

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 6, 2019

AGENDA NO. 5

PROPOSAL: Appropriate Funds and Amend Contracts for Legislative Representation in Sacramento, California

SYNOPSIS: After careful review of services that the state legislative consultants provide to South Coast AQMD, staff recommends that California Advisors, LLC and Quintana Watts & Hartmann receive an increase in their contract amount to place them at the same compensation level as the other state legislative consultant – Joe A. Gonsalves & Son. These actions are to appropriate \$79,000 from the General Fund, Undesignated Fund Balance, to the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2019-20 budget; and modify the contracts, with an increase of \$39,500 each, for California Advisors, LLC and Quintana Watts & Hartmann.

COMMITTEE: Administrative, July 19, 2019; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Appropriate \$79,000 from the General Fund, Undesignated Fund Balance, to the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2019-20 Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Professional and Special Services account;
2. Authorize the Executive Officer to increase the current contract with California Advisors, LLC for an additional amount of \$39,500; and
3. Authorize the Executive Officer to increase the current contract with Quintana Watts & Hartmann for an additional amount of \$39,500.

Wayne Nasti
Executive Officer

DJA:RAR:jns

Background

It is important to ensure that South Coast AQMD is involved in the daily legislative and policy discussions by having direct, ongoing representation in Sacramento. The current three lobbying firms – California Advisors, LLC, Quintana Watts & Hartmann, and Joe A. Gonsalves & Son – have represented the South Coast AQMD in Sacramento at a high standard of performance. The political experience and knowledge that each firm has provided thus far has been vital to South Coast AQMD’s mission to achieve clean air.

Proposal

Staff recommends that the three firms be compensated at the same level. The current contracts with the three firms expire at the end of 2019 with an option for a one-year extension that may be exercised at the Board's discretion, pursuant to the original RFP. This proposal is to increase the contracts with California Advisors, LLC and Quintana Watts & Hartman by \$39,500 each, which will bring all three State legislative contracts to the same compensation level.

Benefits to South Coast AQMD

All three legislative contractors provide a high level of service and are critical to meeting the South Coast AQMD's State legislative agenda.

Resource Impacts

Upon approval, sufficient funding will be available in the Legislative, Public Affairs and Media FY 2018-19 budget, Services and Supplies Major Object. Funding for the remaining year of the contracts will be included in the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media annual budget request.