Legal & Claims Committee

Request to Authorize Increase for Special Counsel Contract with Thompson Coburn LLP

Item #7-4
September 15, 2026
Presented by: Catherine Stites

Request for Contract Increase

Subject

Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Thompson Coburn LLP for legal advice on state and federal energy regulatory and contractual matters by $400,000 to a maximum amount payable of $1,000,000

Purpose

Request additional funds to continue engagement of highly qualified counsel

Recommendation and Fiscal Impact

Approve contract increase of additional $400,000 funded within the FY 2026/27 budget

Request for Additional Funds

Special Counsel

- Increase existing contract with Thompson Coburn LLP by $400,000 to an amount not to exceed $1,000,000
- Current contract started in August 2020

Thompson Coburn LLP

Experts in energy law

- Represent a number of California power entities
- Detailed understanding of California and federal energy market
- Several highly experienced attorneys

Areas of Assistance

Complex energy requirements

- Contractual and market issues related to electric transmission and generation resources
  - Affected System Study
- Interconnection issues
- Regional transmission planning
- Compliance with North American Electric Reliability Corporation or NERC energy regulatory reliability standards
- Energy risk management

Board Options

- **Option #1**

  Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Thompson Coburn LLP for legal advice on state and federal energy regulatory and contractual matters by $400,000 to a maximum amount payable of $1,000,000

- **Option #2**

  Do not authorize the contract increase

Board Options

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1

  Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Thompson Coburn LLP for legal advice on state and federal energy regulatory and contractual matters by $400,000 to a maximum amount payable of $1,000,000

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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