



**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER**

**Department Name:**

County Counsel

**Department Number:**

013

**Agenda Date:**

July 14, 2026

**Placement:**

Administrative Agenda

**Estimated Time:**

N/A

**Continued Item:**

No

**If Yes, date from:**

N/A

**Vote Required:**

4/5

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Director(s): Rachel Van Mullem

Initial  
*RVM*

**CONTACT:** Amber Holderness, Chief Assistant County Counsel

**SUBJECT:** Approve First Amendment to Agreement for Professional Legal Services with Outside Counsel Andrade Gonzalez LLP

**Concurrences:**

**County Counsel Concurrence:**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence:**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence: Risk Management**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute the attached First Amendment to Agreement for Professional Legal Services between the County of Santa Barbara and Andrade Gonzalez LLP to increase the contract not to exceed amount to \$900,000, extend

the contract term to June 30, 2027, amend the scope of work in Exhibit A, and amend the hourly rates in Attachment B-1; and

- b) Determine that the above action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15378(b)(4) and 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:**

The County is a party to litigation matters alleging that the County did not meet mandatory duties or was negligent with respect to foster care or adoptive services of the County’s Child Welfare Services Division and a matter involving alleged misconduct of a former Sheriff’s Office employee. These matters involve child abuse allegations, which have a longer statute of limitations after the passage of AB 218. Some of these cases involve allegations going back to the 1970s or 1980s. County Counsel previously recommended retaining the firm Andrade Gonzalez LLP to represent the County in this litigation because Andrade Gonzalez LLP: (1) has the expertise required by this highly-specialized area of practice; (2) has offices near, and regularly practices in, the court where this litigation is pending; and (3) comes highly recommended from the County’s excess insurer PRISM – formerly CSAC-EIA. The proposed amendment would increase the contract amount by \$450,000 for a total not to exceed amount of \$900,000 and will authorize Andrade Gonzalez LLP to continue to represent the County in these matters through the contract extended term of June 30, 2027.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes. Based on the time frame of the allegations, the attorney’s fees and costs for some of these matters are paid by private insurance that the County maintained before becoming a member of PRISM in 1980. For claims covered by PRISM, the County generally is entitled to reimbursement for the attorney’s fees and litigation costs by PRISM once the litigation is concluded that exceed the County’s self-insured retention applicable during the time period at issue.

**Key Contract Risks:**

The Office of County Counsel reviewed the Contract Risk Assessment Worksheet as part of our process.

Exhibit A of the Agreement (“Statement of Work”) provides that the Board of Supervisors, acting through its County Counsel, expressly retains the authority to direct and control the course and conduct of the litigation, including the exclusive right to make decisions regarding settlement.

A Request for Proposals was not required for this selection.

**Staffing Impacts:**

None

**Special Instructions:**

Please forward a signed copy to Amber Holderness at [aholderness@countyofsb.org](mailto:aholderness@countyofsb.org).

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – First Amendment to Agreement for Professional Legal Services

**Attachment B** – Agreement for Professional Legal Services

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**Contact Information:**

Amber Holderness

Chief Assistant County Counsel

[aholderness@countyofsb.org](mailto:aholderness@countyofsb.org)