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November 3, 2020

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SUBJECT: Authorize Extending Legal Services Agreement with Goodin, MacBride, Squeri & Day, LLP Related to De-energization Events

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the County Administrator and the Office of the County Counsel to Extend the Legal Services Agreement with Goodin, MacBride, Squeri & Day, LLP to a not-to-exceed amount of \$90,000.

OVERVIEW:

DEPUTIES

Colleen McGrath
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
OFFICER

In October 2019, in conjunction with the County Administrator's Office, the Office of the County Counsel retained Goodin MacBride, Squeri & Day, LLP ("Goodin MacBride") to represent the County before the California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC") in proceedings on Pacific Gas & Electric's plan to de-energize power lines, commonly known as their Public Safety Power Shutoffs ("PSPS"). The County retained Goodin MacBride along with seven other counties – Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, San Luis Obispo, Kern and Santa Barbara – and the City of Santa Rosa, referred to collectively as the Joint Local Governments. Emergency managers from the Joint Local Governments have worked closely with Goodin MacBride in providing input to the CPUC.

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As a result of the Joint Local Governments advocacy before the CPUC in the de-energization rulemaking, PG&E is now required, among other things, to participate in joint PSPS exercises with local governments, improve their medical baseline registry and outreach to the Access and Functional Needs (AFN) population, and ensure that their Emergency Operations Center staff receive Standardized Emergency Management System training. Goodin MacBride has further assisted the Joint Local Governments in participating in the investigations into PG&E's 2019 PSPS events and related proceedings.

The Joint Local Governments plan to continue working with Goodin MacBride through Phase 3 of the PSPS Rulemaking (focusing on how the utilities assess
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costs/benefits of PSPS events) and the follow up proceedings on PG&E's 2019 PSPS events. Staff recommends increasing the contract's not-to-exceed amount to \$90,000 (\$45,257 has been expended thus far) to continue this work.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding is available in the FY 2020-21 County budget for this contract. The Department will work with the County Administrator's Office to transfer funding for this purpose.

Sincerely,



Brian E. Washington
County Counsel

cc: Mathew H. Hymel, County Administrator
Dan Eilerman, Assistant County Administrator
Woody Baker-Cohn, Office of Emergency Services