



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

July 18, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: *PK* Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Subject: Contract: Legislative Representation Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any amendments with Lynn M. Suter & Associates to provide the City with legislative representation services in Sacramento from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, in an amount not to exceed \$49,970.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The contract fee for Lynn M. Suter & Associates is an annual total of \$49,970 for FY 2006-07, to be paid in equal monthly installments. In addition, the City will reimburse Lynn M. Suter & Associates on a quarterly basis for expenses directly attributable to advocacy efforts on behalf of the City. Budget Code 010 9701 410 3038.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Lynn M. Suter & Associates has provided services to the City of Berkeley as a legislative representative in Sacramento. The relationship has afforded the City better access to activities, processes, and funding opportunities in the state capitol.

As Berkeley's advocate in Sacramento, Ms. Suter acts as a liaison with the State legislature, departments and regulatory agencies. She and her staff regularly monitor state legislation, which affects the City; advocates amendments to legislation in accordance with City positions approved by the City Council; represents Berkeley's interests to State administrative agencies; and works for the City's benefit in the State budget process.

Further, Ms. Suter's office informs the City about new legislation and amendments through written updates and coordinates with Berkeley's State Assembly and Senate offices to track on-going topics of legislative interest and act on behalf of the City in urgent matters. Ms. Suter and her staff use the Council-adopted positions on State legislation as the foundation for an organized plan in her contact with State legislators and other State officials. Upon adoption by the Council, these positions are sent to Ms. Suter's office, so she and her staff can act in the most effective way to communicate Berkeley issues in Sacramento.

Ms. Suter and her staff have worked on numerous bills on Berkeley's behalf this year. They include AB583 (Hancock), which will authorize eligible candidates for state elective office to obtain public funds for their campaigns. Other bills that Lynn M. Suter & Associates is trailing include: AB2140 (Hancock) linking City mitigation plans with their general plans; SB840 (Kuehl) on single-payer health care coverage; SB1180 (Migden) on alcohol use prevention in minors; and, AB2987 (Nunez) pertaining to the ability of telephone companies to compete against cable firms via state-issued franchise rather than through negotiations with local government.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The State legislative support process is an intricate and complicated one and having the services of an experienced and successful advocate is essential to safeguard City positions. Ms. Suter has long been associated with Berkeley and has longstanding and successful relationships with legislators, State department officials and staff at the regulatory agencies. Her work on Berkeley's behalf has been critical to the success of many state-funded programs in Berkeley and in maintaining a steady conduit of information from the State capitol.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Arrietta Chakos, Assistant City Manager, City Manager, 510-981-7000

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution
- 2: Legislation Status Report

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AND ANY AMENDMENTS TO PROVIDE THE CITY OF BERKELEY WITH LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley needs to have representation in the State Capitol of Sacramento in order to protect the City interest; and

WHEREAS, the legislative development and support process is an intricate, complicated system that warrants technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley needs to have the means to monitor the development of new legislation that affects the City and appropriately communicate official City positions in Sacramento; and

WHEREAS, the City needs an established link to monitor on-going legislative and budget processes in the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Lynn M. Suter & Associates has served well in the capacity of the City's legislative advocate for over ten years; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the General Fund (budget code 010 970 410 3038).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Council of the City of Berkeley authorizes the City Manager to execute a contract and any amendments with Lynn M. Suter & Associates in an amount not to exceed \$49,970 for the period July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments is to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

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City of Berkeley
Legislation Status Report

Sponsor			
Bill	Topic	Status	Position
AB 583 (Hancock)	<p>Political Reform Act of 1974: California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act of 2006</p> <p>This bill enacts the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act of 2006, which authorizes eligible candidates for state elective office to obtain public funds for their campaigns.</p>	Senate Elections, Reappointment & Constitutional Amendments.	Support
ACA 17 (Mullin)	<p>Elections: Voting age.</p> <p>This bill would allow a person who is at least 17 years of age and will be 18 years of age at the time of the next general election to register and vote at that general election and at any intervening primary or special election that occurs after the person is eligible to register to vote</p>	Assembly Inactive File	Support
ACA 28 (Canciamilla)	<p>Citizens Assembly on Electoral Systems Act of 2006.</p> <p>This measure would establish a Citizens Assembly to evaluate potential reforms of the laws governing the electoral and campaign process.</p>	Assembly	Support

Bill	Topic	Status	Position
	Finance		
AB 343 (Huff)	<p>Transportation: Public Transportation Account: funds.</p> <p>As introduced, AB 343 proposed to exempt from the utility users tax the sale of natural gas purchased for use in mass transit vehicles.</p> <p>The bill has been substantially amended to require the repayment of all “spill over” funds diverted from the Public Transportation Account.</p>	Senate Transportation & Housing	Oppose
	Health and Social Services		
AB 2076 (Laird)	<p>Drug paraphernalia: clean needle and syringe exchange projects.</p> <p>This bill permits a public entity that receives money from the Department of Health Services for HIV prevention and education to use that money to support authorized clean needle and syringe exchange projects (NSEP).</p>	Senate Appropriations	Support
SB 840 (Kuehl)	<p>Single-payer health care coverage.</p> <p>Creates the California Health Insurance System, a single payer health care system, administered by the California Health Insurance Agency, to provide health insurance coverage to all California residents.</p>	Assembly Rules	Support
SB 1180 (Migden)	<p>Health and Human Services: alcohol use prevention: minors.</p> <p>This bill requires the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency to issue a report to the Legislature regarding the most recent research regarding alcoholic beverage use by underage youth.</p>	Assembly Governmental Organization	Support

Bill	Topic	Status	Position
	Miscellaneous		
AB 2987 (Nunez)	<p>Cable and video service.</p> <p>This bill would allow telephone companies to compete directly against cable firms by obtaining a state-issued franchise rather than negotiating separately with cities and counties.</p>	Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications	Oppose
SB 1 (Murray)	<p>Electricity: solar energy: net metering.</p> <p>Makes statutory changes necessary to expand the scope of the California Solar Initiative to apply to all electricity utilities.</p>	Assembly Third Reading	Support If Amended
SB 1056 (Florez)	<p>Agriculture.</p> <p>This bill would remove local authority regulating agricultural seeds.</p>	06/28/2005 Assembly Agriculture	Oppose
	Parks and Recreation		
SB 153 (Chesbro)	<p>Parks and recreation.</p> <p>This bill enacts the California Clean Water, Safe Neighborhoods and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Act), which would provide for the sale of bonds for air and water quality, coastal protection and parks programs.</p>	07/11/2005-A APPR.	Support
	Retirement		
ACA 5 (Richman)	<p>Public retirement systems.</p> <p>This measure would establish the California Public Employee Defined Contribution Plan.</p>	Assembly Public Employees, Retirement, and Social Security	Oppose

Bill	Topic	Status	Position
ACAX1 1 (Richman)	Public employee defined contribution plan. Amends the state constitution to prohibit all non-federal public employees in California hired on or after July 1, 2007 from enrolling in a defined benefit plan.	Assembly Public Safety	Oppose
	Seismic Safety		
AB 2140 (Hancock)	General plans: safety element. Authorizes a city, county, or a city and county to adopt a local hazard mitigation plan (HMP) as a part of its safety element.	Senate Local Government	Sponsor
SB 1180 (Migden)	Health and Human Services: alcohol use prevention: minors. This bill requires the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency to issue a report to the Legislature regarding the most recent research regarding alcoholic beverage use by underage youth.	Assembly Governmental Organization	Support
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ACA 5 (Richman)	<p>Public retirement systems.</p> <p>This measure would establish the California Public Employee Defined Contribution Plan.</p>	Assembly Public Employees, Retirement, and Social Security	Oppose