



Agenda Date: 3/7/2006
Agenda Placement: 60

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: Amend legislative advocacy agreement

RECOMMENDATION

County Executive Officer requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 6478 with Peterson Consulting, Inc., increasing the amount by \$32,000 for a new maximum of \$75,327 per fiscal year for legislative advocacy services.

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 housing needs allocation methodology. The amended agreement with Peterson Consulting provides for the additional advocacy resources requested by the Board. Specifically, this amendment will allow Peterson Consulting Group to sub-contract with Government Strategies, Inc., a separate legislative advocacy firm.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	No
What is the revenue source?	The County's FY2005-06 Central Services budget includes approximately \$43,000 for the Peterson Consulting Group's contract. It is anticipated that this

additional \$32,000 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 this fiscal year and next will be \$75,327.

Is it Mandatory or Discretionary? Discretionary

Discretionary Justification: The board has instructed staff to arrange for additional legislative advocacy resources for the purpose of forwarding the County's goal of seeking legislative relief from the current housing needs allocation methodology.

Is the general fund affected? Yes

Future fiscal impact: The total amount of the agreement for next fiscal year will be \$75,327, with the additional \$8000 per month payment being applied to the months of July through October 2006. It is anticipated that the amount budgeted for regular legislative advocacy for FY 07-08 will be reduced to the original agreement amount of approximately \$43,000.

Consequences if not approved: Additional legislative advocacy resources for the purpose of forwarding the County's goal of seeking legislative relief from the current housing needs allocation methodology 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 has 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 housing needs allocation methodology. The County Executive Office concurs with this choice. Don Peterson believes that these additional services may be needed through October, 2006.

Peterson Consulting's current agreement with the County expires June 30, 2006, with the ability to roll over the contract into the 2006-07 fiscal year unless either party takes action to terminate. The amended agreement with Peterson Consulting provides the additional compensation necessary to subcontract with Government Strategies, Inc. from March 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006 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 2006-07 fiscal year, then this amendment would provide funding for another 4 months (July through October) of additional legislative 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