

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY STRATEGY PLANNING FOR 2019

The three legislative advocacy contracts expire on December 31, 2018. Before we seek new proposals, it would be beneficial to assess the value and benefits we receive from our current services, and evaluate options for moving forward. This memo contains a summary of our current contracts as well as a proposed process to determine our approach for 2019.

Current legislative advocacy contracts: \$22,000/month. All expire 12/31/2018

Anchor Consulting

\$9000/month plus expenses (FY1/18 expenses were zero)

Contract balance: \$54,000

California Advocates

\$8,000/month plus expenses (FY17/18 expenses were less than \$600)

Contract balance: \$35,687

Poole and Shaffery

\$5,000/month plus expenses (FY17/18 expenses were less than \$700)

Previously we were reimbursed \$21,600 per quarter (\$7,200/month) for Anchor, via a Whittaker-Bermite settlement. SCV Water paid the balance of \$1,800 per month. February 2018 was the last month this reimbursement was made.

Per the commitment in SB634 to eliminate redundancies, the SCVWA Board reduced the number of advocacy contracts for the new agency in early 2018. From five contracts at the end of 2017, when NCWD and CLWA had separate programs, we now have three. SCVWA has realized a savings of \$6,500 per month or \$78,000 annually as a result of the Board's decision.

The FY 2018/19 budget projects for the current level of advocacy representation to continue.

NEXT STEPS

October 17, 2018 – Public Outreach and Legislative Committee

1. Review current legislative advocacy contracts
2. Review summaries of value and services which have been provided by legislative advocacy consultants in recent years
3. Determine desired outcomes and priorities for the coming year

November 21, 2018 – Public Outreach and Legislative Committee

1. Compare options for legislative advocacy services
 - a. Consultants
 - b. Industry advocacy (i.e., ACWA, CSDA)
 - c. In-house staff
2. Prepare recommendations for legislative advocacy (priorities and approach) to carry forward to full board strategic planning workshop

3. Poll staff/divisions on laws and regulations needed in the water industry that could benefit from an effective advocacy program.

January 2019

1. Notify current consultants of shift to month-to-month contracts effective January 1, as we determine our best path forward.
2. Take recommendations to full board for discussion at strategic planning workshop scheduled for Friday, January 25, 6 – 9 p.m., and Saturday, January 26 from 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
3. Begin implementation of recommendations developing from the input received at the strategic planning workshop