



Agenda Date: 10/10/2006
Agenda Placement: 9D

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Britt Ferguson for Nancy Watt - County Executive Officer
County Executive Office
REPORT BY: Andrew Carey, Management Analyst, 253-4477
SUBJECT: Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. 6478 with Peterson Consulting for legislative advocacy services

RECOMMENDATION

County Executive Officer requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. 6478 with Peterson Consulting, Inc., increasing the amount by \$8,000 per month for eleven months for a new maximum of \$139,327 for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 and a new maximum of \$67,327 for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 for advocacy services related to Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) legislation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Don Peterson has provided legislative and regulatory advocacy services for the County of Napa since 1988. These services include representing the County's interests with the Legislature and the Administration, providing advice and assistance in developing and implementing the County's legislative platform, and providing timely information and analysis concerning legislation that may have an impact on the County.

In January 2006, the Board of Supervisors determined that additional legislative advocacy resources were required in support of legislation intended to provide Napa County and the cities within Napa County legislative relief from the current RHNA statutes. On March 1, 2006, the Board authorized the Chair to sign Amendment No. 1 to the County's agreement with Peterson Consulting to provide additional advocacy services dedicated to seeking legislative relief from the current RHNA statutes for an additional amount of \$8,000 per month for an eight month period (March 1, 2006 through October 31, 2006) over and above the base contract amount of \$43,327 per fiscal year.

Amendment No. 2 to the agreement will provide for the continuation of additional advocacy services dedicated to seeking legislative relief from the current RHNA statutes for an additional eleven months (November 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007).

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	The County's FY2006-07 Central Services budget includes approximately \$44,000 for the Peterson Consulting Group's base contract amount and \$80,000 for specialized services related to seeking legislative relief from current RHNA statutes. The current budgeted amount will cover all of the recommended increase of \$64,000 except for \$15,327 for FY 2006-07. It is anticipated that the additional \$15,327 will be covered out of budget savings elsewhere in the Central Services budget. However, in the event sufficient savings are not achieved, a transfer from the General Fund Contingency may be required. The new total amount of the agreement for FY 2006-07 will be \$139,327.
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	In order to achieve the County's goal of obtaining legislative relief from the current RHNA statutes, continued utilization of the specialized legislative services available through Peterson Consulting through the next legislative session is deemed necessary.
Is the general fund affected?	Yes
Future fiscal impact:	If the Peterson Consulting agreement is continued into the 2007-08 fiscal year, then this amendment would provide funding in the amount of \$24,000 for another 3 months (July 2007 through September 2007) of additional advocacy on the County's behalf in pursuit of legislative relief from the current RHNA statutes.
Consequences if not approved:	Additional legislative advocacy resources for the purpose of forwarding the County's goal of seeking legislative relief from the current RHNA statutes would not be available.
Additional Information:	None

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The County has historically retained the services of a legislative advocacy firm to represent its interests with both the legislative and executive branches of State government. Don Peterson has provided legislative and regulatory advocacy services for the County of Napa since 1988, first as a partner with Wagerman and Associates, Inc. and, since November 2003, as president of Peterson Consulting, Inc. As the County's legislative advocate, Peterson Consulting provides the County with advice and assistance in developing and implementing its legislative platform, ensures staff and the Board receive timely information concerning legislation that may have an impact on the County, and generally represents the County's interests in the State Capitol.

In January 2006, the Board of Supervisors determined that additional legislative advocacy resources were required in support of legislation intended to provide Napa County and the cities within Napa County legislative relief from the current housing needs allocation methodology, and identified certain criteria for selecting the firm or firms to provide that additional assistance. A number of individuals and firms were recommended to the County Executive Office and Peterson Consulting as having the requisite legislative advocacy experience and firmly established reputations as legislative advocates whose names are widely identified as having a Napa County "face and voice."

After reviewing the credentials and references of several firms and individuals, Peterson Consulting selected the firm Government Strategies, Inc., and specifically Herb Schmidt and Rina Venturini of that firm, to provide additional legislative advocacy on the County's behalf in pursuit of legislative relief from the current RHNA statutes. On March 1, 2006, the Board authorized the Chair to sign Amendment No. 1 to the County's agreement with Peterson Consulting to provide additional advocacy services dedicated to seek legislative relief from the current RHNA statutes for an additional amount of \$8,000 per month for an eight month period (March 1, 2006 through October 31, 2006) over and above the base contract amount of \$43,327 per fiscal year. (The County has contracted with Peterson Consulting for these services, which Peterson Consulting obtains from Government Strategies, Inc. on the County's behalf.)

Peterson Consulting's current agreement with the County expires June 30, 2007, with the ability to roll over the contract into the 2007-08 fiscal year unless either party takes action to terminate. Amendment No. 2 to the agreement with Peterson Consulting provides the additional compensation necessary for specialized legislative services from November 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 at the rate of \$8,000 per month. All other terms and conditions of the agreement with Peterson Consulting remain unchanged. If the Peterson Consulting agreement is continued into the 2007-08 fiscal year, then this amendment would provide funding for another 3 months (July through September) of additional advocacy on the County's behalf in pursuit of legislative relief from the current housing needs allocation methodology.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Andrew Carey