



Mendocino County

Legislation Text

File #: 24-0100, Version: 1

To: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

From: Executive Office

Meeting Date: January 23, 2024

Department Contact: Darcie Antle

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Department Contact: Cherie Johnson

Phone: 707-463-4441

Item Type: Regular Agenda

Time Allocated for Item: 15 Minutes

Agenda Title:

Discussion and Possible Action Including Approval of Retroactive Agreement with Renne Public Law Group LLP in the Amount of \$210,000 to Provide Interim County Counsel Services, Effective January 8, 2024, through June 30, 2024; Pursuant to Section 27641.1 of the Government Code, Waive the Residency Requirement Contained in Section 24001 of the Government Code; Appointment of James R. Ross as Interim County Counsel in Accordance with the Terms of the Agreement
(Sponsor: Executive Office)

Recommended Action/Motion:

Approve retroactive Agreement with Renne Public Law Group LLP in the amount of \$210,000 to provide Interim County Counsel Services, effective January 8, 2024, through June 30, 2024; authorize the Chief Executive Officer or designee to sign any amendments that do not increase the total contracted amount; pursuant to section 27641.1 of the Government Code, waive the residency requirement contained in section 24001 of the Government Code; appoint James R. Ross as the Interim County Counsel in accordance with the terms of the Agreement; and authorize Chair to sign same.

Previous Board/Board Committee Actions:

N/A

Summary of Request:

Due to the resignation of County Counsel Christian Curtis, the Executive Office requests approval of the proposed contract with Renne Public Law Group LLP (RPLG) to provide Interim County Counsel Services on behalf of Mendocino County. RPLG practices throughout California and provides legal advice and related services for public agencies, nonprofits, individuals, and private entities. Its clients include California counties, cities, and special districts. RPLG has contracted with Mendocino County in the past and therefore has historical knowledge of items relevant to serving as Mendocino County's County Counsel. RPLG will work with staff to review and evaluate current processes and practices in the County Counsel office.

If approved, James R. Ross of RPLG will serve as Interim County Counsel while the Executive Office and Human Resources recruit to fill the position. Mr. Ross has extensive experience in public agency law. For most of his over-30-year career, he served within the Counsel Offices of Shasta County, Ventura County, and Sonoma County. This time included serving as County Counsel, Assistant County Counsel, and Deputy County Counsel.

The proposed Agreement was drafted to begin retroactively in order to allow a one-week overlap with County Counsel Curtis.

Alternative Action/Motion:

Return to staff for alternative handling.

Strategic Plan Priority Designation: An Effective County Government

Supervisory District: All

Vote Requirement: Majority

Supplemental Information Available Online At: N/A

Fiscal Details:

source of funding: Budget Unit 1020

current f/y cost: \$210,000

budget clarification: This contract will be partially funded through salary savings.

annual recurring cost: TBD

budgeted in current f/y (if no, please describe): No

revenue agreement: No

AGREEMENT/RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE APPROVED BY COUNTY COUNSEL: Yes

CEO Liaison: Executive Office

CEO Review: Yes

CEO Comments:

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Executed By: Atlas Pearson, Senior Deputy Clerk

Date: January 25, 2024

Final Status: **Approved**

Executed Item Type: Agreement

Number: 24-018

