

ADVISORY OPINION 90-7 [1990-7]

The Ethics Commission has reviewed your memorandum of November 5, 1990 and commends you for your decision not to share authorship with Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. in an article regarding the Oaks Landfill. Since you have had contract responsibility for this company in your county position, such a collaboration could have been perceived as a conflict of interest.

You have requested that the Commission provide you with guidance for the future when considering the possibility of writing technical papers jointly with: (1) firms doing business with the County; or (2) firms that have no active County contracts but which may submit proposals on future County projects.

In response, the Commission offers the following guidelines for your future consideration. You need not seek a waiver for articles or papers you write alone (sole authorship) if:

1. There is no remuneration.
2. Any use of a county title is pre-approved by the CAO;
3. There is no use of information that is not readily accessible to the general public.

All co-authorship opportunities must be reviewed by the Ethics Commission on a case-by-case basis. Similarly, all projects for which payment is received must be treated as secondary employment.

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