
LOS ANGELES CITY ETHICS COMMISSION

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Lobbyists Report Record Earnings of \$16.4 Million to Influence City of Los Angeles Officials

Cable Franchise Contracts are the Most Lobbied Project in 2002

Municipal lobbyists reported to the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission that they received record payments of \$16,493,219 from their clients last year to influence City decision-makers, according to the Commission's *2002 Annual Lobbying Report* released today. This amount, up by \$1.2 million from 2001, is the highest amount in lobbying fees reported in a single year according to Commission records. During calendar year 2002, lobbyists also reported making, delivering or acting as an intermediary for \$804,478 in political contributions to elected City officials and candidates -- second only to the \$853,571 they reported in election year 2001.

Year	Lobbying Fees Reported	Number of Clients	Number of Lobbyists
2002	\$16,493,219	762	201
2001	\$15,259,690	790	188
2000	\$15,256,086	705	201
1999	\$13,171,384	657	190
1998	\$11,147,046	587	176
1997	\$8,902,623	527	154
1996	\$4,604,839	461	140
1995	\$3,602,581	338	137

“Reporting of the campaign contributions that lobbyists make provides important insights into the role of money and politics in City Hall,” said LeeAnn M. Pelham, the Commission’s Executive Director. “It’s now time to take public transparency to the next level by requiring lobbyists to also disclose how much they fundraise for the officials they’re trying to influence.”

The report provides a “Top Ten” list of lobbying projects based on fees paid to lobbyists. Heading the list as the most lobbied matter in 2002 was the renewal of all thirteen cable television franchise agreements that service the City of Los Angeles. According to the report, lobbyists received fees of \$809,101 to influence the process to determine if renewal agreements should be granted. Lobbying activities focused on the cable franchise renewal process, as well as the bankruptcy proceeding involving Adelphia Communications, the AT&T Broadband/AT&T Comcast transfer, and anti-competitive programming issues. In 2001, when the first

lobbying fees were reported for the project, lobbyists reported receiving \$336,927 in payments from clients on this matter.

The top ten projects for 2002 are:

1. Cable Television Franchises	\$ 809,101
2. Cellular Antennae Sites	655,753
3. Playa Vista Development Project	600,440
4. LAX Modernization Project	366,036
5. LAX Gift and News Concession Contract	327,426
6. Ahmanson Ranch Development Project	304,030
7. New LNG Receiving Terminal at Port of LA	268,513
8. Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment District Development Project	208,409
9. LAX & Ontario Airport Advertising Contract	202,000
10. Official Police Garages	196,675

The *2002 Annual Lobbying Report* includes summary information about these projects, spending by lobbyists to influence City decisions, campaign contributions made, and compensation received for services provided to the City or to a City candidate or officeholder. For more information or a copy of the report, visit the Commission's website at <http://ethics.lacity.org> or call (213) 978-1960.

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