



**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

2015 JUL 10 AM 11: 59

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE

Department Name: County Counsel/CEO
Department No.: 013/012
For Agenda Of: July 21, 2015
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

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) *MG*
Renée Bahl, Assistant County Executive Officer (x3400)

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

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

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, 2016; 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 Renée Bahl, Assistant County Executive Officer, and to Anne Rierson, Senior Deputy County Counsel.

Attachments:

Agreement for Professional Legal Services

Board Contract Summary

Authored by:

Anne Rierson, Senior Deputy County Counsel