



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: 1/13/09  
Placement: Set Hearing  
Estimated Tme:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT: State Advocate Contract (Governmental Advocates, Inc)**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Select\_Concurrence

**Other Concurrence:** Select\_Other

As to form: Select\_Concurrence

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Select\_Concurrence

**Recommended Actions:**

- (A) Renew contract with Governmental Advocates, Inc. for state advocacy services for the period of January 1, 2009- December 31, 2009 for an amount not to exceed \$58,464.
- (B) Set a hearing for January 27, 2009 for 40 minutes to receive a presentation from Governmental Advocates, Inc, to provide an update on state advocacy services rendered in the prior year.
- (C) On January 27, 2009, receive a presentation from Governmental Advocates, Inc, to provide an update on state advocacy services rendered in the prior year.

**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 are 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 and state 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. The firm provides assistance in crafting, monitoring and advocating for/against State legislation of interest to the County as well as keeping the County informed of various budget proposals.

**Background:** This item is before the Board to: (1) authorize a renew of the contract with Governmental Advocates, Inc. for State advocacy services for the upcoming year and (2) receive a report on the key legislative actions that transpired at the State level, including the passage of bills that directly impacted the County.

**Renewal of State Advocate Contract (Governmental Advocates, Inc)**

January 13, 2009

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A State advocate is advantageous to the County because there are about 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. The role of Governmental Advocates, Inc. is to be the “ears and voice” of the County in Sacramento. 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. Given the rapidly changing environment, often there is little time for County staff to travel to Sacramento before a vital decision is made. With Governmental Advocates, Inc.’s location across from the State Capital, the firm has immediate access to all legislators, Committee staff and State agencies.

**Performance Measure:** The measure associated with this contract, which is contained within the CEO Department Summary for the Legislative Advocacy program (D-28 of the FY 08-09 Operating Plan), states “To seek legislative solutions for addressing the County’s critical issues, obtain bill sponsors for legislation identified as part of the County’s legislative platform.” Governmental Advocates, Inc. secured sponsors for two County sponsored bills during the 2007-2008 legislative session: SB 1453 (Senator Maldonado) pertaining to the board of trustees of public cemetery districts and AB 1900 (Assemblymember Nava) pertaining to the Maddy EMS Fund. Assembly Bill 1900 was chaptered on 9/26/08 and extends the sunset date of the County’s Maddy EMS Fund to January 1, 2011, allowing the County to continue to collect approximately \$600,000 annually on certain types of motor vehicles violations to partially compensate health care providers for otherwise uncompensated emergency medical services. Governmental Advocates, Inc. also assisted in efforts to share revenue with the State pertaining to the PXP Tranquillon Ridge project, although no revenue sharing deal came to fruition. The attached scope of work also outlines the tasks associated with the Governmental Advocates, Inc. contract.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

**Fiscal Analysis:** Narrative: The total contract cost is \$58,464 which includes a monthly retainer of \$4,622 and annual travel expenses not to exceed \$3,000.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**

N/A

**FTEs:**

N/A

**Special Instructions:**

**Attachments:** Scope of Work- Governmental Advocates, Inc.

**Authored by:**

Sharon Friedrichsen, Assistant to the CEO, 568.3107

**cc:** Cliff Berg and Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates, Inc.

Jette Christiansson, CEO Business Manager