



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: CEO  
Department No.: 012  
For Agenda Of: 02/14/12  
Placement: Departmental  
Estimated Tme: 15 minutes  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Chandra L. Wallar, County Executive Officer  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, 568-3400  
**SUBJECT: Annual State Legislative Report and Contract Renewal**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors consider the following:

- A. Receive state report from Governmental Advocates; and
- B. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a contract with Governmental Advocates, Inc. for state advocacy services for the period of January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.

**Summary Text:**

Each year the Board of Supervisors identifies specific issues, projects and/or programs (priorities) that warrant targeted legislative advocacy and includes these priorities as part of its legislative platform for the upcoming calendar year. Once the platform is adopted by the Board, staff determines various legislative strategies centered on the identified priorities such as enacting or amending legislation, creating partnerships with federal agencies and exploring funding opportunities. One component of the County's legislative strategy has been to utilize the advocacy services of Governmental Advocates, Inc. to assist the County in implementing the legislative platform at the state level.

**Background:**

This item is before the Board to: (1) approve and authorize the Chair to execute a contract with Governmental Advocates, Inc. for State advocacy services for the calendar year in the amount of \$58,700; and (2) receive a report on the key legislative actions that transpired at the state level.

A State advocate is advantageous to the County because there are approximately 5,000 bills introduced by the State legislature each year, with the bills representing the key issues and interests of legislators from the entire State. The content of many of these bills change when they enter the political arena in Sacramento. During the last several years, the budget process in Sacramento has been fluid and resulting in the introduction of various budget proposals that impact the County. Governmental Advocates, Inc. helps County staff stay abreast of the specific bills and budget proposals that would either benefit or adversely impact the County and advocates on behalf of the County to the Legislature and the Governor.

**Performance Measure:**

The measure associated with this contract is contained within the CEO Department Summary for the Legislative Advocacy program (page D-35 of the FY 11-12 Operating Plan), and states, "To seek legislative solutions for addressing the County's critical issues, receive state funding for projects identified as part of the County's legislative platform."

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The total contract cost for Governmental Advocates, Inc. is \$58,700, which includes a monthly retainer of \$4,725 and annual travel expenses not to exceed \$2,000. This cost reflects an increase to the monthly retainer by CPI of 2.5%; yet a decrease in the annual travel budget by \$500.

**Staffing Impacts:**

None

**Special Instructions:**

Clerk of the Board to forward one fully executed original contract and minute order to: County Executive Office, Attn.: Sonia Thompson.

**Attachments:**

State Annual Report (prepared by Governmental Advocates, Inc.)  
Agreement for Services of Independent Contract

**Authored by:**

Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, 568-3400

**cc:**

Cliff Berg and Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates, Inc.