



## SACOG Board of Directors

Item #18-1-7  
Consent

January 11, 2018

### Approve Legal Services Agreement

**Issue:** Award of contract for legal services

**Recommendation:** The Strategic Planning Committee recommends that the Board authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute an initial three-year term Agreement, with two optional one-year extensions to Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai, LLP.

**Discussion:** In 2012, the Board awarded a five-year contract to Miller & Owen (now Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai, LLP) for a broad range of legal services, but a particular focus on contracts, with some specialized services in employment practices and litigation. In October 2017, the Board approved release of an RFP for legal services. SACOG received proposals from two firms proposing to provide a broad range of legal services and one that specialized in employment practices work. A committee of SACOG staff reviewed the proposals and interviewed all three firms. Based on this, the committee unanimously recommends awarding a three-year term contract effective March 1, 2018, to Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai, LLP, with two optional one-year extensions. Staff will provide additional information at the Committee meeting on the proposals received.

In April 2011, Kirk Trost joined SACOG as Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel, and SACOG established the practice of having Mr. Trost manage legal services internally and oversee which services were contracted out. The majority of this work has related to contracts between SACOG and other public agencies, or SACOG and vendors.

Given the unpredictable nature of legal needs, costs are billed on an hourly basis. The rates proposed by Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai, LLP reflect only a slight increase from the current contract. In 2016, SACOG paid approximately \$227,000 in legal bills to Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai, LLP, but this amount included some one-time costs associated with the negotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding with the SACOG Employees Association and with some large projects that contributed to this amount being higher than average.

Staff will continue to look for ways to streamline legal costs while protecting the agency's interests.

Staff was recently advised that the selected firm will soon become Sloan Sakai, with a small number of attorneys departing the firm. However, as staff advised the Strategic Planning Committee, all attorneys who have been providing services to SACOG are remaining with Sloan Sakai.

Approved by:

James Corless  
Chief Executive Officer

JC:KT:le

Key Staff: Kirk Trost, Chief Operating Officer/General Counsel, (916) 340-6210