



**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: General Services
Department No.: 063
For Agenda Of: April 23, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: General Services Kirk Lagerquist, Director, General Services (805) 560-1011
Contact Info: Skip Grey, Assistant Director, General Services (805) 568-3083
SUBJECT: **Authorize the County Purchasing Agent to Issue Purchase Orders to Kennedy Communications, Inc. and Frank Ramirez Consulting to Provide Governmental Relations Services Related to Funding Outreach for Costs Associated with the Regional Water Quality Control Board – Central Coast Region Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R3-2023-0070; Fourth Supervisorial District**

DocuSigned by:
Kirk Lagerquist
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County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the County Purchasing Agent to Issue a Purchase Order to Kennedy Communications, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$13,333.34, for a one-year term, to provide governmental relations services related to seeking funding sources related to Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R3-2023-0070 issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board – Central Coast Region for 2936 Industrial Parkway, Santa Maria, California (majority vote);
- b) Authorize the County Purchasing Agent to Issue a Purchase Order to Frank Ramirez Consulting, in an amount not to exceed \$11,666.66, for a six-month term, to provide governmental relations services related to seeking funding sources related to Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R3-2023-0070 issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board – Central Coast Region for 2936 Industrial Parkway, Santa Maria, California (majority vote); and
- c) 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 (majority vote).

Summary Text:

This item is before the Board to authorize the County Purchasing Agent to issue purchase orders for services with Kennedy Communications, Inc. and Frank Ramirez Consulting, respectively. The Consultants will provide governmental relations services jointly on behalf of the County, the City of Santa Maria, and the Santa Maria Public Airport District, under the scope of the Common Interest Agreement, to seek funding to address contamination related to a Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO). The CAO was issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board – Central Coast Region (“Regional Water Board”) for alleged historic discharges of pollutants at 2936 Industrial Parkway, Santa Maria, California from approximately 1949 to 1968, during which time SEMCO Twist Drill and Tool Company, Inc. (SEMCO) reportedly operated a precision tool manufacturing business on the site. The CAO can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board’s Geotracker website: Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R3-2020-0018 (ca.gov)

Background:

On September 26, 2023, the Regional Water Board issued Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R3-2023-0070 (CAO) to various entities, including the County, City, and the Airport District, concerning the real property at 2936 Industrial Parkway, Santa Maria, California. The CAO mandates an investigation and cleanup of trichloroethylene (TCE), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), petroleum hydrocarbons, and 1,4-dioxane in soil, soil gas, and groundwater around the site. The Regional Water Board attributes liability to the County and City's co-ownership from 1949 to 1964 and the Airport District's ownership from 1964 to 1968, during which SEMCO operated on the site and allegedly used TCE or other VOCs in its precision tool manufacturing business.

The County, City, and District have entered into a Common Interest Agreement approved by the Board on January 23, 2024 that outlines shared responsibilities among the parties, all public agencies with overlapping jurisdictions. It emphasizes cooperation and cost-sharing of efforts, including to identify and secure funding from state resources and programs. The services in recommendations a) and b), will provide governmental relations services to seek possible funding to address the contamination at the site. This will include meeting with various offices of federal, state and local elected and regulatory officials, including the State Water Resources Control Board, Regional Water Board, Legislators, and the Governor’s office, to assist in the process to identify site funding, as well as applying for funding through various sources.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	Current FY Cost Ramirez P.O.	Current FY Cost Kennedy P.O.	Current FY Cost County Total
General Services – General Fund; Professional & Special Service	\$11,666.66	\$13,333.34	\$25,000.00
Total	\$11,666.66	\$13,333.34	\$25,000.00

Pursuant to Paragraph 3 of the Common Interest Agreement approved on January 23, 2024, the County’s agreement will be for a one-third share of the total costs of the proposed governmental relations services

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of \$75,000 (\$40,000 for Kennedy Communications, Inc., and \$35,000 for Frank Ramirez Consulting), and the other two-thirds shall be borne by the City and Airport District. The parties agree to reimburse the governmental relations consultants for their fees, costs, and expenses incurred to carry out the scope of work on an equal, one-third pro rata basis. Funds are available in the General Services FY 2023-24 Approved Budget to cover the County's portion of these costs.

Special Instructions: None

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 – Executed Common Interest Agreement

Authored by:

Skip Grey