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 Ojai Valley Democratic Club (OVDC)**

INTRODUCTION:

On August 31, 2026, the Compliance Review Commission (CRC) issued an interim decision and order (Interim Order) on the amended challenge (Amended Challenge) filed by Starchild Weivoda, President of the Ojai Valley Democratic Club (OVDC), and Renee Roth, Secretary of the OVDC, against the decision of Ventura County Democratic Central Committee (VCDCC) June 23, 2026 decision to deny OVCDC's charter renewal.

In the Interim Order, the CRC found that the Amended Challenge was timely and that the OVDC had standing. The CRC also found that the VCDCC did not challenge the assertion that internal remedies were exhausted. However, the CRC deferred deciding whether it had jurisdiction until the VCDCC had the opportunity to address the failure of the VCDCC to comply with the Open Meetings Rule. In this regard, the CRC noted that the VCDCC conducted its discussion and vote in closed/executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Rule and ARTICLE XIII: GENERAL POLICIES, Section 1. PUBLIC MEETINGS of the CDP Bylaws.

Accordingly, the CRC found that the matter should be referred back to the VCDCC under Section 5.D.1 of the CRC Procedural Rules. Upon referral back, the VCDCC was given the option either to reconsider its decision to debate and vote on the re-chartering of the OVDC in closed session and reconsider the matter on the merits in open session or to decline to do so and provide an explanation. The CRC also ordered the VCDCC to file a report on its disposition of this matter within 77 days. In the interim, the CRC directed that the decision of the VCDCC remain in effect.

On September 1, 2026, the VCDCC held a special meeting to consider the OVDC chartering issue. On September 9, 2026, the VCDCC submitted a report on the special meeting and reported that it discussed and voted on the OVDC chartering issue in open session. According to the VCDCC's report, all interested participants were notified of the meeting and had the opportunity to attend and participate.

By notice to all interested parties dated September 16, 2026, interested parties were afforded the opportunity to object to or comment on the VCDCC's report and given a deadline of October 1, 2026 to do so. To date, no such objection or comment has been filed.

In these circumstances, the CRC finds that the matter is ready for disposition and proceeds to consider the issues left open in the Interim Order.

JURISDICTION:

As noted in the Interim Order, Article XII, Section 2.a(1) of the CDP Bylaws states:

> "The Compliance Review Commission shall have initial jurisdiction over all challenges and/or appeals arising under these Bylaws."

Further, the CRC Procedural Rules, Section 2, B. state in pertinent part that a challenge must,

> "Explain the basis of CRC's jurisdiction… If the CRC cannot discern the section of the CDP Bylaws alleged to have been violated or which grants jurisdiction to the CRC, it may dismiss the challenge."

As the CRC has explained in many previous decisions, the CRC does not have plenary jurisdiction over actions of county central committees, which under state and federal law are independent and separate legal entities from the CDP. Moreover, as a general rule, it is not the business of the CDP or the CRC to police the activities of a County Central Committee.

In its Interim Order, the CRC found that, as a general rule, the CRC has no jurisdiction over the the chartering of a Democratic Club. The CRC reiterates that conclusion. Whether the CRC has jurisdiction over a violation of the Open Meetings Rule in connection with a decision over which the CRC has no jurisdiction is a difficult question not decided in the Interim Order.

Here, the undisputed evidence in the VCDCC report demonstrates that the VCDCC has cured any violation of the Open Meetings Rule and, thus, this issue is no longer presented by the Amended Challenge. Given this, the CRC declines to decide the issue as it is unnecessary to the disposition of the Amended Challenge.

DISCUSSION:

As discussed in the Interim Order, there is no jurisdiction over the underlying challenge to the decision of the VCDCC not to recharter the OVDC. As discussed in the jurisdiction discussion above, any violation of the Open Meetings Rule and Article XIII, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the CDP has been cured by the VCDCC and, thus, that issue is moot.

In such circumstances, the Amended Challenge should be dismissed.

FINAL ORDER:

Based upon the above facts and the Bylaws of the CDP, the CRC makes the following Order:

1. The decision of the VCDCC not to renew the charter of the OVDC is not a matter over which the CRC has jurisdiction.
2. The apparent violation of the Open Meetings Rule and Article XIII, Section 1 of the CDP Bylaws has been cured and is now moot.
3. In light of the foregoing, the Amended Challenge is dismissed.

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.

Respectfully submitted by a 4-0 vote of the members of the CRC,

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

Tim Allison, Co-Chair, Credentials Committee, recused himself and did not participate in the deliberations on this matter.