



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: 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 Amendment to Agreement for Professional Legal Services with Outside Counsel Rutan & Tucker, LLP

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 the Sixth Amendment to Agreement for Professional Legal Services between the County of Santa Barbara and Rutan & Tucker, LLP to extend the term of the Agreement to December 31, 2027 and increase the maximum contract amount by \$750,000 for a new maximum contract amount not to exceed \$2,540,000; 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:

This item is on the agenda to approve of the Sixth Amendment to the Agreement for Professional Legal Services with Rutan & Tucker, LLP. The amendment will extend the contract through December 31, 2027, and increase the maximum contract amount by \$750,000. Rutan & Tucker is representing the County in the Northern Branch Jail litigation.

Background:

Rutan & Tucker has been coordinating with County Counsel to represent the County in complex litigation concerning the Northern Branch Jail construction. Rutan & Tucker is representing the County in litigation against the architect that designed the Northern Branch Jail. Rutan and Tucker also represented the County in arbitration against the general contractor and defended the County from claims asserted by the general contractor while also passing through four subcontractor claims to the County. In total, there were six matters involved in the arbitration concerning the Northern Branch Jail construction.

Through this Sixth Amendment, County Counsel recommends increasing the maximum contract amount by \$750,000. This amount reflects the arbitration-related costs incurred, including both outside counsel and expert fees, and projected costs to litigate the action against the architect. The amendment also extends the agreement through December 31, 2027.

Fiscal Analysis:

Budgeted: Costs associated with the Northern Branch Jail construction arbitration are being paid from the Northern Branch Jail litigation set-aside fund established by the County Executive Office.

Special Instructions:

Please [send](#) a copy of the Minute Order and signed amendment to Adriana de Bruin.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Sixth Amendment to Agreement for Professional Legal Services

Attachment B – Agreement for Professional Services, Amendment Nos. 2-5

Contact Information:

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