

MEMORANDUM



COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE INTERGOVERNMENTAL & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS DIVISION

DATE: January 21, 2020

TO: Legislative Committee

FROM: Annette D'Adamo, Management Analyst III

CC: Nicholas E. Chiulos, Assistant County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: State Legislative Advocacy Contract

RECOMMENDATION: Receive report and provide direction on the County's State legislative advocacy contract.

Background – State Legislative Advocacy Contract

On Wednesday, January 15, 2020, Ms. Jennifer Capitolo notified the County that she would be leaving the County's state legislative advocacy firm, Nossaman LLP, effective January 31, 2020 and starting her own legislative advocacy firm, Jennifer M. Capitolo and Associates.

Ms. Capitolo, a senior policy advisor with Nossaman LLP's Sacramento office, has served as the County's principal state legislative advocate since August 1, 2017. Ms. Ashley Walker, a policy advisor recently promoted to senior policy advisor with Nossaman LLP, has also served as a legislative advocate under the contract. Ms. Capitolo & Ms. Walker have also provided strategic grant services to the County under a contract with Nossaman since September 2014.

The County's state legislative advocacy contract with Nossaman LLP was awarded after the County underwent an RFP process in 2017. The contract for \$100,000 annually went into effect August 1, 2017 and has since been extended to June 30, 2020.

Ms. Capitolo has expressed an interest in continuing to represent the County at her new firm.

Recommendation:

IGLA staff has consulted with County Counsel and the County Administrative Officer, who, in order to provide for the continued pursuit of the County's legislative agenda while exploring options for the County in the long term, recommend the following next steps:

1. Enter into a short-term contract with Jennifer M. Capitolo and Associates effective February 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, to ensure that the County's short and long-term State legislative advocacy needs continue be served; and
2. Direct IGLA staff to work with County Counsel and the County Administrative Officer to conduct an informal inquiry of state legislative advocacy firms (firms, services, and pricing) and report back to the Legislative Committee for direction.
3. No changes are recommended to the grant services contract currently in effect with Nossaman LLP.