REPORT

DATE: December 14, 2006

TO: Regional Council
Administrative Committee

FROM: Don Rhodes, Manager of Public and Government Affairs
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SUBJECT: Extension of contracts for state and federal lobbyists until June 30, 2007

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorize the extension of the contracts for both the state and federal lobbyists to the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2007).

SUMMARY:

The contracts with SCAG's federal lobbyist, the C2 Group, and the state lobbyist, Hatch and Parent will expire on February 6, 2007, and April 21, 2007, respectively. Staff recommends that the contracts be extended through the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2007. This extension, maintaining existing contract provisions and payment schedules will bring both contracts into conformity with SCAG's fiscal year and prevent disruption to SCAG's legislative activities during the early part of the state legislative and Congressional sessions.

BACKGROUND:

SCAG contracts for the services of both federal and state government affairs consultants/lobbyists. The contract for the federal lobbyist, the C2 Group, is for 48 months with annual options to renew. The final renewal option expires on February 6, 2007. The contract for the state lobbyist, Hatch and Parent, is also for 48 months and its final renewal option expires on April 21, 2007. The current monthly payments are $16,666 for the federal lobbyist contract and $6,666 for the state lobbyist contract.

The standard practice would be to commence the request for proposals (RFP) to enable the selection of firms to represent SCAG at the state and federal levels on or before the scheduled expiration date for the existing contracts. However, it would be disruptive to the SCAG legislative program to conduct the RFPs and possibly change representatives during the early part of both the state legislative and Congressional sessions. The SCAG Consensus Trip to Washington, D.C. is planned for February 27, 2007 through March 1, 2007. The state legislative day is usually held in late April or early May. Additionally, much of the activity related to working with members on legislation occurs during the early part of the session. Thus, staff recommends that both the contracts be extended through the end of the current fiscal year, June 30, 2007, maintaining existing contract provisions and payment schedules.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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FISCAL IMPACT:

The current General Fund budget contains amounts to pay both the state and federal lobbyists. This proposal, if approved, would not modify the budgeted amounts which, as noted above are $6,666 monthly for the state lobbyist and $16,666 monthly for the federal lobbyist.

Reviewed by:

Division Manager

Reviewed by: for

Department Director

Reviewed by:

Chief Financial Officer

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