

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 5, 2018

AGENDA NO. 6

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

**SYNOPSIS:** The current contracts for legislative and regulatory representation in Washington, D.C. with Kadesh & Associates, LLC, Cassidy & Associates, and Carmen Group Inc. will expire on January 14, 2018. Each of these contracts includes an option for two one-year extensions. This action is to consider approval of the second one-year extension of the existing contracts for Calendar Year 2018 with Carmen Group Inc., Kadesh & Associates, LLC, and Cassidy & Associates as SCAQMD's legislative and regulatory representatives in Washington, D.C., to further the agency's policy positions at the federal level.

**COMMITTEE:** Administrative, December 8, 2017; Recommend for Approval

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Authorize the Chairman to amend contracts for the second one-year extension at the current contract amounts with Carmen Group Inc. for \$222,090, Kadesh & Associates, LLC for \$226,400, and Cassidy & Associates for \$216,000.

Wayne Natri  
Executive Officer

DA:MC:jns

---

**Background**

After a competitive request for proposals process in 2015, the Board selected Carmen Group Inc., Kadesh & Associates, LLC, and Cassidy & Associates for legislative and regulatory representation in Washington, D.C. during Calendar Year 2016. Each received a one-year contract with the option for two one-year extensions. The first extension under each contract will expire January 14, 2018.

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 effectively organized meetings with Congressional Members and Congressional staff in Washington, D.C., which have resulted in stronger and new relationships with the Administration, Congress and other stakeholders in Washington, D.C.

The consultants planned and helped facilitate two staff trips to Washington, D.C. (in March and October 2017), and two Board Member trips in May and June 2017. In addition, the consultants helped set up meetings with key Senators for a separate trip taken by Dr. Parker in January. Together, these trips enabled staff and Board Members to meet with key Congressional Members and staff on the issue of protecting the California waiver, reauthorizing and fully funding the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) program, promoting a clean air set-aside in any upcoming infrastructure bill and protecting U.S. EPA grant funding for air agencies. Despite cutting critical U.S. EPA programs in the President's Proposed FY 2018 Budget, Congress preserved much of the programs SCAQMD was advocating to protect.

In May, the three firms worked cooperatively to implement a visit from a delegation of SCAQMD Board Members and staff to Washington, D.C. to attend two dozen meetings with potential partners, U.S. EPA, U.S. Department of Energy, Members of Congress, and staff for Members and key committees. The group of six Governing Board Members, accompanied by several SCAQMD staff, traveled to Washington, D.C. for a series of meetings to advocate on the District's federal priorities. Board Members and staff met with senior level officials at the White House, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Energy. They also met with Members of Congress and/or their staff as well as senior staff from major House and Senate Committees. The group urged continued support for several U.S. EPA programs that fund diesel replacement projects, air monitoring and other critical SCAQMD programs. The group also pressed for the President's upcoming Infrastructure bill to take air quality into consideration, and provide a portion of funds for infrastructure projects that benefit air quality. The visit also included an SCAQMD-sponsored briefing for Congressional staffers from states that have opted in to follow the California tailpipe emission standards (so-called Section 177 states) to give them a better understanding of the California waiver issue, and the implications if the authority for California to establish its own standards is ended. Several Member meetings were also scheduled for a brief Board Member visit in June.

In March and October, the three firms worked cooperatively to schedule meetings with Congressional offices and key Administration meetings, such as with the Council on Environmental Quality, the National Economic Council, the White House Office of Public Liaison and the Vice President's Office.

In addition, in April, these consultants also helped plan a visit to SCAQMD headquarters for a select bipartisan group of Congressional staffers to learn about regional air quality issues. The group took a tour of the Ports of L.A. and Long Beach where port staff explained many of the clean technologies being implemented there. The following day, after a briefing at SCAQMD headquarters, staff gave the group a tour of the SCAQMD facility and lab, as well as SCAQMD's clean light-duty vehicle fleet. The group also had an opportunity to see a number of electric, fuel cell and ultra-low NOx natural gas heavy-duty vehicles at a specially coordinated display at SCAQMD headquarters. They were then taken to the Inland Empire where they toured Complete Coach Works, a Riverside bus remanufacturer and retrofitter, the BNSF railyards, the "gas station of the future" -a multi-fuel refueling station (which alongside conventional fuels also dispenses bio-diesel, E85, CNG, hydrogen and electric charging) and the Etiwanda Air Monitoring station.

The consultants have helped SCAQMD increase the appropriation for DERA grants to replace and retrofit heavy-duty vehicles, increase the appropriation for Targeted Air-Shed Grants, protect and defend grant funds under Clean Air Act Sections 103 and 105, and push to reauthorize the DERA program.

The consultants have represented SCAQMD well, and continued representation in Washington, D.C. is necessary to further the agency's policy objectives in the future. The key item on the agenda for SCAQMD in 2018 is continuing to seek funding, either from existing sources or by developing new sources, to implement the 2016 Air Quality Management Plan.

### **Proposal**

Staff recommends retaining Carmen Group Inc., Kadesh & Associates, LLC, and Cassidy & Associates, for Calendar Year 2018, given their efforts in 2017 and their ability to build upon them in 2018. Continuity of representation will help build on past relationships and policy initiatives to increase the successful outcomes of SCAQMD policy objectives going forward.

Pursuant to the original contract, the Board has discretion to exercise options for the two one-year extensions. This proposal is to approve the second one-year extension for all three consulting contracts.

### **Resource Impacts**

The Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Budget for FY 2017-18 contains sufficient funds for legislative advocacy in Washington D.C.