

Subject: RE: Re: RE: Public Records Request (LA-GOV-24-0177)
Date: Friday, April 5, 2024 at 6:34:31 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Gov PublicRecords
To: Khahilia Shaw, AO Records
Attachments: 2024.01.19 - AF to AV - The Sunshine Project_Redacted PDF.pdf, image001.png

EXTERNAL SENDER

Ms. Shaw,

Our office has completed our search and review of records as it relates to your request, items “Rise St. James”, “Laughland”, and “Misick.” Our office has identified one record responsive to your request. That record is attached to this email. Please note that personal email addresses and phone numbers have been redacted from this record as confidential information, pursuant to La. Const. art. 1, sec. 5, La. R.S. 44:11, and La. R.S. 14:67.16. Please also note we have made the following determinations regarding exceptions, exemptions, and privileges and not produced certain records for the following reasons:

- 1 record has been withheld pursuant to executive privilege and the deliberative process privilege.

Regarding the remainder of your request, as it relates to the terms “Freedom of Information Act”, “open record” and “FOIA”, our office has not received any correspondence from you following my last email to you on March 28, 2024, asking whether you could specify or narrow your request. Our office will therefore close our file on this particular request.

Thank you.

Jeffrey Wale

From: Gov PublicRecords <GovPublicRecords@la.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 5:21 PM
To: Khahilia Shaw <khahilia.shaw@americanoversight.org>; AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Subject: RE: Re: RE: Public Records Request (LA-GOV-24-0177)

Ms. Shaw,

I write to clarify my question. I understand you do not wish to remove the terms “Freedom of Information Act”, “open record” and “FOIA”. At this time, I would like to ask if you could specify or narrow that portion of your request to any additional terms or subjects that contain any of those search terms. Would you like to narrow your request to any record containing any of those three search terms that relates to any particular subject, topic, or other search term?

Thank you.

Jeffrey Wale

From: Khahilia Shaw <khahilia.shaw@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 1:45 PM
To: Gov PublicRecords <GovPublicRecords@la.gov>; AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Subject: Re: Re: RE: Public Records Request (LA-GOV-24-0177)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Mr. Wale,

We would like to clarify that Item 2 of our two-part records request is specifically seeks communications sent by the specified custodians containing keywords relating to FOIA or records requests. While we have agreed to remove the term “public record,” removing all key words related to FOIA and record requests eliminates the main subject of Item 2.

We have specified a relatively short timeframe for this request to ensure that the search does not produce an overly voluminous set of results, but are happy to continue to work with your office to manage the number of potentially responsive records.

To help in those efforts, some additional information would be helpful. Has a preliminary search been run? If so, how many potentially responsive records were identified? Was the search for Item 2 conducted for only sent communications containing the relevant key terms? Did certain listed search terms produce a disproportionately higher number of records?

Thank you,

Khahilia Shaw | (she/her)
Counsel | American Oversight
khahilia.shaw@americanoversight.org | 202.539.6507
www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

From: Khahilia Shaw <khahilia.shaw@americanoversight.org>
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 1:18 PM
To: Gov PublicRecords <GovPublicRecords@la.gov>, AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Subject: Re: Re: RE: Public Records Request (LA-GOV-24-0177)

Mr. Wale,
Apologies for the delay. I will discuss with our team and will let you know whether we are able to exclude this terms soon

Best,

Khahilia Shaw | (she/her)
Counsel | American Oversight
khahilia.shaw@americanoversight.org | 202.539.6507
www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

From: Gov PublicRecords <GovPublicRecords@la.gov>
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 11:07 AM
To: Khahilia Shaw <khahilia.shaw@americanoversight.org>, AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Subject: RE: Re: RE: Public Records Request (LA-GOV-24-0177)

EXTERNAL SENDER

Ms. Shaw,

In a follow up to my previous email, our office finds the terms “Freedom of Information Act”, “open record”, and “FOIA” overly broad, and we ask you to narrow or clarify your request. Would you prefer to remove these terms from the search, or alternatively, can you narrow or clarify that these terms be narrowed to a certain subject or search term?

Thank you.

Jeffrey Wale

From: Gov PublicRecords <GovPublicRecords@la.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 2:38 PM
To: Khahilia Shaw <khahilia.shaw@americanoversight.org>; AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Subject: RE: Re: RE: Public Records Request (LA-GOV-24-0177)

Ms. Shaw,

I appreciate your willingness to narrow the request. Would you like to similarly remove the terms “Freedom of Information Act”, “open record”, and “FOIA” from your request?

Thank you.

Jeffrey Wale

From: Khahilia Shaw <khahilia.shaw@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 2:41 PM
To: Gov PublicRecords <GovPublicRecords@la.gov>; AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Subject: Re: Re: RE: Public Records Request (LA-GOV-24-0177)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

After reviewing this request, we would like to remove the search term “public record.” Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,

Khahilia Shaw | (she/her)
Counsel | American Oversight
khahilia.shaw@americanoversight.org | 202.539.6507
www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

From: Khahilia Shaw <khahilia.shaw@americanoversight.org>
Date: Friday, March 8, 2024 at 1:47 PM
To: Gov PublicRecords <GovPublicRecords@la.gov>, AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Subject: Re: RE: Public Records Request (LA-GOV-24-0177)

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your message. We are discussing ways to clarify this search term and will get back to you as soon as we can.

Best,

Khahilia Shaw | (she/her)

Counsel | American Oversight

khahilia.shaw@americanoversight.org | 202.539.6507

www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

From: Gov PublicRecords <GovPublicRecords@la.gov>

Date: Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 12:21 PM

To: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>

Subject: RE: Public Records Request (LA-GOV-24-0177)

EXTERNAL SENDER

Ms. Adhoob,

In further response to your public records request, we find your request in Item 2(iii), “public record” to be overly broad. Can you please clarify or narrow that request? If you could narrow or clarify the search for “public records” to include some specific subject or topic, or perhaps other key terms, that would greatly assist our office in responding to your request.

Thank you.

Jeffrey Wale

From: Gov PublicRecords <GovPublicRecords@la.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 4:25 PM

To: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>

Subject: RE: Public Records Request (LA-GOV-24-0177)

Ms. Adhoob,

Our office received your below email request for public records, dated March 4, 2024, concerning records between certain Governor’s Office staff members and external groups, as well as certain search terms.

Our office will begin determining what, if any, records are subject to your request, as well as any whether any exceptions or exemptions apply. Please note that pursuant to La. R.S. 44.1 *et seq.*, and particularly La. R.S. 44:5, certain records may not be disclosed. You will be notified within thirty (30) days of this email whether we have located any records responsive to your request, and what, if any, privileges may apply.

Please note the custodian for any records of the Office of the Governor prior to January 8, 2024 is the Louisiana State Archives, 3851 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, pursuant to La. R.S. 44:5. You may make a public records request for the office of State Archives here:

<https://coraweb.sos.la.gov/Contact/ContactForm.aspx?>

[recipient=Public%20Records%20Request&subject=Public%20Records%20Request%20Inquiry&return to=/pages/default.aspx.](#)

Thank you.



Jeffrey Wale

Deputy Executive Counsel
Office of Governor Jeff Landry
Phone: (225) 342-7015
www.Louisiana.gov

From: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 11:45 AM
To: Gov PublicRecords <GovPublicRecords@la.gov>
Subject: Public Records Request (LA-GOV-24-0177)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Records Access Officer:

Please find attached a request for records under Louisiana's Public Records Law.

Sincerely,

Marwah Adhoob | She/Her
Paralegal | American Oversight
records@americanoversight.org
www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

PRR: LA-GOV-24-0177

From: [Angelique Freel](#)
To: [Anne Villa](#); [Kyle Ruckert](#); [Andree Miller](#); [Kate Kelly](#); [Elizabeth Crochet](#)
Cc: [Mark Lorando](#); [Brad Lambert](#); [Robin Porter](#)
Subject: RE: The Sunshine Project
Date: Friday, January 19, 2024 3:47:18 PM

Thank you for the heads up.

From: Anne Villa <Anne.Villa@LA.GOV>
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 3:40 PM
To: Kyle Ruckert <Kyle.Ruckert@LA.GOV>; Andree Miller <Andree.Miller@LA.GOV>; Angelique Freel <Angelique.Freel@la.gov>; Kate Kelly <Kate.Kelly@LA.GOV>; Elizabeth Crochet <Elizabeth.Crochet@LA.GOV>
Cc: Mark Lorando <Mark.Lorando@la.gov>; Brad Lambert <Brad.Lambert@la.gov>; Robin Porter <Robin.Porter@la.gov>
Subject: The Sunshine Project
Importance: High

Kyle, Andre, Angelique, Kate, Elizabeth:

I wanted to be sure you are in the loop on this – a First Circuit ruling in favor of the Formosa Plastics Group’s chemical plant project in St. James, which has been the target of environmental activists since the Taiwanese company announced the project in 2018.

An appeal to the Louisiana Supreme Court is likely, but the First Circuit ruling represents a significant step forward for one of the largest-scale manufacturing projects that Louisiana has ever announced:

- \$9.4B capex
- 1,200 new direct jobs averaging more than \$80,000
- 8,000 new indirect jobs, for a total of more than 9,000 jobs in the River Parishes and surrounding regions
- 8,000 construction jobs at peak, with a 10-year, two-phase construction timeline

Formosa plans to operate the complex under its subsidiary and Louisiana registered company, FG LA LLC, and has branded the site as “The Sunshine Project.” It originally planned to begin construction in 2019, but legal challenges to LDEQ air permits for the site have stalled the project for the past five years. Today’s ruling overturns an earlier 19th Judicial District Court ruling and reinstates the air permits that LDEQ issued in 2020.

The state’s original announcement about the project is [here](#), and a note from company’s director of government affairs follows. It is possible that the governor will be asked to comment.

Our Comms team is on standby if needed. Let me know if there’s anything else our team can do to support.

Thanks!

Anne G. Villa, CPA, CEcD, CGFM
Interim Secretary/Undersecretary
Louisiana Economic Development

T 225.342.5395
M [REDACTED]
F 225.342.9095

www.opportunitylouisiana.com

From: Janile Parks <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 1:53 PM
To: Anne Villa <Anne.Villa@LA.GOV>
Subject: The Sunshine Project
Importance: High

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Hi Anne,

I hope this note finds you well. Since you are serving as the interim Secretary, I wanted to keep you informed. We are pleased to provide our latest update on legal matters related to FG LA LLC (FG's) Sunshine Project in St. James Parish.

This morning, a five-judge panel of the Louisiana Court of Appeal, First Circuit, issued its ruling **reversing** the judgment issued by former Judge Trudy White of the 19th Judicial District Court and **reinstating** LDEQ's decisions to grant FG's air permits. Judge White's judgment vacating the air permits is reversed, and FG's permits are valid once again.

The following statement regarding today's ruling will be provided to media upon request. It is attributable to Janile Parks, director of community and government relations for FG LA LLC:

"Today's results assure FG's permits issued by LDEQ remain active and further enable LDEQ to broaden the reasoning for its decision to award the permits. LDEQ provided a robust and detailed Basis for Decision and Response to Comments in which it fully explained its reasons for approving FG's Sunshine Project in St. James Parish. Today's decision by the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal correctly affirmed LDEQ's decision to issue FG's permits.

We strongly agree with the First Circuit's ruling. We believe the permits issued to FG by LDEQ are sound and the agency properly performed its duty to protect the environment in the issuance of those air permits. FG received its air permits from the LDEQ in January 2020. After a thorough analysis of FG's permit application, the LDEQ found the proposed project met all state and federal standards designed to protect the health and safety of FG employees, the St. James community, and the environment with an added margin of safety. FG has been, and will continue to be, transparent in

providing information on The Sunshine Project, and intends to construct and operate it to meet all state and federal standards.”

Today’s ruling is certainly wonderful news. However, we anticipate that RISE St. James and the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic may petition the First Circuit to reconsider its ruling and petition the Louisiana Supreme Court to review the First Circuit’s ruling. We will continue to keep you updated. Thank you for your support as we work together to build a brighter and stronger future for this community. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED].

Regards,
Janile

Janile Parks

Director of Community and Government Relations
FG LA LLC

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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FG LA LLC