

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 6, 2022

AGENDA NO. 10

PROPOSAL: Appropriate Funds and Amend Contract with Strumwasser & Woocher, LLP to Provide Representation and Advice to South Coast AQMD Hearing Board

SYNOPSIS: In August 2020, the Board authorized the Executive Officer to execute a contract with Strumwasser & Woocher, LLP to provide legal representation and advice to the Hearing Board as the need arises for a total not to exceed \$15,000 annually for up to three years. This action is to appropriate \$35,000 from the General Fund to the Clerk of the Boards FY 2021-22 and/or FY 2022-23 Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Professional and Special Services Account, and amend the contract with Strumwasser & Woocher, LLP to add funds in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 for specialized legal counsel and services as required by the South Coast AQMD Hearing Board.

COMMITTEE: Administrative, April 8, 2021; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Appropriate a total of \$35,000 from the General Fund Undesignated (Unassigned) Fund Balance to be used in FY 2021-22 and/or FY 2022-23 Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Professional and Special Services Account

Wayne Nastri
Executive Officer

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Background

In August 2020, the Board authorized the Executive Officer a contract with Strumwasser & Woocher, LLP to provide legal representation and advice the Hearing Board as the need arises. The Board approved a total not to exceed \$15,000 annually for up to three years, representing \$45,000 over the three years. The contract was executed on September 30, 2020, and there is still about 18 months remaining with this contract. The current amount allocated will not cover services needed by the Hearing Board.

Proposal

South Coast AQMD staff has received invoices from Strumwasser & Woocher for approximately \$40,000 for legal services for the Hearing Board. The Hearing Board is requesting an additional \$35,000 to cover legal services through September 2023. It is necessary to increase the money for the Hearing Board to ensure outside legal representation is available to the Hearing Board when the need arises.

Resource Impacts

Sufficient funds will be available in the General Fund's FY 2021-22 and/or FY 2022-23 Budget upon approval of this Board letter. This action will bring the total amount for this contract for outside counsel costs approved by the Board in FYs 2020-23 to \$80,000.