

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 11, 2014

AGENDA NO. 16

PROPOSAL: Amend Existing Contract with Carmen Group Incorporated for Legislative Representation in Washington, D.C.

SYNOPSIS: The current contract with the Carmen Group Incorporated for legislative and regulatory representation in Washington D.C. will expire on July 14, 2014. This contract, as of January 14, 2014, had an option for two one-year extensions. A six-month extension was exercised at that time. To further the agency's policy positions at the federal level, this proposal exercises a second six-month contract extension, through January 14, 2015, for the Carmen Group Incorporated at a cost of \$109,620.

COMMITTEE: Legislative, June 13, 2014. Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Chairman to execute a six-month contract extension with the Carmen Group Incorporated for legislative representation in Washington, D.C. in the amount of \$109,620.

Barry R. Wallerstein, D.Env.
Executive Officer

LBS:DJA:PC

Background

At its January 2014 meeting, the Governing Board authorized a six-month contract extension for the Carmen Group Incorporated (Carmen Group) and directed staff to evaluate the legislative representation needs in regards with the continuation of the Carmen Group contract. A variety of items are on, or are anticipated to be on, the agenda for SCAQMD in 2014, including: (1) securing the Board's priorities in the next surface transportation reauthorization legislation; (2) finding funding to help Metrolink replace its Tier 0 and Tier II locomotives with Tier IV locomotives; (3) obtaining funding to demonstrate alternative fuel passenger rail locomotives; (4) increasing support for cleaning up goods movement and surface transportation sources; (5) seeking authorization for demonstration and deployment of clean technology and clean energy

resources; and (6) protecting SCAQMD's subvention funding and other federal grants. In addition, the Carmen Group will also advocate, as needed, on legislative and regulatory issues to support new policy initiatives for the approval of the 2012 AQMP and the development of the 2016 AQMP. Given these various items on or anticipated to be on the agenda in 2014, staff recommends the continuation of the Carmen Group contract.

Over the past six months, the Carmen Group has continued to work with the Board and staff to maintain a noticeable presence in Washington, D.C. and to advance the Board's agenda for federal legislative and regulatory issues. They have organized meetings with Congressional members and staff, as well as other officials and representatives in Washington, D.C., that have continued to help cultivate relationships with Congress, the Administration, and other stakeholders. Specifically, the Carmen Group has continued to initiate and cultivate SCAQMD's relationship with federal agency representatives (e.g. the DOT), U.S. House of Representatives' committee members and staff (e.g. the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee), as well as the offices of prominent California Republican House members, including Congressman Dana Rohrabacher and Congressman Ken Calvert, who currently serves as Chair of the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies for the House Appropriations Committee. A six-month extension will enable the Carmen Group to continue cultivating the relationships they have initiated on SCAQMD's behalf to help facilitate efforts to obtain needed federal funding and policy changes.

Further, since the six-month extension was granted, the Carmen Group has been involved with efforts to obtain provisions beneficial to air quality in the House's version of the MAP-21 Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill, efforts to fully-fund the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA), which had its funding entirely eliminated in the President's annual budget, and efforts to try to secure additional funding for Southern California from either DERA or through the Clean Air Act Section 103/105 State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG). Given that each of these projects is currently in process and could take several more months to complete, an additional six month extension of the contract with Carmen Group is warranted.

Proposal

The current six month contract extension for the Carmen Group expires on July 14, 2014. Staff recommends retaining the Carmen Group by amending the current contract to include a second six month extension, through January 14, 2015. Continuity of representation will help build on past relationships and current policy initiatives to increase the successful outcomes of SCAQMD policy objectives in 2014.

Resource Impacts

Funding for this contract is available in the Professional and Special Services account of the Legislative & Public Affairs FY 2014-15 Budget.