M E M O R A N D U M

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Compliance Review Commission (CRC)

DATE: October 23, 2026

RE: **Compliance Review Commission (CRC) Decision relating to a Challenge Filed by Efraín becerra**

INTRODUCTION:

On August 24, 2026, Efraín Becerra, a Democratic Candidate, submitted a formal request for the California Democratic Party's Compliance Review Commission to investigate alleged unequal treatment of Democratic candidates by the Tulare County Democratic Central Committee.

The core concern is that some Democratic candidates allegedly receive more support, attention, access, communications, endorsements, and opportunities to participate than others, without clear or consistently applied standards. The letter specifically points to an apparent difference in treatment between Sandra Van Scotter and Randy Villegas, while also raising concerns about the broader treatment of Democratic candidates and activists in Tulare County.

The challenger emphasizes that, in his view, the issue is not disagreement over which candidate should be supported, but whether the local party is applying fair and transparent standards to all Democrats. He argues that inconsistent treatment can create division and the perception that certain candidates are favored over others.

The challenger asks the California Democratic Party to review:

1. Whether the Tulare County Democratic Central Committee is complying with applicable CDP bylaws, rules, and procedures.
2. Whether candidates are being treated consistently and fail under the same standards.
3. Whether objective criteria exist for candidate support, endorsements, communications, access, and participation.
4. Whether those criteria are being applied equally to candidates, including Sandra Van Scotter and Randy Villegas.
5. Whether any actions or decisions by the Tulare County Democratic Central Committee violate applicable CDP rules, bylaws, or principles governing fairness and equal participation.
6. Whether the California Democratic Party can provide a formal mechanism for addressing these concerns and preventing further unequal treatment of Democratic candidates.

DOCUMENTS INITIALLY RECEIVED AND REVIEWED:

Documents received and reviewed by the CRC associated with the challenge included the following:

1. Email Request submitted by Efraín Becerra, Democratic Candidate.

TIMELINESS:

According to CDP Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2:.

> "All challenges must be commenced by the filing of a written challenge with the Secretary of This Committee, with copies served on the Chair of This Committee, as well as the appointing person, and the chair of the relevant organization, where applicable no later than seven (7) calendar days after the alleged violation occurred. Upon a showing of good cause, sustained by unanimous vote, the Compliance Review Commission may waive this requirement."
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> (All By-Law references are to the California Democratic Party Bylaws, as amended through August 25, unless otherwise indicated.)

The challenger Efraín Becerra emailed CADEM staff August 24, 2026. A few hours later CADEM Staff requested that the challenger resubmit the challenge by 5pm on August 28, 2026 in proper format as it did not adhere to the challenge submission requirements. CADEM staff never received a response.

In these circumstances, the CRC concludes that the challenge has been abandoned. Given this and the fact that it is unclear how the challenger is adversely affected (and, thus, that there is standing) and the challenger does not explain why the CRC has jurisdiction over this challenge to a County Democratic Central Committee's decisionmaking process, the CRC concludes that the challenge has been abandoned and there are no exceptional circumstances warranting further action.

FINDINGS AND ORDER:

Based upon the above facts, the CRC makes the following Order:

> Based on the information presented, the CRC hereby dismisses this challenge as abandoned.

Appeal of this order, if any, must be filed with the CDP Secretary, with copies to the Chair of the CDP State Central Committee, within twelve days of the date of this decision. Thus, any appeal must be filed on or before November 4, 2026 with the Sacramento office of the California Democratic Party, and shall be an appeal to the next meeting of CDP Rules Committee upon conclusion of the response period.

Please note that per CDP Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2e, the filing of an appeal shall not stay any decision of the CRC. Parties may additionally respond in person or virtually,

depending on how the meeting is being conducted, if so desired, provided there has been a timely filing of an appeal and notice of intent to testify is provided in writing to the Lead Chair of the Rules Committee by 5 PM on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at the Sacramento office of the California Democratic Party. The Rules Committee may accept such additional testimony, written or oral, considering the nature and import thereof, as well as the time available for its proper consideration, as it deems appropriate, in its discretion.

Accordingly, this decision is so ordered, and is in effect, unless, and until, a successful appeal is made, decided, and contrary orders made whether by the CRC, or by the Rules Committee. CRC shall retain jurisdiction up until the time of an appeal, if any, is heard by the Rules Committee.

Respectfully submitted by a 5-0 vote of the members of the CRC,

Tim Allison, Co-Chair, Credentials Committee
Valeria Hernandez, Co-Chair, Rules Committee
Jane Wishon, Co-Chair, Credentials Committee
Paul Seo, Member, Credentials Committee
Laurence Zakson, Vice-Chair, Rules Committee