



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: May 12, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
Board of Directors, Water Agency

FROM: Department Director(s): Rachel Van Mullem, County Counsel
Contact: Adriana de Bruin

SUBJECT: Approve Amendment to Agreement for Professional Legal Services with Outside Counsel – Miliband Water Law

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

County Counsel recommends that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the First Amendment to Agreement for Professional Legal Services between the County of Santa Barbara and Wesley A. Miliband of Miliband Water Law to extend the term of the Agreement to June 30, 2028; and
- b) Determine that the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because they consist of administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

County Counsel recommends that the Board of Directors, Water Agency:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the First Amendment to Agreement for Professional Legal Services between the Santa Barbara County Water Agency and Wesley A. Miliband of Miliband Water Law to extend the term of the Agreement to June 30, 2028; and
- b) Determine that the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because they consist of

administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The County and the Water Agency are involved in complex legal matters regarding water.

The County is a party to an adjudication concerning the Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin, *Bolthouse Land Company, LLC, et al. v. All Persons Claiming a Right to Extract or Store Groundwater in the Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin (No.3-013), et al., BCV-21-101927*. The proposed First Amendment will authorize Miliband Water Law to continue to provide legal advice to the County in connection with the Cuyama adjudication extending the contract's term to 6/30/2028 and retaining the not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000.

The Water Agency has been exploring the potential for water-related projects in the Orcutt area. The proposed contract will allow Miliband Water Law to continue to provide legal advice in connection with potential water-related projects extending the contract's term to 6/30/2028 and retaining the not-to-exceed amount of \$100,000.

Fiscal Analysis:

Budgeted:

- County Agreement: Outside Counsel Designation: paid by Department 013, Fund 0001, Line Item 7650.
- County Water Agency Agreement: Outside Counsel Designation: paid by Department 054, Fund 3050, Line Item 7650.

Special Instructions:

Please forward a signed copy to Callie Kim at ckim@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

Attachment A – First Amendment to Agreement for Professional Legal Services - County

Attachment B – First Amendment to Agreement for Professional Legal Services - Water Agency

Attachment C – Agreement for Professional Legal Services – County

Attachment D - Agreement for Professional Legal Services –Water Agency

Contact Information:

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