of controls or to provide misleading information on any documents or records*
- K. *Using LAUSD assets and resources for purposes which do not support LAUSD's work*
- L. *Using LAUSD provided technology or systems to create, access, store, print, solicit or send any material that is false, derogatory, malicious, intimidating, harassing, threatening, abusive, sexually explicit or otherwise offensive*
- M. *Violating or counseling any person to violate any provisions of LAUSD's Contractor Code of Conduct, Lobbying Disclosure Code, Employee Code of Ethics, and/or any other governing state or federal laws*

CONTRACTING PROHIBITIONS

- N. *Dealing directly with an LAUSD official who is a close relative or cohabitant with a Contractor or its Representatives in the course of negotiating a contracting agreement or performing a Contractor's obligation*
 - (1) *For the purposes of this policy, close relatives shall be defined as including spouse, sibling, parent, grandparent, child, and grandchild. Cohabitants shall be defined as persons living together.*
- O. *Engaging in prohibited communication with LAUSD officials during the Cone of Silence time period(s) of the contracting process*
 - (1) *In a competitive contracting process, the Cone of Silence begins from the time when an Invitation for Bid (IFB), Request for Proposal (RFP), Request for Interest and Bid (RFIB), Request for Quote, Request for Qualification, or any other solicitation release is announced by LAUSD until the time a contract award recommendation is made public by the Board Secretariat's posting of the board report for the contract to be approved.*
 - (2) *In a non-competitive contracting process, the Cone of Silence begins at the time when a proposal is submitted to LAUSD until the time the contract is fully executed.*
- P. *Employing any current or former LAUSD employee to perform any work prohibited by the "Cooling Periods" defined in Section 4F of this Code*
- Q. *Making or participating in the making of governmental decisions on behalf of LAUSD when a Contractor or its Representatives has an existing financial interest that is prohibited under the law*
- R. *Making any substitution of goods, services, or talent that does not meet contract specifications without prior approval from LAUSD*
- S. *Making false charges on claims for payment submitted to LAUSD in violation of the California False Claims Act, Cal. Government Code §§ 12650-12655*
- T. *Requesting, attempting to request, or accepting—either directly or indirectly—any protected information regarding present or future contracts before the information is made publicly available at the same time and in the same form to all other potential bidders*
- U. *Submitting a bid as a proposer or sub-proposer on a particular procurement after participating in its development (e.g. identifying the scope of work, creating solicitation documents or technical specifications, developing evaluation criteria, and preparing contractual instruments)*

LOBBYING PROHIBITIONS

V. *Engaging in any lobbying activities without the appropriate disclosure, if the registration trigger has been met*

W. *Lobbying on behalf of LAUSD, if a Contractor or its Representatives is lobbying LAUSD officials.*

- (1) Any person or entity who receives compensation to lobby on behalf of or otherwise represent LAUSD, pursuant to a contract or sub-contract, shall be prohibited from also lobbying LAUSD on behalf of any other person or entity for compensation as this would be considered a conflict of interest.

7. Issues Resolution

Early identification and resolution of contracting or other ethical issues that may arise are critical to building public trust. Whenever possible, it is advisable to initiate the issue resolution process proactively, either with the designated contracting contact if the issue arises during the contracting process, or with the Contract Sponsor in the case of an active contract that is being carried out. It is always appropriate to seek out the Procurement Services Group or the Facilities Contracts Branch to resolve an issue, if another alternative is not possible. Formal disputes regarding bid solicitations or contract awards should be raised and addressed in accordance with LAUSD policy where such matters will be given full, impartial, and timely consideration.

8. Enforcement Provisions

While Contractors and their Representatives are expected to self-monitor their compliance with this Contractor Code of Conduct, the provisions of this Code are enforceable by LAUSD. Enforcement measures can be taken by LAUSD's Procurement Services Group or Facilities Contracts Branch in consultation with the Contract Sponsor, the Ethics Office, the Office of the General Counsel, and the Office of the Inspector General. The Office of the Inspector General may also refer matters to the appropriate authorities for further action.

- A. *Report Violations* – Good faith reporting of suspected violations of the Contractor Code of Conduct is encouraged. Reports of possible violations should be made to the Office of the Inspector General where such reports will be investigated and handled with the level of confidentiality that is merited and permitted by law. No adverse consequences will result to anyone as a result of making a good faith report.
- B. *Cooperate on Audits and Investigations* – Contractors and their Representatives shall cooperate with any necessary audits or investigations by LAUSD relating to conduct identified in this Code. Such audits and investigations may be conducted when LAUSD has reason to believe that a violation of this Code has occurred. Once an audit or investigation is complete, LAUSD may contact a Contractor or their Representatives to establish remedies and/or sanctions.
- C. *Comply with Sanctions* – Contractors and their Representatives shall comply with the necessary sanctions for violations of this Code of Conduct. Remedies can include and/or combine one or more of the following actions:
 - (1) Removal of offending Contractor or subcontractor;
 - (2) Implementation of corrective action plan approved by LAUSD;
 - (3) Submission of training plan for preventing future violations of the Code;
 - (4) Probation for 1-3 years;
 - (5) Rescission, voidance or termination of a contract;
 - (6) Suspension from all LAUSD contracting for a period of time;
 - (7) Prohibition from all LAUSD lobbying activities;
 - (8) Compliance with deferred debarment agreement;
 - (9) Debarment from all LAUSD procurement or contracting; or
 - (10) Other sanctions available by law that are deemed reasonable and appropriate.

In the case of a procurement in which a contract has yet to be awarded, LAUSD reserves the right to reject any bid or proposal, to terminate the procurement process or to take other appropriate actions.

Failure to remedy the situation in the timely manner prescribed by LAUSD can result in additional sanctions. *Records of violations or any other non-compliance are a matter of public record.*

Any debarment proceeding will follow due process in accordance with the procedures described in LAUSD's Debarment Policy.

9. Future Code Updates

To ensure that LAUSD maintain our effectiveness in promoting integrity in our contracting processes and our use of public tax dollars, LAUSD reserves the right to amend and modify this Contractor Code of Conduct at its discretion. LAUSD's Ethics Office will post the latest version of the Code on its website. Interested parties with ideas on how LAUSD can strengthen our Code to improve public trust in the integrity of LAUSD's decision-making can contact LAUSD's Ethics Office in writing to share their comments. Such comments will be evaluated for future code updates.

LAUSD is not responsible for notifying a Contractor or their Representatives of any changes to this Code. It is the responsibility of a Contractor to keep itself and its Representatives apprised of any changes made to this Code. LAUSD is not responsible for any damages that may occur as a result of a Contractor's failure to fulfill its responsibilities of staying current on this Code.

10. Severability

If one part or provision of this Contractor Code of Conduct, or its application to any person or organization, is found to be invalid by any court, the remainder of this Code and its application to other persons or organizations, which has not been found invalid, shall not be affected by such invalidity, and to that extent the provisions of this Code are declared to be severable.