



S A C O G

Item #05-12-8
Consent

SACOG Board of Directors

December 8, 2005

Authorize the Extension of the Agreement with The Ferguson Group for Federal Legislative Advocacy Services

Issue: To approve an extension of the agreement with The Ferguson Group for Federal Legislative Advocacy services.

Recommendation: The Legislation & Public Affairs Committee recommends that the SACOG Board of Directors approve the extension of the agreement with The Ferguson Group.

Committee Action/Discussion: The current agreement with The Ferguson Group is scheduled to expire on December 30, 2005. They have expressed an interest in extending the agreement with an increase in monthly fee. The current cost is \$9,000 per month, and next calendar year's cost would be \$9,600 per month. The extra funds are to cover increased out-of-pocket expenses. Mike Miller has done an admirable job for SACOG, and we recommend retaining his services.

The increase in fee, however, presents a budgetary problem, in that we did not budget in the Board and Advocacy cost center any cost increase in this contract, and as you know, this budget is extremely tight. In order to fund the \$3,600 increase for the remainder of this fiscal year, we must revise the budget.

As the budget currently is established, membership in both NARC and AMPO has been budgeted. However, staff is evaluating SACOG's membership to both organizations and expects to make a recommendation to the Board in January about whether to continue both memberships or to drop out of one. If the decision to continue with both organizations is made, there is a bit of budgetary flexibility in how the membership to these organizations is charged, either the Board and Advocacy cost center and/or to Indirect Costs, and it may be this flexibility that will provide the additional budget to fund the increase in the Ferguson contract. If the decision is made to drop out of one of the organizations, it will free up budget sufficient to pay for the increase in Ferguson's contract.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

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