



Topic: **Joint Authority Board and Reservoir Meeting Agenda Item 2.1** **2020 September 17**

Subject: **Award of a Water Rights Attorney**

Requested Action:

Consider Award of a legal services contract in a form approved by legal general counsel and in an amount not to exceed \$195,000 to provide initial assistance in securing water rights approvals for the project.

Detailed Description/Background:

A Request for Qualifications was issued for legal services related to water rights assistance following last month's review by the Boards of the scope, schedule and budget. The RFQ was posted on the Authority's website and issued to the short list of firms reviewed by the Board. Five firms responded with Statement of Qualifications (SOQs). The selection panel reviewed the SOQs and determined all of the firms were well qualified, however three firms were invited for interview as they stood out as better suited for this project. Interviews were conducted on September 11 with Somach Simmons and Dunn, Downey Brand, and Ellison, Schneider, Harris, and Donlan. A few remaining items are being evaluated and the panel is scheduled to meet September 16 to make a final selection. The recommended firm will be made available to the board members after the firms are notified and before the board meeting.

Prior Action:

July 22, 2020: Approved release of a Request for Qualifications to initiate the procurement of legal services to support the acquisition of the water rights permits and approvals needed to support the project.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

The Amendment 2 work plan includes \$195,000 for legal services associated water rights acquisition during this initial phase of planning and preparation of an administrative draft water rights application by the end of 2021. Subject to acceptable performance, the services would be continued through acquisition of all water rights permits and approvals expected to occur by 2024.

Staff Contact:

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Attachments:

None.