

**COUNTY OF SONOMA
AGENDA ITEM
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only
Meeting Date **Held Until**
 ___/___/___ ___/___/___
Agenda Item No: **Agenda Item No:**

Department: County Administrator's Office

() **4/5 Vote Required**

Contact:
Jim Leddy

Phone:
(707) 565-2190

Board Date:
09/01/2009

Deadline for Board Action:
12/31/2009

AGENDA SHORT TITLE: Federal and State Advocacy Requests for Proposals

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

Authorize the Acting County Administrator to issue an RFP for State Advocacy Services and issue an RFP for Federal Advocacy Services

Authorize the Chair to designate up to two Board members to participate in the selection process.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES

ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL

Estimated Cost

\$0

Contingencies

(Fund Name:)

Amount Budgeted

\$0

Unanticipated Revenue

(Source:)

Other Avail Approp
(Explain below)

Other Transfer(s)
(Source:)

Additional Requested:

Add'l Funds Requested:

Explanation (if required):

Prior Board Action(s): See background.

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval: Existing federal advocacy contracts are set to expire on December 31st, 2009. Alternatives to recommendation would be to 1) request an additional extension of existing contracts or 2) allow existing contracts to expire. Existing state advocacy contract expires on 12/31/09. County Counsel has recommended that a full RFP process be initiated in connection with state advocacy services.

Background

Federal Advocacy efforts:

In February 2007, the Board authorized the CAO to request proposals for federal advocacy services, and on April 24, 2007 the Board authorized the execution of consulting agreements with Madison Governmental Affairs, Inc., and Alcalde and Fay. These agreements were set to expire on June 30, 2008 and were extended until December 31st, 2009.

On February 5, 2008, the Board approved the County's 2008 federal appropriation and advocacy issues. Both federal advocacy contracts were extended by Board action on September 23, 2008 until June 30, 2009. On February 3rd, 2009 the Board approved 2009 federal appropriations requests and on April 21st, 2009 the federal transportation funding requests. On June 23, 2009, the Board authorized a six month extension of federal advocacy services until a full Request for Proposal could be brought to the Board for review.

On an annual basis, the Board adopts federal legislative priorities to focus staff and advocacy efforts. Further, the Board has utilized federal advocacy services to support their efforts in receiving federal appropriations for numerous departments. The current batch of requests range from infrastructure projects to several health care requests. The Tables A, B and C below reflect the Board approved priorities for 2009:

Table A: Federal Appropriations and Legislative Advocacy – Health Services (Board action 2/3/2009)

| I. Federal Appropriations Requests | |
|--|------------------|
| Description of Request | Amount Requested |
| Community Clinics: Infrastructure/Capacity | \$2,000,000 |
| AODS: Treatment on Demand Services for Seniors | \$1,000,000 |
| High Risk Infant Services | \$1,000,000 |
| II. Legislative Advocacy Requests | |
| Medicare Physician Reimbursement Rate change. | |

Table B: Federal Appropriations and Legislative Advocacy – All Other Departments (Board Action 2/3/2009)

| I. Federal Appropriations Requests | |
|--|------------------|
| Description of Request | Amount Requested |
| Bodega Bay Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail | \$500,000 |
| Tolay Lake Interim Public Access Improvements | \$400,000 |
| Integrated EOC Information System | \$400,000 |
| Sudden Oak Death Outreach and Control Program | \$1,000,000 |
| II. Legislative Advocacy Requests | |
| Support FAA Reauthorization to include funding for Airport Improvement Program, of which the County requested \$56.5 million through 2012. | |
| Advocate on behalf of the County to obtain a \$ 500,000 Small Community Air Service Development Grant to assist the County in attracting a second carrier, to another market, to the County airport. | |

Table C: Federal Transportation Projects (Board action 4/21/2009)

| I. Federal Transportation | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Description of Request | Amount Requested |
| Marin-Novato Narrows – US 101 | \$50,000,000 |
| Sonoma County Transit – 8 new buses | \$4,000,000 |
| US 101/Airport Interchange | \$50,000,000 |
| Forestville Bypass | \$16,000,000 |

State Advocacy Program:

In 2004, the County Administrator’s Office released an RFP for state advocacy services. 29 firms responded and four were interviewed by the CAO and two members of the Board. Peterson Consulting, Inc. was awarded the contract by the Board in January 2005. On June 23rd, 2009, the Board authorized an extension of that contract until December 31st, 2009 and until a full RFP could be brought to the Board for review.

Each year the Board of Supervisors adopts a State Legislative Program. At the center of this Program, is a platform developed through a coordinated effort by the County Administrator’s Office and County departments for Board review, amending and approval. The platform identifies the County’s top state legislative priorities.

To enhance ongoing legislative efforts, the County has engaged a state advocacy firm. This firm assists in the development of the platform and supports action to see the full Legislative Program enacted as best possible. The contract for state advocacy services was approved by the Board after an RFP process in 2004-2005. This contract is with Peterson Consulting, Inc. The contract has been extended three times, most recently in June 2009. County Counsel has recommended that the service be put out to competitive bid and the County Administrator’s Office concurs.

An RFP process will allow the Board the opportunity to review proposals and determine how to proceed.

Given the federal legislative activity connected with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the 2010 Sonoma County federal appropriations requests as well as the pending reauthorization of the federal transportation bill, the loss of advocacy services at this time could hamper the County’s ability to successfully acquire federal funding for programs and projects.

Recommendation:

Authorize the Acting County Administrator to issue an RFP for State Advocacy Services and issue an RFP for Federal Advocacy Services

Authorize the Chair to designate up to two Board members to participate in the selection process.

Attachments: None.

On File With Clerk: Draft RFP for federal advocacy services, Draft RFP for state advocacy services

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote: