

<h1 style="margin: 0;">County Of Sonoma</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Agenda Item</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Summary Report</h3>			<b>Clerk of the Board Use Only</b>	
			<b>Meeting Date</b> / /	<b>Held Until</b> / /
			<b>Agenda Item No:</b> _____	<b>Agenda Item No:</b> _____
<b>Department:</b> County Administrator / County Counsel			<input type="checkbox"/> <b>4/5 Vote Not Required</b>	
<b>Contact:</b> Lori Norton / Bruce Goldstein	<b>Phone:</b> (707) 365-3345	<b>Board Date:</b> 11/10/2009	<b>Deadline for Board Action:</b>	
<b>AGENDA SHORT TITLE:</b> Legal Services Consulting Agreement - Perkins Coie				
<b>REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:</b> Authorize the County Administrator or his designee to execute a Legal and Consulting Services Agreement with Perkins -Coie, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.				
<b>CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT - None.</b>				
<b>Explanation (if required):</b> None.				
<b>Prior Board Action:</b> 1/25/05 - Board authorized participation in the Consortium and act as lead agency per the multi-county agreement. 10/11/05 - Board authorized consulting contract with Perkins-Coie for consulting services on behalf of NCCTMC. 3/20/07 - Board authorized consulting contract with Perkins-Coie for consulting services on behalf of NCCTMC.				
<b>Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:</b> Board could determine not to engage the consultant which would result in a loss of expertise in the complex area of federal tribal laws. County could develop in-house expertise, but would lose value of Washington D.C. based services which allows direct access to Federal Administration and Departments, and County’s elected representatives.				

**Background:**

In January 25, 2005, recognizing the potential for regional impacts associated with Indian gaming and other Tribal developments, the Boards of Supervisors of Sonoma, Napa, and Solano Counties established the Northern California Counties Tribal Matters Consortium. The purpose of the Consortium is to inform member counties of federal Indian law and policy so that they can effectively exercise their authority to respond to emerging policy and tribal development proposals. Further, the goal of the Consortium is to identify common principles that will guide the actions of each county and enable them to influence legislative and administrative policies in order to avoid or reduce as much as possible any potentially negative impacts related to tribal development proposals.

In July 2005, the Consortium authorized Sonoma County, acting as lead agency on its behalf, to enter into a contract for consulting services with the firm of Perkins-Coie. Perkins-Coie, a recognized expert in the area of Indian law, provides advice and counsel, research, drafting and review, recommendations, representation and other services with respect to federal Indian law and policy. Since 2005, Sonoma County has continued to act as lead agency on behalf of the Consortium and in that capacity has continuously contracted with Perkins-Coie for legal and consulting services.

In addition to work on behalf of the Consortium, Perkins-Coie provides legal advice and counsel to the County on such issues as tribal gaming, federal determination, fee to trust, etc. In years past, the County has entered into a separate contract for these services. Perkins-Coie provides separate invoicing for the activities, making it unnecessary to continue the practice of separate contracts.

The recommendation before your Board is to authorize the County Administrator or his designee to enter into a new contract with Perkins-Coie, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, for services on behalf of the Consortium and the County. Annually, Sonoma County bills and is reimbursed by Napa, and Solano for their share of Consortium expenditures under the contract. Funding for this contract is included in the Non-Departmental budget.

**Attachments:**

**On File With Clerk:** Legal Services and Consulting Agreement

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

**Board Action (If other than "Requested")**

**Vote:**