

STAFF REPORT

City of Lancaster

CC 13
5/28/2024
JC

Date: June 25, 2024

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Jason Caudle, City Manager

Subject: Amendment to Legal Services Contract

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Approve the third amended agreement for legal services with Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, LLP.

Fiscal Impact:

The costs associated with this amended agreement are within the current budget allocations for legal services and will be billed as outlined in the agreement.

Background:

If approved by the City Council, this third amended agreement will address the evolving legal needs of the City of Lancaster, reflecting the significant changes the City has undergone in recent years.

The City of Lancaster has experienced substantial growth and development, necessitating a more robust legal framework. Notably, Lancaster is in the process of forming its own police department, a significant undertaking that requires comprehensive legal oversight. Additionally, the City has made remarkable strides in clean energy initiatives, particularly in renewable hydrogen, further necessitating specialized legal expertise. The City no longer has in-house legal counsel, making it imperative to have a reliable and proficient external legal team.

The legal needs of the City have expanded to include complex economic development projects, significant infrastructure initiatives, and comprehensive environmental policies. These projects require detailed legal guidance to navigate the regulatory landscape and ensure compliance with state and federal laws.

The third amended agreement with Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, LLP, provides for continued and enhanced legal services to the City and its associated entities, including the Lancaster Successor Agency, Lancaster Financing Authority, Lancaster Power Authority, and Lancaster Housing Authority. The agreement outlines the provision of both regular and extraordinary services, ensuring that all legal needs are met efficiently and effectively.

This amendment will allow the City to retain Allison E. Burns as the City Attorney, with other attorneys from Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, LLP, serving as Deputy City Attorneys as needed. The agreement also includes provisions for additional services and conflict waivers, ensuring flexibility and comprehensive legal support.

The economic and social benefits of this agreement are substantial. By securing specialized legal services, the City can effectively manage and expand its renewable energy projects, enhance public safety through the formation of the Lancaster Police Department, and support ongoing economic development efforts. These initiatives will drive local economic growth, create jobs, and contribute to Lancaster's reputation as a leader in innovation and sustainability.

Attachment:

Third Amended Agreement for Legal Services