



Legal and Claims Committee

Request to Authorize Increase with Best
Best & Krieger LLP for Legal Services
Related to Pure Water Southern California

Item 7-5

November 17, 2025

Item 7-5

Request for Contract Increase

Subject

Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Best Best & Krieger LLP for legal advice on environmental review and permitting matters related to Pure Water Southern California by \$100,000 to a maximum amount payable of \$350,000

Purpose

Request for additional funds to continue engagement of counsel for legal services regarding Pure Water Southern California

Recommendation and Fiscal Impact

Authorize \$100,000 contract increase to be funded by PWSC project

Background

Current Staffing

- Majority of legal work being performed by staff attorneys
- Outside counsel with specialized experience and expertise retained where needed
- Examples: CEQA, SB149 Streamlining, PFAS, Progressive Design Build (PDB)

Background

Request for Qualifications

- In July 2022, RFQ was issued seeking firms with expertise across various disciplines
- Broadly distributed through direct mailings, social media outlets, and vendor platform
- 18 firms responded and 7 selected for initial interviews by panel of legal and PWSC staff
- Top candidates brought back for follow-up interviews with General Counsel

Background

Selection of Best Best & Krieger LLP

- In November 2018, Best Best & Krieger LLP (BBK) selected to provide legal services related to environmental review and compliance
- Best balance of relevant experience and competitive rates
- Proven track record of assisting General Counsel on other matters

BBK Contract

Current Status

- BBK initially retained under General Counsel's contracting authority
- Over past 3 years, BBK has been used in very focused manner to address specific issues and provide strategic advice
- As of September 2025, BBK has incurred just over \$190K in legal fees and expenses

BBK Contract

Increased Requested

- Requesting \$100K increase in maximum amount payable under current contract
- Intended to ensure sufficient funds available to cover any legal assistance needed with respect to ongoing environmental review
- Amount of increase also should be sufficient to cover initial response to any legal challenges to filed under CEQA

Board Options

- Option #1

Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Best Best & Krieger LLP for legal advice on environmental review and permitting matters related to Pure Water Southern California by \$100,000 to a maximum amount payable of \$350,000

- Option #2

Do not authorize the contract increase

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1

