



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: 01/19/2016
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s) Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Contact Info: Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, 568-3400
Martin Erickson, Deputy County Executive Officer, 568-3400
Joseph Toney, Fiscal and Policy Analyst, CEO, 568-3400

SUBJECT: 2015 Federal and State Annual Reports and Accomplishments

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: No

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file the 2015 year end federal advocacy report and accomplishments from Tom Walters and Associates Inc., and state advocacy report and accomplishments from Governmental Advocates; and
- b) Find that the proposed actions do not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of California Environmental Quality Act, pursuant to 14 CCR 15378(b)(2), as it consists of general policy and procedure making.

Summary Text:

This item is before the board to provide an update on legislative advocacy and highlight the accomplishments for the calendar year 2015 at both the Federal and State levels.

Background:

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 Tom Walters and Associates Inc. for federal efforts and Governmental Advocates, Inc. to assist the County in implementing the legislative platform at the state level. The many efforts and accomplishments led by both advocates are enumerated in the attached reports.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no quantifiable fiscal impacts related to the 2015 work of our federal and state advocates. However, as described in their reports, they assisted the County in successfully obtaining funding or lobbied to secure funding of, but not limited to the following:

- \$1.6 million under the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program,
- \$1.6 million through the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant program and \$700 thousand under the HOME Investment Partnerships program,
- \$1.45 million to stakeholders under the jurisdiction of the Santa Barbara/Santa Maria Continuum of Care for homeless prevention programs,
- Pushing for permanent and sustainable transportation and infrastructure funding with the Governor and State Legislature,
- Saving the County more than \$5 million annually with implementation of the Medi-Cal Optional Expansion that began in 2013,
- Significant State funding to local water purveyors to assist with impacts associated with the drought.

Other fiscal impacts of their advocacy for projects, program funding, legislation and public service improvements cannot be precisely determined. The contracts for both advocates were renewed on January 13, 2015, for a three-year term that will expire December 31, 2017. The annual costs of their contracts are \$96,100 (3.5% annual increase for CPI, not to exceed \$298,500 for the three-year term) for Tom Walters and Associates, Inc.; and \$62,600 (3.5% annual increase for CPI, not to exceed \$194,200 for the three-year term) for Governmental Advocates, which are included in the annual budget.

Attachments:

- a) Federal Advocacy Year-end Report from Thomas Walters and Associates
- b) Federal 2015 Key Principles and Accomplishments
- c) State Advocacy Year-end Report from Governmental Advocates
- d) State 2015 Key Principles and Accomplishments

Authored by:

Joseph D. Toney, Fiscal and Policy Analyst, County Executive Office, 805-568-3400.

cc:

Tom Walters, Thomas Walters and Associates, Inc.
Cliff Berg and Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates, Inc.
Department Directors