



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: County Counsel
Department No.: 013
For Agenda Of: July 8, 2014
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: County Counsel Michael C. Ghizzoni 568-2950
Contact Info: Anne Rierson 568-2950
SUBJECT: Outside Counsel Contract - Griffith & Thornburg, LLP

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

Treasurer-Tax Collector Department

Recommended Actions:

Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Professional Legal Services with Griffith & Thornburg, LLP from July 8, 2014 to July 7, 2016, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00.

Summary Text: This outside counsel agreement is for the firm of Griffith & Thornburg, LLP to assist the County and the Treasurer-Tax Collector with bankruptcy matters, including but not limited to advice and litigation in bankruptcy court related to the collection of property taxes. The attorney responsible for performing the bankruptcy legal services is Joseph Sholder, who was highly recommended and has performed bankruptcy work for the County for approximately two years. The contract is not to exceed \$25,000.00.

The Conflict of Interest provision in section 10 of the agreement has been changed from the County's standard agreements. As a practical matter, bankruptcy attorneys will often represent debtors which owe property taxes to the County. The Agreement contains a waiver by the County of any conflicts that may arise in any future matters in which the law firm represents a debtor in a bankruptcy case in which the County is a creditor, unless the firm is already engaged to represent the County in such matter.

Key Contract Risks: None

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: Budgeted – Outside Counsel Designation

Special Instructions: Please forward a signed copy to County Counsel.

Attachments: Agreement for Professional Legal Services

Authored by: Anne Rierson, Senior Deputy County Counsel