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ITEM ID: 2026-319-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: October 16, 2026

MEETING DATE: October 23, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

SUBJECT: Contract No. L182-27 - State Legislative Representation Services - Recommendation to Award - Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

Issue

The Authority requires an advocacy team to provide State Legislative Representation Services.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to award Contract No. L182-27 for State Legislative Representation Services to Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange in an amount not-to-exceed \$720,000, comprised of \$240,000 for the two-year base period and \$480,000 for the two two-year option years that may be exercised at the sole discretion of the Authority.

Strategic Commitment

This report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitments of:

- **Connecting and Leveraging Partnerships:** We will forge new and enhanced relationships with our public and private partners to integrate and coordinate connecting services, providing residents throughout Southern California with better, seamless, sustainable alternatives to driving. This commitment is met by sharing news, information and the Authority's legislative priorities with elected officials.
- **Advancing Key Regional Goals:** We will grow the role of regional rail in addressing climate change, air quality, and other pressing issues by advancing toward zero

emissions, making rail a compelling alternative to single-occupant automobiles and advancing equity-focused opportunities for all communities throughout Southern California. This commitment is met by encouraging federal, state and local support for Authority priorities.

Background

Legislative, regulatory, and funding decisions made in Sacramento can have a significant impact on the Authority. These actions occur in a dynamic and continually changing environment. Maintaining legislative representation and regulatory support is critical to ensuring that the Authority can effectively advocate for its fair share of funding, build support for its priorities, and address legislative and regulatory policies that could adversely impact the Authority.

The Authority's advocacy team must be able to facilitate, develop and maintain effective relationships with legislative delegation offices, legislative leadership, and state regulatory agencies. These relationships are essential to advancing the Authority's interests and ensuring that its priorities are effectively communicated.

The state legislative representation services Contract No. L176-20 with Shaw, Yoder, Antwih, Inc. will expire on December 31, 2026.

Discussion

On May 19, 2026, the Authority released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for State Legislative Representation services for a contract term of two years with two two-year options. The solicitation was published in the five member counties, as well as posted on the Authority's online procurement module. Notices were also emailed to firms registered on the Authority's online procurement module. Seven firms downloaded the solicitation. On May 29, 2026 the Pre-Proposal Conference was held with no firms attending. No questions were asked during the Q&A period.

One proposal was received by the due date of July 1, 2026.

The proposal was reviewed by the Senior Contract & Compliance Administrator to determine responsiveness, and the firm was found responsive.

The proposal was forwarded to the Authority's Project Manager in accordance with the Board-approved Contract Administration and Procurement Policies and Procedures, Proposal Evaluation. The Project Manager reviewed the proposal and found it met the qualifications as published in the request for proposals. The firm is the incumbent and the price proposal submitted represented the current contract flat lined for six years.

Budget Impact

The annual amounts (\$60,000) for which contract authority is requested, are included in, and are contingent upon the adoption of the Proposed FY2026-27 Operating Budget. Funding for

subsequent years will be requested through the annual budget or an equivalent process. There is no financial commitment with respect to subsequent years and work will be authorized only if funding is approved.

Next Steps

Upon Board approval, the contracts will be executed with an effective date of January 1, 2027, to Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange to provide State Legislative Representation services.

Prepared by: Anna Denecke, Sr. Manager, Government Relations
Jeff Dunn, Director, Government Relations

Approved by: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

Attachment(s)

[Presentation - Contract No. L182-27 - State Legislative Representation Services](#)