

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 3, 2026

AGENDA NO. 10

PROPOSAL: Amend Contract for Legislative Representation in Sacramento, California

SYNOPSIS: The current contract for specialized legislative representation and strategic political consulting services in Sacramento, California with Resolute Company, LLC expires on June 30, 2026. South Coast AQMD continues to require Resolute Company's specialized legislative lobbying and strategic political consulting services in Sacramento for FY 2026-2027. Based on the firm's performance during the first year of their current contract, this action is to approve the first one-year extension of the contract with Resolute Company in the amount of \$180,000. Sufficient funding is available in the Legislative, Public Affairs & Media FY 2025-26 Budget.

COMMITTEE: Legislative, March 13, 2026, Recommended for Approval.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Chair to execute the first one-year extension of the contract with Resolute Company at the current contract amount of \$180,000.

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

LTO:CG:PG:EJH

Background

The current contract with Resolute Company (Resolute) for specialized legislative representation in Sacramento, California, expires on June 30, 2026. In FY 2025-2026, Resolute represented South Coast AQMD in Sacramento and performed at a high professional level.

South Coast AQMD plays a critical role in state-level policy discussions as a leading air quality agency and innovator in developing and implementing emission reduction

programs. It is essential that South Coast AQMD's legislative positions are communicated in a timely and effective manner through consistent engagement in Sacramento.

Specialized legislative representation and strategic political consulting services are particularly important given ongoing budgetary and policy challenges, including potential changes to recently reauthorized Cap-and-Invest program and continued funding for AB 617 Community Air Protection Program. Strong relationships with elected officials and legislative staff are necessary to achieve budgetary and policy objectives in the current political environment, and to protect the South Coast AQMD's authority. South Coast AQMD is also sponsoring three bills at the direction of the Board.

Resolute and its principal, David Quintana, bring over 25 years of professional experience, with extensive expertise in air quality and related issues. Mr. Quintana previously served as a Legislative Director in the State Senate and as a Consultant for the Senate Committee on Public Safety. Resolute's established relationships provide access to legislators and elected officials who are sometimes difficult to reach, helping to navigate policy and political challenges. These relationships strengthen South Coast AQMD's ability to achieve its policy and funding objectives and maintain its regulatory authority with the Legislature, the Governor, and other stakeholders.

Throughout the year, Resolute worked closely and effectively with South Coast AQMD to advance the Board's legislative agenda. This included facilitating meetings with legislators and legislative staff, testifying at committee hearings, negotiating bill language, and working to hold or stop legislation that would have been detrimental to South Coast AQMD's funding, policy priorities, and regulatory authority. Additionally, Resolute consistently kept South Coast AQMD apprised of developments in Sacramento and provided strategic insight on pending legislative and budget proposals.

During the 2025 legislative session, Resolute played a critical role in legislative efforts, including:

- AB 907 (Chen) – This South Coast AQMD sponsored bill would require air district representatives serving as board members for CARB to receive the same compensation as other voting board members. Resolute secured the bill author and worked for Assembly passage by the legislative deadline.
- Support for reauthorization of the Cap-and-Invest program through 2045, including an ongoing \$250 million allocation from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for the AB 617 Community Air Protection program.
- Veto of SB 34 (Richardson) which would have limited South Coast AQMD's

indirect source regulatory authority for Ports. Resolute helped build a coalition in opposition to the bill.

- Collaboration with South Coast AQMD and Senator Caroline Menjivar on a non-legislative alternative to address concerns regarding aggregate recycling facilities in Sun Valley, as an alternative to SB 526 (Menjivar), which would have set a precedent affecting the agency's rulemaking authority.

Resolute provides efficient and effective legislative representation and strategic consulting services. Their policy and political insights enhance South Coast AQMD's credibility, strengthen its presence in Sacramento, and advance the Board's funding and policy priorities.

Proposal

The contract for specialized legislative representation and strategic political consulting services with Resolute expires on June 30, 2026. The contract includes two one-year extension options that may be exercised at the Board's discretion pursuant to the original RFP.

This proposal is to authorize the Chair to execute the first one-year contract extension with Resolute for \$180,000.

Resource Impacts

The Legislative, Public Affairs & Media Budget for FY 2025-26 contains sufficient funds to support this action.