

Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – September 2019

ACTION ITEM

Sponsor: Legislative Affairs Committee

Project number and name or topic: 4410 State Government Affairs / Professional Services Contract

1. **Description of agenda item:** Douglas Mertz has served as the Council's State Legislative Monitor for the past 23 years. He retired effective July 31, 2019. The Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC), acting as a project team, has been working with the staff to select Doug's replacement. A Request for Proposals was advertised earlier this summer and four proposals were received. LAC reviewed the proposals and interviewed all four candidates. Follow-up questions were sent to two finalists and reference checks were conducted. At the time this briefing was written, LAC had not yet arrived at a final recommendation. The review team will meet on August 29 to formulate a recommendation for the Board.

2. **Why is this item important to PWSRCAC:** Actions by the Legislature, the Governor, and state departments such as ADEC can have direct impacts on PWSRCAC's interests, mission, and mandate. If PWSRCAC is to carry out its mandate under OPA 90 and the contract with Alyeska, it is important to monitor governmental affairs and to inform and educate decision makers when appropriate.

3. **Previous actions taken by the Board on this item:**

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>
XCOM	1/1996	Coleman moved to employ Doug Mertz as a legislative consultant for the 1996 session. Seconded. Motion carries. Has contract been signed?
XCOM	8/1996	XCOM directed staff to negotiate a contract with Doug Mertz for state legislative and budget monitoring, at an amount not to exceed \$20,000. Has this been done?
XCOM	12/1997	XCOM directed staff to negotiate a state legislative monitoring contract with Doug Mertz in an amount not to exceed \$12,000.
XCOM	9/1998	XCOM approved award of the FY99 state legislative contract to Douglas Mertz and Associates in the amount of \$14,729, and a \$2,229 transfer from the contingency fund into Project 650/State Governmental Affairs.
XCOM	10/1999	XCOM authorized the Sole Source contract for Doug Mertz to perform legislative monitoring for the 1999-2000 legislative session in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.
XCOM	9/2000	XCOM approved the sole-source contract with Doug Mertz to perform legislative monitoring and reporting for an amount not to exceed \$16,000.
Board	5/2001	Board authorized a contract with Doug Mertz, RCAC Legislative Monitor for July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002 in an amount not to exceed \$18,200.
XCOM	7/2002	The XCOM approved the legislative monitoring sole source contract with Doug Mertz in an amount not to exceed \$14,000.
Board	9/2003	The Board directed staff to negotiate a contract for legislative monitoring services for the 2003 legislative monitoring session with Doug Mertz.
XCOM	6/2004	The Executive Committee directed staff to negotiate a contract for legislative monitoring services for the 2005 legislative session with Doug Mertz/Margo Waring and Associates, in an amount not to exceed \$14,700.
XCOM	6/2006	The Executive Committee directed staff to negotiate a contract for legislative monitoring services during the FY2007 legislative session with Doug Mertz/Margo Waring Associates, in an amount not to exceed \$15,140.
Board	9/2013	The Board approved a five-year contract with Douglas Mertz and Associates for legislative monitoring. The first year of the contract will not exceed \$15,995. The maximum of amount in subsequent years will not exceed the

Board 1/2015 previous year's maximum adjusted by the change in the annual Anchorage consumer price index. The Board approved an amendment to contract 441.14.01 with Douglas K. Mertz that will increase the compensation for additional services to the Council for FY2015 to \$7,500.

4. **Summary of policy, issues, support or opposition:** The Legislative Affairs Committee followed PWSRCAC contracting and procurement policies and procedures as it worked through this process. There is no opposition to hiring a new Monitor or to any of the candidates LAC is considering that we are aware of.

5. **Committee Recommendation:** A recommendation from LAC will be sent to the Board prior to the meeting, and discussed with Board during its Executive Session.

6. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** 4410/State Legislative Affairs is in the approved FY2020 budget and annual workplan.

4410--State Government Affairs - As of August 22, 2019

FY-2020 Budget	\$38,000.00
Original	
Actual and Commitments	\$0
Amount Remaining	<u>\$38,000.00</u>

7. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:** Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the selected State Legislative Affairs Monitor. The term and amount of this contract to be determined.

8. **Alternatives:** None recommended

9. **Attachments:** None.