



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: December 17, 2019
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Director(s)
Contact Info: Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 568-3400
SUBJECT: State Advocate Contract Renewal (Governmental Advocates, Inc.)

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: **Risk Management**

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Agreement for the services of independent contractor Governmental Advocates, Inc. to provide State advocacy services for the period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021 for a total amount not to exceed \$132,700 for a two-year term; and
- B. Determine that the above action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) because it consists of the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

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 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 Governmental Advocates, Inc. to assist the County in implementing the legislative platform at the state level.

Background:

This item is before the Board to approve and authorize the Chair to execute a contract with Governmental Advocates, Inc. for State advocacy services for a two-year term not to exceed \$132,700.

A state advocate is advantageous to the County because there are approximately 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. During the last several years, the budget process in Sacramento has been fluid and resulting in the introduction of various budget proposals that impact the County. 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.

In 2017, County staff conducted a request for information process to review qualifications and expenses of potential consultants to help assist the County. Governmental Advocates was identified as the best qualified for our needs and was recommended by the Legislative Program Committee.

Performance Measure:

The performance of the advocate will be assessed by obtaining feedback from members of the Board of Supervisors, department directors and the County’s elected representatives regarding the professionalism, timeliness and quality of assistance rendered by the advocate in performing the scope of work articulated above. Other measures that will be examined include the number of bill sponsors secured, the number of bills enacted and the deviation from original conceptual language to the enacted version of the legislation should the County submit legislative language/propose new bill for consideration as part of its annual legislative platform. The achievement of objectives contained within the legislative platform (such as maintained or increased program funding, legislative or regulatory changes, improved relationships with agencies, etc.) will also be examined annually.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Fiscal Analysis: Budgeted

The total contract cost for Governmental Advocates, Inc. for a two-year term will be a maximum of \$132,700.00 (\$66,350 per year), which includes a monthly retainer of \$5,321 and an annual travel expense allowance not to exceed \$2,500.

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund		\$ 66,350.00	
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ 66,350.00	\$ -

Staffing Impacts:

None

Key Contract Risks:

The County of Santa Barbara has significant experience with Governmental Advocates, Inc. and there have been no significant issues. The contract has low risk.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board to forward one fully executed original contract and minute order to: County Executive Office, Attn.: Kathie Cisek

Attachments:

Attachment A: Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Governmental Advocates

Authored by:

Wesley Welch

CC:

Cliff Berg and Kristina Gallagher, Governmental Advocates, Inc.