



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- STEVE BRANDAU
- KUYLER CROCKER
- NATHAN MAGSIG
- BUDDY MENDES
- BRIAN PACHECO
- AMY SHUKLIAN
- PETE VANDER POEL

**Meeting Location:
 County of Fresno
 Board of Supervisors Chambers
 2281 Tulare Street, #301
 Fresno, CA 93721**

AGENDA DATE: February 21, 2020

ITEM NUMBER: Item 15

SUBJECT: Ratification of Engagement Agreement with Smith LC for Special Legal Services (A)

REQUEST(S): That the Board ratify the engagement agreement with Smith LC for special legal services

DESCRIPTION:


From time to time the SJVIA requires special legal services, such as those requiring specialized knowledge in the area of health benefits or litigation services. SJVIA counsel does not provide such legal services.

Under the recommended agreement, Smith LC would provide legal services in the form of representation and participation as part of the trial team in the pending *SJVIA v. Gallagher Benefit Services* litigation, under the supervision of SJVIA legal counsel. The recommended agreement was signed by Director Magsig on January 9, 2020, but is expressly subject to ratification by the full board.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The total cost of the services provided by Smith LC would depend upon the SJVIA’s need for such services. The engagement agreement provides that the SJVIA would pay for the services of Smith LC at rates of \$365 per hour for attorneys, and \$175 per hour for paralegals. SJVIA counsel would monitor all services in coordination with SJVIA management.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:



 Rhonda Sjostrom
 SJVIA Manager



 Paul Nerland
 SJVIA Assistant Manager