



Contra
Costa
County

To: Board of Supervisors
From: Sharon L. Anderson, County Counsel
Date: January 15, 2013

Subject: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION(S):

APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE the County Counsel, or designee, to execute, on behalf of County, an amendment to a contract with Baker & O'Brien, Inc., effective January 1, 2013, to increase the compensation rates for refining industry consultants who provide services in connection with refinery property tax appeals and extend the term of the contract until December 31, 2013.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of this contract is paid through property tax administration fees, approximately half of which come from the general fund.

BACKGROUND:

Baker & O'Brien, Inc. is a consultant for refinery industry analyses, and has been providing the County with specialized consulting services with respect to the refining industry and refineries in defending actual and anticipated assessment appeals, which challenge the valuations of the taxable property of refineries in Contra Costa County. These annual appeals typically place several billion dollars of valuation in issue. Assistance is required because valuations of refineries are highly technical, requiring specialized knowledge that

☒ APPROVE
 ☐ OTHER
☒ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY ADMINISTRATOR
 ☐ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE

Action of Board On: **01/15/2013** ☒ APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED ☐ OTHER

Clerks Notes:

VOTE OF SUPERVISORS

AYE: John Gioia, District I Supervisor
 Candace Andersen, District II Supervisor
 Mary N. Piepho, District III Supervisor
 Karen Mitchoff, District IV Supervisor
 Federal D. Glover, District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: January 15, 2013

David Twa, County Administrator and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Carrie Del Bonta, Deputy

Contact: Rebecca Hooley,
335-1800

only industry experts have. Baker & O'Brien staff is presently assisting the County in an ongoing property tax appeal hearing in front of the Assessment Appeals Board. The Assessor concurs with and supports this recommendation.

CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

If the contract amendment is not approved, Baker & O'Brien, Inc. will not continue to consult for the County under the current contract and there is an increased possibility of significant but presently unquantifiable impacts due to adverse decisions by the Assessment Appeals Board on large refinery valuation disputes.

CHILDREN'S IMPACT STATEMENT:

None.