

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 1, 2023

AGENDA NO. 15

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

**SYNOPSIS:** In December 2022, the Board authorized \$125,000 for the law firm of Strumwasser & Woocher, LLP to provide legal representation and advice to the Hearing Board on a litigation matter. A contract in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 was executed in January 2023. This action is to appropriate an additional \$300,000 for specialized legal counsel and services as requested by the South Coast AQMD Hearing Board, from the General Fund Undesignated (Unassigned) Fund Balance to the Clerk of the Boards' FY 2023-24 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 \$300,000 for specialized legal counsel and services in a litigation matter.

**COMMITTEE:** Administrative, August 11, 2023; Recommended for Approval

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

1. Appropriate a total of \$300,000 from the General Fund Undesignated (Unassigned) Fund Balance to be used in FY 2023-24 Clerk of the Boards' Budget, Services and Supplies Major Object, Professional and Special Services Account; and
2. Authorize the Chair to amend the contract with Strumwasser & Woocher, LLP to provide specialized legal counsel and services to the South Coast AQMD Hearing Board.

Wayne Natri  
Executive Officer

**Background**

In December 2022, the Board authorized a contract with Strumwasser & Woocher, LLP in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 for specialized legal counsel and services as required by the South Coast AQMD Hearing Board, through September 30, 2023.

In August 2023, a no cost contract modification was authorized to extend the contract term to December 30, 2023.

**Proposal**

The Hearing Board is requesting an additional \$300,000 for Strumwasser & Woocher for legal representation on a matter involving the Hearing Board. It is necessary to increase available funds for the Hearing Board to ensure outside legal representation is available to the Hearing Board when the need arises.

**Resource Impacts**

Sufficient funds are available from the General Fund Undesignated (Unassigned) Fund Balance in the FY 2023-24 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 to \$425,000.