



Legal & Claims Committee

# Request to Authorize Increase for Special Counsel Contract with Van Ness Feldman, LLP

Item #7-3

March 10, 2026

Presented by: Marcia Scully

## Item 7-3

# Request for Contract Increase

### Subject

Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Van Ness Feldman, LLP, for legal advice on Colorado River matters by \$250,000 to an amount not to exceed \$500,000; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

### Purpose

Request additional funds to continue engagement of counsel for legal services regarding Colorado River matters

### Recommendation and Fiscal Impact

Authorize the requested contract increase

Budgeted

# Background

## Van Ness Feldman, LLP

Extensive expertise in the following areas of law:

- Western water
- Constitutional
- Federal and regulation
- Environmental
- Procedural

# Background

## Van Ness Feldman, LLP

- Retained in May 2023 to provide advice, assistance, and potential litigation support for Colorado River matters

# Board Options

- **Option #1**  
Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Van Ness Feldman LLP, for legal advice on Colorado River matters by \$250,000 to an amount not to exceed \$500,000
- **Option #2**  
Do not authorize the contract increase

# Staff Recommend- ation

- Option #1

