



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name:	County Counsel
Department No.:	013
Agenda Date:	November 18, 2025
Placement:	Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:	N/a
Continued Item:	No
If Yes, date from:	
Vote Required:	4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Rachel Van Mullem, County Counsel
Contact: Adriana de Bruin, Business Manager
SUBJECT: Approve Agreement for Professional Legal Services with Outside Counsel Renne Public Law Group

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Professional Legal Services between the County of Santa Barbara and Renne Public Law Group with a contract term ending June 30, 2027, and a not-to-exceed contract amount of \$350,000; and
- b) Determine that the above action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) because it consists of government administrative or fiscal activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The Board of Supervisors directed the initiation of litigation against certain federal agencies regarding new conditions those agencies are attempting to place on federally funded grants that County departments receive. Renne Public Law Group already represents several California local agencies in litigation challenging these new conditions. This agreement would provide for Renne Public Law Group to represent the County in such litigation and that the County: 1) will split the costs of any

joint representation with the other involved local agencies on a proportionate basis; and 2) will pay a \$15,000 retainer against which Renne Public Law Group would bill based on its hourly rate.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Key Contract Risks:

None.

Staffing Impacts:

We estimate that there will be significant County staff support of this litigation from our office and anticipate some minimal County staff time could be expected from other departments involved.

Special Instructions:

Please forward a signed copy to Amber Holderness at aholderness@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

Attachment A – Agreement for Professional Legal Services with Renne Public Law Group

Contact Information:

Adriana de Bruin
Business Manager
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