

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 9, 2015

AGENDA NO. 5

**PROPOSAL:** Amend Existing Contracts for Legislative Representation in Washington, D.C.

**SYNOPSIS:** The current contracts with Kadesh & Associates, LLC and Carmen Group Inc. for legislative and regulatory representation in Washington D.C. will expire on January 14, 2015. This item is to recommend approval of the second one-year extension for the two existing contracts for federal legislative and regulatory consulting services for Calendar Year 2015. Total contract amounts for Kadesh & Associates and Carmen Group Inc. is proposed to be the current contract amounts plus a Consumer Price Index increase.

**COMMITTEE:** Administrative, December 12, 2014, Recommended for Approval

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

Authorize the Chairman to approve the second one-year extension of the contract with Kadesh & Associates, LLC for \$230,945, and the second one-year extension of the contract with Carmen Group Inc. for \$222,090, each of which includes a Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase.

Barry R. Wallerstein, D.Env.  
Executive Officer

## **Background**

After a competitive process with multiple firms responding to a request for proposals, the Board selected Carmen Group Inc. and Kadesh & Associates, LLC, for legislative and regulatory representation in Washington, D.C. for 2013. Both contracts – each of which includes two one-year extensions options – will expire January 14, 2015. The Governing Board granted the first one-year extension to Kadesh & Associates January 2014 and extended the Carmen Group contract in two six-month increments in 2014.

The firms have been effective in working with the Board and staff to maintain a continued and noticeable presence to advance the Board's agenda for federal legislative and regulatory issues. They have organized successful meetings in Washington, D.C. with Congressional Members and Congressional staff that have resulted in new or stronger relationships with the Administration, Congress and other stakeholders in Washington, D.C. In 2014, Kadesh & Associates worked hard to renew a \$10 million grant program for zero emission transportation projects in the Senate's Energy and Water Appropriations bill. After enactment, SCAQMD was awarded the entire \$10 million from that grant program.

At the same time, Carmen Group provided strategic counsel and helped in preparing other federal grant applications, and they provided support in getting a support letter from Rep. Ken Calvert, the chairman of the relevant House Appropriations Subcommittee for SCAQMD's application for a successful 2014 DERA grant. They continue to work with Rep. Calvert and his office to protect and increase overall DERA funding. The consultants have also been helpful in developing a longer-term strategy for the upcoming reauthorization bills on surface transportation and passenger rail due to be considered in 2015. In addition, due to the consultants' joint efforts, significant inroads have been made with the U.S. Department of Energy, positioning SCAQMD in a more favorable position. Both consultants also helped protect funding currently authorized in the Clean Air Act's Sections 103 and 105 that support key SCAQMD programs.

Thus, the consultants have represented SCAQMD well and continued representation in Washington, D.C. is necessary to further SCAQMD's policy objectives in the future.

## **Proposal**

Staff recommends their retention for Calendar Year 2015. Continuity of representation will help build on past relationships and policy initiatives to help increase the successful outcomes of SCAQMD policy objectives in 2015. Items anticipated being on the agenda in 2015 include securing SCAQMD priorities in the next surface transportation reauthorization legislation, finding funding to help Metrolink replace its Tier 0 and Tier II locomotives with Tier IV locomotives, obtaining funding to demonstrate LNG and battery powered passenger rail locomotives, seeking authorization for demonstration and deployment of clean technology and clean energy resources, protecting SCAQMD's

subvention funding and other federal grants, and responding to other issues that may surface in 2015. Legislative and regulatory advocacy may also be needed to support new policy initiatives pursuant to the development of the 2016 AQMP.

Both present contracts have a remaining one-year extension option that may be exercised at the Board's discretion, pursuant to the original RFP. This proposal is to approve the second one-year extension of these two contracts.

**Resource Impact**

The total funding for these contracts in the amount of \$453,035 is available in the Professional and Special Services account of the Legislative & Public Affairs FY 2014-15 Budget.