



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 Executive
Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: 10/9/07
Placement: Set Hearing
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer, 568-3400
Director(s)
Contact Info: Terri Maus-Nisich, Assistant CEO, 568-3400
SUBJECT: State Advocate Contract Renewal and Annual State Legislative Report

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form:

Other Concurrence:

Recommended Actions:

- A. Set a hearing for October 16, 2007 for 30 minutes to receive an annual report from Governmental Advocates, Inc. regarding legislative efforts at the State level and to renew the firm's contract for State advocacy services.
- B. On October 16, 2007, receive a report from Governmental Advocates, Inc regarding legislative efforts at the State level (estimated 30 minutes).
- C. On October 16, 2007, authorize the County Executive Officer to renew the State Legislative Advocacy Contract with Governmental Advocates, not a local vendor, for the period of November 1, 2007 through October 31, 2008 for \$64,632.

Summary Text:

The County currently utilizes the professional services of Governmental Advocates, Inc. as part of its legislative strategy. Since Governmental Advocates, Inc has served as the County's State legislative advocate since 1995, it has a unique understanding of the structure of the County, the community and the critical issues challenging the County. It is therefore recommended that the Board renew the firm's contract to provide assistance in crafting, monitoring and advocating for/against State legislation of interest to the County.

Background: This item is before the Board to: (1) receive a report on the key legislative actions that transpired at the State level, including the passage of bills that directly impacted the County and (2) authorize a contract with Governmental Advocates, Inc. for State advocacy services for the upcoming year. A State advocate is advantageous to the County because there are about 5,000 bills introduced by

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form:

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 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, they have immediate access to all legislators, not just the County’s elected representatives. They also understand the environment in which decisions are made and the best way to approach situations and individuals in order to advocate on behalf of the County.

Performance Measure:

Governmental Advocates, Inc. has assisted the County in advocating for/against pending legislation of interest to the County (a synopsis of such legislation will be presented during the October 16, 2007 meeting). The firm was instrumental in ensuring the passage of County-sponsored legislation (AB 1019) related to the negotiation of housing credits during the annexation process. The new contract will be for advocacy services related to another County bill pertaining to housing and agricultural preservation (AB 1497) as well as other possible legislation pertaining to the County’s 2008 legislative platform (to be adopted by the Board in the upcoming months).

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund	\$64,632		
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 64,632.00	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative: The contract proposed for renewal with Governmental Advocates, Inc. reflects an increase of 3.5% as a cost-of-living adjustment for the monthly retainer and an increase of \$500 for travel-related expenses compared to last year’s contract. The total contract cost is \$64,632, which includes a monthly retainer of \$5,136 and total travel expenses of \$3,000.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

N/A

FTEs:

N/A

Attachments:

CC:

Cliff Berg and Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates, Inc.
 Jette Christiansson, Business Manager, CEO