MEMORANDUM

To: [Redacted]

From: Dorothy J. Eng
Executive Director

Re: Case No. 91097.Q

Date: October 4, 1991

On September 19, 1991, you sent a memorandum asking how the Governmental Ethics Ordinance applied to a situation that recently came to your attention. In the memorandum, you disclosed that a division of your Department obtained design services from the wife of an employee in that division. After becoming aware of the relationship, you withheld payment which was due the wife pending our response regarding the appropriateness of the situation under the Governmental Ethics Ordinance. In our telephone conversation of October 2, 1991, you stated that the employee had nothing to do with the project for which the design services were used, or with his wife's obtaining the contract. Specifically, you stated that he did not have decision-making power over the contract, did not influence the decision regarding the contract, and did not represent his wife before the division.

After carefully reviewing all of the provisions of the Governmental Ethics Ordinance, we are of the opinion that nothing in the Ordinance precludes the employee's wife from being compensated for these services from the Department.

We appreciate your bringing this matter to our attention and your and your department's willingness to comply with the ethical standards embodied in the Governmental Ethics Ordinance. We enclose a copy of the Ordinance for your convenience. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Enclosure

cc: [Redacted]