

Approval of Federal Government Affairs Monitor Retainer 3-5

Consent Agenda Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – May 2026

ACTION ITEM

Sponsor: Joe Lally and the Legislative Affairs Committee

Project number and name or topic: 4400 – Federal Government Affairs – Retainer Approval for Blank Rome Government Relations

1. **Description of agenda item:** The Board is being asked to authorize entering into a retainer agreement with Blank Rome Government Relations (BRGR) to work as the Council's sole Federal Legislative Monitors starting in FY2027. BRGR will be providing input to the Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC) on issues related to our work. BRGR will also accompany LAC members and staff during future Washington, D.C., legislative visits, as they have done in previous years.

Initially, BRGR was brought on to support Roy Jones as he transitioned into retirement as PWSRCAC's long-time Federal Legislative Monitor. Roy Jones, who has been the Council's D.C. monitor since 1998, has decided to step back and support the Council where he can in a pro bono capacity at no cost to us. He said that he would like to stay involved in our work and assist where he can for as long as he is able. The consensus among the Legislative Affairs Committee is to keep Roy Jones involved for as long as possible.

2. **Why is this item important to PWSRCAC:** Many issues of vital importance to the Council and its mission are debated and decided in Washington, D.C. The Legislative Affairs Committee works to advance the Council's federal legislative priorities that are consistent with our mission, OPA 90, and our contract with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.

3. **Previous actions taken by the Board on this item:** None.

4. **Summary of policy, issues, support, or opposition:** We have recognized in the past that Roy Jones had not raised his rates in over 20 years. With this in mind, it is important to recognize that if we expect to maintain the same level of service that we have come to expect from Roy, it is going to result in cost increases in the future.

5. **Committee Recommendation:** The Legislative Affairs Committee unanimously conveyed its support and recommendation that the Board approve entering into a retainer agreement with BlankRome Government Relations, LLC, starting in FY2027 via poll on March 24.

6. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** Project 4400 – Federal Government Affairs is in the proposed FY2027 budget and annual work plan.

7. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:** Authorize a retainer agreement with Blank Rome Government Relations, LLC, to work as the Council's Legislative Monitors in Washington, D.C. in the amount of \$62,000 starting in FY27.

8. **Alternatives:** None recommended.

9. **Attachments:** None.