

**COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM****AMENDED**

DATE: October 11, 2018
TO: Public Outreach and Legislation Committee
FROM: Steve Cole
Assistant General Manager *SC*
SUBJECT: Legislative Advocacy Discussion

SUMMARY

Continuing the discussion started at the Public Outreach and Legislation Committee meeting on September 13, 2018, this memorandum contains a proposed outline to guide discussion on determining goals and objectives for our legislative advocacy program. In addition to the monthly reports (Item 2) submitted by Anchor Consulting, California Advocates and Poole and Shaffery, each has also submitted a summary of past successes in their term with SCV Water (attached here), as well as what they see ahead in the next 12 – 18 months.

DISCUSSION

For purposes of informing a discussion, the following are offered by staff as goals for a legislative advocacy contract:

1. To maintain a representative presence in Santa Clarita, Sacramento and Washington D.C., which monitors issues of importance to SCV Water, and the Santa Clarita community as a whole, and keeps respective offices informed of issues of interest to the Agency.
2. To foster and nurture relationships with elected representatives and their staff, on behalf of SCV Water.
3. To actively engage in water industry associations and coalitions, and perform related activities such as advocate for Agency positions and attend meetings as necessary.
4. To monitor funding opportunities, whether through bond measures or the budget process, including advocating for inclusionary language in developing bond measures.
5. To act on those funding opportunities by assisting in the development of appropriate project/funding request submittals, and shepherding the proposals through the process.
6. To continue efforts in seeking funding for remediation of perchlorate and/or Volatile Organic Compounds.

7. To pursue opportunities for funding for emergency water storage, recycled water and/or other capital projects planned by SCV Water.
8. To monitor and track proposed legislation for impacts on SCV Water or its customers, on any of the ten principles identified in the SCV Water Legislative Policy Guidelines.
9. To monitor, track and advise on major water industry initiatives such as the WaterFix, SGMA, and efforts to establish a water tax.
10. To actively advocate in support or opposition of such legislation.
11. To work with SCV Water Board of Directors and staff to identify any areas which might require the initiation of legislation.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The FY 2018/19 Budget assumes continuation at the current rate through June 30, 2019, even though contracts expire on December 31, 2018. We have spoken to each of the firms and all are in agreement with a month-to-month arrangement until the path forward is decided. As a summary of expenses:

- Anchor Consulting: \$9,000/month (\$108,000/year)
 - Balance: \$54,000 (3rd and 4th quarter payments to come)
- California Advocates: \$8,000/month (\$96,000/year)
 - Balance: \$27,687. (4th quarter payments to come)
- Poole & Shaffery: \$5,000/month (\$60,000/year)
 - Balance: \$16,610 (Sept. – Dec payments to come)

Total: \$22,000/month (\$264,000/year)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Public Outreach and Legislation Committee provide direction to staff on the establishment of a legislative advocacy strategy.

Attachments:

- Anchor Consulting Services Service Review
- California Advocates Service Review
- Poole & Shaffery Service Review
- Anchor Consulting Contract and Addendum
- California Advocates Contract and Addendum
- Poole & Shaffery Contract and Addendum