



Legal and Claims Committee

Report on Reese v. MWD; and Authorize Contract Increase

Item 7-6

January 14, 2025

Item #7-6

Report and Contract Increase Request

Subject

Report on litigation in *Reese v. Metropolitan*, and authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in the amount of \$150,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$900,000

Purpose

Provide update on litigation and request additional funds to pay final invoices for highly qualified counsel resolve the litigation

Recommendation and Fiscal Impact

Approve contract increase of additional \$150,000 funded by the self-insured retention fund

Update

Reese v. Metropolitan

- Reese filed litigation October 2022
- June 2023 Unsuccessful Mediation
- June 2024 Metropolitan files Motion for Summary Judgment
- August 30, 2024 – parties agree to terms of settlement
- November 25, 2024 – litigation dismissed with prejudice

Request for Increase

Seyfarth Shaw LLP

- Fund last portion of work on the case, including:
 - Pretrial motions
 - Final discovery
 - Motion for summary judgment
 - Settlement negotiations
 - Settlement completion

Board Options

Option 1:

- Authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP for Darren A. Reese v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in the amount of \$150,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$900,000

Option 2:

- Do not authorize the requested increase in the contract with Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Board Options

Staff Recommendation

- Option 1

