



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
AGENDA ITEM
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

Dom Zanger
District No. 1
Vice-Chair

Kollin Kosmicki
District No. 2
Chair

Mindy Sotelo
District No. 3

Angela Curro
District No. 4

Ignacio Velazquez
District No. 5

Item Number: 1.16

MEETING DATE: 05/20/2025

DEPARTMENT: COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Barbara Thompson

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Henie Ring

SUBJECT:

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE - H. RING, INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Approve Amendment #1 to master contract with Prentice Long to represent the County in litigation matters as may be directed by the Board of Supervisors, extending term of the contract through July 30, 2028, as may be appropriated in the budget from year to year for litigation expenses.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 160

AGENDA SECTION:

CONSENT AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Amendment No. 1:

The Board is requested to execute Amendment No. 1 to extend the expiration date the contract from June 30, 2025 through July 30, 2028.

Backup from Initial Contract:

The Board is requested to consider entering into a master contract for litigation matters handled by the firm Prentice Long. This will allow greater efficiency in the representation of litigation matters, reduce the number of existing contracts, and more easily track the total of litigation expenses on a yearly basis.

As the Board is aware, Prentice Long was retained to provide County Counsel services effective July 1, 2023. (attached). The initial contract excluded litigation, and indicated "Should they [e.g. litigation services] be needed, these services will be provided under a separate contract, pursuant to County purchasing policy limits."

In lieu of bringing each litigation contract to the Board individually, in addition to future contracts for future

litigation items, it is requested that the Board consider entering into a master litigation contract for all litigation matters assigned to counsel by the Board of Supervisors.

The rate for this work would be \$225 per hour, and \$150.00 for Paralegal/Legal Assistants.

RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

No

CONTRACT NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

Yes

RFP AND BID HISTORY:

An RFP for County Counsel services was issued in 2023, and Prentice Long was the highest scoring respondent out of three firms. This contract is separate from the contract for general county counsel services and did not have a separate RFP, but the hourly rates are competitive with customarily approved rates, specifically \$225 for attorneys and \$150 for paralegals and legal assistants. This contract does not have a not-to-exceed amount as the Board is aware of all litigation and controls whether such litigation to handled by Prentice Long or other outside counsel.

LAST CONTRACT AMOUNT OR N/A:

N/A

CONTRACT HISTORY (Describe all amendments and previous contracts):

The original agreement was effective July 1, 2023. Although "heading" of this contract indicates "Western Resources Legal Center Litigation", this contract is for all litigation against the County except as handled in-house under the main County Counsel contract, or assigned to other outside counsel. This will be the first amendment to this contract.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 1. Operational Development & Excellence

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 2. Planning And Sustainable Growth

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 3. Technology

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 4. Community Engagement

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 5. Health & Safe Community

No

BUDGETED:

Yes

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT NEEDED:

No

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

General Fund

UNFUNDED MANDATE:

No

SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:

County Counsel's Budget 101.25.1210.1000.619.210

CURRENT FY COST:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Amendment # 1 to master contract with Prentice Long to represent the County in litigation matters as may be directed by the Board of Supervisors, extending term of the contract through July 30, 2028, as may be appropriated in the budget from year to year for litigation expenses.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Amendment #1 -Litigation](#)

[PrenticeLongPC Contract Litigation - executed](#)