



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www. CityofSacramento.org

Consent
February 9, 2010

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

**Title: Memorandum of Agreement: State Legislative Advocacy for Sacramento
Area Water Coalition**

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Adopt a **Resolution** authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with five other municipal water purveyors to retain a legislative advocate for the purpose of protecting and enhancing the water supplies of the greater Sacramento region. The City's initial financial commitment to this effort would be one-sixth of a total contract amount of \$96,000 or \$16,000.

Contact: Marty Hanneman, Director of Utilities, (916) 808-7508; Dave Brent, Engineering Manager, (916) 808-1420.

Presenters: NA

Department: Utilities

Division: Office of the Director

Organization No: 14001311

Description/Analysis

Issue: The local water agencies party to this agreement (San Juan Water District, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Placer County Water Agency, and the cities of Sacramento, Roseville and Folsom) believe that in order to protect the water supply interests of the region it is important to have a consistent and effective advocacy at the State Capitol. Under the proposed MOA, the San Juan Water District will be responsible for hiring Fernandez Government Solutions (FGS) as a legislative advocate to represent the interests of the region before the State Legislature.

Policy Considerations: Adoption of the proposed MOA will provide an opportunity for the City and other water agencies to cost effectively work together in a proactive manner to assure the region's common water rights and water supplies principles are aggressively advocated for in State legislative initiatives. This joint effort would supplement the individual lobbying efforts of each agency, by promoting the significant common interests of all six agencies. This report's recommendation is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan Goals of enhancing and preserving the neighborhoods, supporting the economic vitality of the area, and establishing and strengthening community and regional partnerships to

enhance the quality of life.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): Under the CEQA Guidelines, continuing administrative activities do not constitute a project and are therefore exempt from CEQA review (CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(2)).

Sustainability Considerations: Obtaining the services of a legislative advocate to promote the common interests shared by the City and other water agencies in the area is consistent with the City's Sustainability Master Plan in advancing the goal of conserving the use and protection of sources of water.

Rationale for Recommendation: Staff believes that strong advocacy on behalf of a regional coalition of water agencies is necessary to help protect the interest of rate payers and the economic sustainability of the City and the region.

Financial Considerations: San Juan Water District will retain the services of FGS and each of the six participating agencies will pay an equal amount towards these services. The City's share of the one year \$96,000 contract with the legislative advocate (Soyla Fernandez of Fernandez Government Solutions LLC) would be \$16,000. There is sufficient funding available for the City's share in the Department of Utilities' FY2009/10 Approved Operating Budget (Water fund 6005).

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): The City's ESBD requirements do not apply to the retention of a legislative advocate by the San Juan Water District.

Respectfully Submitted by:



David L. Brent
Engineering Manager

Approved by:



Marty Hanneman
Director of Utilities

Recommendation Approved:



Ray Kerridge
City Manager

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Background

The recently concluded State legislative session included the passage of historic water legislation that has the potential to significantly change how water rights and water supplies are managed in California. It is vitally important to Sacramento and the region to proactively engage in the legislative and regulatory process going forward to assure the City's water rights and water supply are protected for the benefit of rate payers, economic sustainability and the local environment.

The City has effectively worked together with the other local water agencies party to this agreement (San Juan Water District, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Placer County Water Agency, and the cities of Roseville and Folsom) on an as needed basis to advocate in favor of legislation that would protect the region's water supplies. However, the advocacy has not been consistent nor has it always been effective. The six agencies believe that in order to protect the water supply interest of the region on an ongoing, long term basis it is important to have a consistent and effective advocacy at the State Capitol, and that a legislative advocate should be retained as soon as possible to represent the interest of the region before the State Legislature.

The proposed MOA provides a cost-sharing mechanism to fund the retention of FGS by the San Juan Water District for one year, in order to commence their advocacy services as soon as possible. It is anticipated that future years' joint advocacy efforts may be coordinated through the Regional Water Authority.

The advocacy efforts will be closely coordinated with the City's primary state lobbyist to assure maximum benefit in representing the City's interest.

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT:
STATE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY FOR
SACRAMENTO AREA WATER COALITION**

BACKGROUND

- A. In order to protect the water supply interests of the region it is important to have a consistent and effective advocacy at the State Capitol.
- B. Staff for the City and five other local water agencies (San Juan Water District, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Placer County Water Agency, and the cities of Roseville and Folsom) have developed a proposed Memorandum of Agreement for cost-sharing the services of a legislative advocate to promote their common interests regarding water rights and water supply.
- C. Under the proposed Memorandum of Agreement, the San Juan Water District will be responsible for hiring Fernandez Government Solutions as a legislative advocate to represent the interests of the region before the State Legislature. Each agency's cost share for this one year contract will be \$16,000.

**BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

- Section 1. The City Manager is authorized to execute a Memorandum of Agreement Regarding State Legislative Advocacy with San Juan Water District, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Placer County Water Agency, and the cities of Roseville and Folsom.