

MEMORANDUM



COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE INTERGOVERNMENTAL & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

February 8, 2021

TO: Legislative Committee

FROM: Annette D'Adamo, Legislative Coordinator (MAIII)

RECO: Receive a report and provide direction and/or recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on the state and federal legislative advocacy contracts and grants and funding advocacy contract.

OVERVIEW

The County's current legislative advocacy and grant and funding advocacy contracts with Nossaman LLP and Ballard Spahr LLP will end on June 30, 2021. Staff recommends the following contract changes and extensions.

- 1) Extend the terms of the state and federal legislative advocacy and grant and funding advocacy contracts for an additional one (1) or more years;
- 2) Increase the Ballard Spahr LLP federal legislative advocacy contract by 20% from \$70,000 per year (\$5,834 per month) to \$84,000 per year (\$7,000 per month) effective March 1, 2021.
- 3) Increase the Nossaman LLP state legislative advocacy contract by 20% from \$100,000 per year (\$8,334 per month) to \$120,000 per year (\$10,000 per month) effective March 1, 2021.
- 4) Continue the Nossaman LLP grants and funding advocacy contract at \$54,000 per year (\$4,500 per month).

If the Legislative Committee recommends and the Board adopts these recommendations, the CAO-IGLA Division budget will absorb the additional cost of \$11,333 for FY20-21. In FY21-22, these changes will increase costs to the CAO-IGLA Division budget by \$34,000. CAO-IGLA is working with the CAO-Budget Office to determine how the contract increases will be funded in FY21-22 and beyond.

JUSTIFICATION

The County's state and federal legislative advocacy efforts have significantly increased over the past four years as the Board has become more involved in state and federal legislative and policy activities. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, demands well beyond those envisioned when services were contracted have become the new normal. The County's legislative advocates are now routinely asked to provide weekly Board briefings and other presentations to the Board, have been involved in COVID disparate impact efforts, are frequently asked to participate in priority meetings with County departments, and are more frequently asked to engage with the County's state and federal officials on issues related to the pandemic and other high priority issues such as natural disasters.

Additionally, with the number of issues that the County is currently facing, it is increasingly important that the team tasked to carry out the County's advocacy efforts be knowledgeable and capable of representing the County's needs. Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP has served as the County's state legislative advocate since July 2017, and Brent Heberlee of Ballard Spahr LLP has served as the County federal legislative advocate since 2010 – originally working for Nossaman LLP in Washington D.C.