



Consent Item 8

TO: East Bay Community Energy Board of Directors

FROM: Melissa Brandt, Senior Director of Public Affairs and Deputy General Counsel

SUBJECT: Agreement with the Weideman Group for Legislative Advocacy and Advisory Services

DATE: January 16, 2019

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Recommendation

Approve a Consulting Services Agreement with the Weideman Group for a term running January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 to provide regulatory and legislative advocacy and advisory services.

Background and Discussion

On January 17, 2018, the Board approved selection of Weideman Group to provide legislative advocacy and advisory services to East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) throughout 2018. Weideman Group has represented EBCE with legislators and their staff in Sacramento, in close coordination with the Public Affairs Department and in accordance with the Board's adopted positions on legislative bills.

Weideman Group has over 30 years of experience representing entities seeking to navigate California's complex policymaking landscape. Mark Weideman, Principal and Founder, will continue to serve as EBCE's chief lobbyist and strategist. Weideman Group professionals have represented both public and private entities in energy and utility matters before the California Legislature, the Governor's Office, the California Energy Commission, the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Air Resources Board, among others. Weideman Group also has strong relationships with elected officials, especially the Bay Area delegation.

In 2018, Weideman Group facilitated countless meetings in Sacramento and in-district, and supported EBCE in developing relationships with legislators and their staffs, as well as other key strategic partners. Weideman Group lobbied on behalf of EBCE on key bills such as SB 100 (De León) and SB 237 (Hertzberg), among others, and garnered support from legislators during contentious regulatory battles at the CPUC around the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA).

EBCE seeks continued assistance from Weideman Group for legislative advocacy and advisory services in 2019, both to represent EBCE's views on bills in the new legislative cycle as well as to provide legislative advocacy and advice around any bills that EBCE may choose to sponsor.

As EBCE's standard Consulting Services Agreement has significantly changed, staff recommends signing a new agreement with Weideman Group with the updated contract terms, rather than extending the previous agreement.

Fiscal Impact

Attachments

Consulting Services Agreement with the Weideman Group.

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