



**Item #12-5-7  
Action**

**Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee**

April 30, 2012

**Contract Amendment for Federal Advocacy Services**

**Issue:** Should the Board amend the federal advocacy contract with The Ferguson Group and enter into a new contract for FY 2012-13?

**Recommendation:** That the Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee recommends that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to amend the current contract to end June 30, 2012, and negotiate and execute a new contract with The Ferguson Group for federal advocacy services in FY 2012-13 not to exceed \$40,000.

**Discussion:** The Ferguson Group, represented by Mike Miller, has provided excellent federal advocacy services for SACOG since 2004. The Ferguson Group reduced their federal advocacy contract from \$100,000 to \$40,000. Our work under the reduced scope contract and hourly billing relationship has met our needs for support on our advocacy efforts over the course of the fiscal year. Mike Miller has worked efficiently to update the agency on federal activity, in particular related to the federal transportation authorization and to assist in access opportunities with congressional and committee staff as needed. Our federal presence and reputation has not declined with the advocacy reduced contract. The Ferguson Group's experience on timely topics of policy interest relevant to waste water, broadband, and the farm bill, as well as advocacy relationships with some of the local jurisdictions and a water district within our region prove increased familiarity with some of our shared areas of interest.

Staff recommends continuing in this relationship with The Ferguson Group and continued savings to the benefit of the Board of Directors and Advocacy Budget.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever  
Chief Executive Officer

MM:RS:sb

Key Staff: Rebecca Sloan, Director of External Affairs & Member Services, (916) 340-6224  
Erik Johnson, Government & Media Affairs Coordinator, (916) 340-6247