



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

**Department Name:** County Counsel/CEO  
**Department No.:** 013/012  
**For Agenda Of:** July 19, 2016  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara as Successor Agency to the former County of Santa Barbara Redevelopment Agency

**FROM:** Michael C. Ghizzoni, County Counsel (x2950)  
Joseph Toney, Interim Deputy County Executive Officer (x3400)

Contact Info: Michael C. Ghizzoni, County Counsel (x2950)

**SUBJECT:** Agreement for Professional Legal Services – Casso & Sparks, LLP

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:**

Risk Management

**Recommended Actions:**

As the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara as Successor Agency to the former County of Santa Barbara Redevelopment Agency:

- a. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Professional Legal Services with Casso & Sparks, LLP not to exceed \$5,000, for a term ending June 30, 2018; and
- b. Determine that the above action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because it consists of administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The County is the Successor Agency to the former County of Santa Barbara Redevelopment Agency. The Oversight Board of the Successor Agency to the former County of Santa Barbara Redevelopment Agency continues to need legal support during their meetings. Casso & Sparks, LLP has been providing legal support for the Oversight Boards for the cities of Goleta, Lompoc, and Buellton, and the County of Riverside. The firm also advises several successor agencies on redevelopment agency dissolution law. It is recommended that Casso & Sparks, LLP provide independent legal support to the Oversight Board so that the County of Santa Barbara's Office of County Counsel may avoid any question of a conflict of interest with its legal support of the County of Santa Barbara concerning the same matters.

Cal. Health and Safety Code Section 34179(c) states that the successor agency shall pay for all of the costs of meetings of the oversight board. Section 34179(n) provides that an oversight board may direct a successor agency to provide additional legal or financial advice than what was given by agency staff.

The Agreement for Professional Legal Services provides that Casso & Sparks, LLP shall ensure that information relating to the firm's legal support of the Oversight Board is protected as required by Business and Professions Code Section 6068(e); this includes his preserving the confidentiality of that information from the Office of County Counsel.

With the concurrence of Risk Management, general liability and workers' compensation insurance requirements are proposed to be waived and are not included in the agreement. The firm consists of only two partners/owners and does not have general liability and workers' compensation insurance. The firm has professional liability insurance. It is beneficial to have counsel with experience in RDA Dissolution Law representing the Oversight Board. Legal work for the Oversight Board is nearing completion. The risk of a claim involving this contract appears low.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The Agreement will be funded from available appropriations in the RDA Successor Agency Operations fund (3120).

**Key Contract Risks:** N/A

**Special Instructions:**

Please forward copies of the signed Agreement to:  
Joseph Toney, Interim Deputy CEO, and Anne Rierson, Senior Deputy County Counsel

**Attachments:**

Agreement for Professional Legal Services

Board Contract Summary

**Authored by:**

Anne Rierson, Senior Deputy County Counsel