



DATE: May 19, 2020

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: Community Development

TITLE: **Professional Services Agreement for Consulting Legal Services**

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Manager, or her designee, to expend an amount not to exceed \$150,000 in relation to a professional services agreement with Goldfarb & Lipman, LLC, to provide consulting legal services.

BACKGROUND

The Community Development Department has routinely utilized consulting legal services to assist both Department staff and the City Attorney's Office on a variety of complex planning-related issues. The firm Goldfarb & Lipman, LLC, has been used this past year to advise City staff on City plans and development projects on issues primarily focused on the interpretation and application of new State legislation and related issues surrounding affordable housing law and State density bonus law.

ANALYSIS

In recent years, the State of California has adopted many new planning- and housing-related laws. These are complex new regulations that require specialized legal assistance, and the City has had to rely on additional consulting legal services from this firm.

The City has an existing contract with Goldfarb & Lipman to provide legal services. For the Community Development Department, the additional consulting work needed will exceed the \$100,000 contract threshold for the City Manager, pursuant to Council Policy A-10, and, therefore, requires City Council approval. Because this is an existing contract that does not specify a total or not-to-exceed amount of compensation, but only incorporates a fee schedule, staff is requesting Council approval for additional expenditures that would increase the total fiscal year expenditures in excess of the

\$100,000 threshold and authorize expenditures in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 to fund services needed through June 30, 2020.

FISCAL IMPACT

These consulting services are funded through cost recovery funds and the existing Community Development Department budget. There is adequate budget in the Community Development Department budget for the additional consulting legal services.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Do not authorize the expenditures requested.
2. Provide other direction to staff.

PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting.

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