



Agenda Date: 6/28/2005
Agenda Placement: 6RR

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: Legislative advocacy agreement with Peterson Consulting, Inc.

RECOMMENDATION

County Executive Officer requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign an agreement with Peterson Consulting, Inc. for a maximum of \$43,327 for the term July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 for legislative and regulatory 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.

The current agreement with Peterson Consulting, Inc. expires on June 30, 2005. The term of the new agreement will be from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 with the compensation remaining unchanged at \$43,327 for the fiscal year and the scope of work remaining essentially the same as the previous agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Central Services
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	Peterson Consulting, Inc. has a proven track record providing quality legislative and regulatory advocacy services for the County with the State

	Legislature and a succession of Administrations.
Is the general fund affected?	Yes
Future fiscal impact:	This is an annually recurring expense. Expenses for legislative and regulatory advocacy services will be budgeted accordingly in future fiscal years.
Consequences if not approved:	The County would not have legislative and regulatory representation in Sacramento.
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. The legislative advocate 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.

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. In staff's view, Mr. Peterson has served the County well by providing critical information and analysis concerning the intentions and activities of Legislature, a succession of Governors, and the many interest groups involved in state and local politics. For example, Mr. Peterson's services have been useful in securing the passage of County sponsored legislation such as AB 1550, which authorized the creation of a County Service Area for the purpose of providing farmerworker housing in Napa County, and SB 1815, which authorized boards of supervisors to donate surplus property to tax-exempt health and human service organizations.

The current agreement with Peterson Consulting, Inc. expires on June 30, 2005. Typically, the County would amend the agreement to extend the term for an additional year. However, an administrative decision was made to enter into a new agreement as the most expedient method of updating the legislative and regulatory advocacy services agreement. The term of the agreement will be from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, with the annual compensation remaining unchanged at \$43,327 and the scope of work remaining materially the same. There is a provision in the agreement, should the County wish to exercise it, for annual renewal of the term of the agreement as long as all other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Because Mr. Peterson has extensive knowledge of Napa County issues and a proven track record providing legislative and regulatory advocacy services for the County, staff did not seek competitive proposals for this service; but instead requests approval of the recommended action.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Britt Ferguson