

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 9/15/05
Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
Agenda Date: 10/11/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: 45 minutes on 10/18/05
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Micheal F. Brown
County Executive Officer

STAFF CONTACT: Jim Laponis, Deputy County Executive Officer
Lori Norton, Analyst X 3421

SUBJECT: Annual State Legislative Report and Renewal of Annual State Legislative Advocacy Contract with Governmental Advocates, Inc.

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors set October 18, 2005 as the date to:

- A. Receive the Annual State Legislative Report
- B. Authorize the County Executive Officer to extend the State Legislative Advocacy Contract with Governmental Advocates, Inc. (Cliff Berg), a non-local vendor, for the period of November 1, 2005 through October 31, 2006.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 1: An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

Since March 1995, the Board has contracted for State legislative advocacy services with Governmental Advocates, Inc. (Cliff Berg). Mr. Berg has proven to be a knowledgeable, hard working, and effective advocate whose expertise has been extremely valuable to our State legislative efforts.

It is recommended that on October 18, Mr. Berg present the Annual State Legislative Report to the Board. In addition, staff is asking the Board to consider authorizing the County Executive Officer to extend the purchasing contract with Governmental Advocates, Inc. for State legislative advocacy services. The

County's current agreement with Governmental Advocates expires on October 31, 2005; the proposed extension is for the period of November 1, 2005 to October 31, 2006.

For the past two years, the annual agreement with Mr. Berg has been for an amount not to exceed \$ 60,380. This total includes a monthly retainer of \$4,865 plus up to \$2,000 annually in reimbursable expenses.

For the period of November 2005 to October 2006, staff recommends the Board authorize the County Executive Officer, to increase the monthly retainer portion of the contract with Mr. Berg by a percentage commensurate with any cost of living increase granted to County management (unrepresented) employees. This increase would be consistent with the Board's past practice of providing for increases in the contract with Governmental Advocates, Inc. In addition, staff recommends the Board authorize the County Executive Officer to increase the allowable annual reimbursable expenses from \$2,000 to \$2,500 annually. The reimbursement expense amount has not been adjusted for at least 5 years. The recommended "up to" amount more accurately reflects the amount of reimbursable expenditures Governmental Advocates has experienced over the past few years and is in sink with the adjustment for Health Insurance cost provided this year to County Employees.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The Legislative Program is not mandated.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The adopted budget for FY 05-06 includes funding for the renewal of the contract with Governmental Advocates, Inc. The Legislative Program budget is a cost center in the County Executive Office which is displayed on page D-16 of the adopted FY 2005-06 Budget.

C: Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates, Inc.