

Approval of Federal Government Affairs Monitor Retainer 3-7

Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – May 2025

Sponsor: Joe Lally
Project number and name or topic: 4400 – Federal Government Affairs – Retainer Approval for Blank Rome Government Relations to Support Roy Jones

1. **Description of agenda item:** The Board is being asked to authorize an FY26 retainer agreement with Blank Rome Government Relations (BRGR) to work with Roy Jones as the Council's Federal Legislative Monitors through June 30, 2026. Besides working closely with Roy, 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 the Spring 2026 Washington, D.C. legislative visit, as they have done in previous years.

The support from BRGR proposed in this briefing sheet is considered as part of the transitioning plan with Roy Jones and is necessary because Roy is no longer able provide the “boots on the ground” support in Washington, D.C., that he has provided to us for more than two decades. This transition process will likely be recommended until such time as Roy is no longer able to serve as the Council's primary Federal Monitor. Roy has said that he would like to stay involved in our work for as long as he is able and 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 PWSRCAC'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:** Something to note is that Roy Jones has 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 cost significantly more.

5. **Committee Recommendation:** The Legislative Affairs Committee unanimously conveyed its support of the FY2026 retainer agreement with BRGR via poll on April 22.

6. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** Project 4400 – Federal Government Affairs is in the proposed FY2026 budget and annual work plan in the amount of \$121,600.

7. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:** Authorize a retainer agreement with Blank Rome Government Relations to assist PWSRCAC's Federal Legislative Monitor Roy Jones in the amount of \$57,000.

8. **Alternatives:** None recommended.

9. **Attachments:** None.