

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Indra Winqest
Interim District General Manager

SUBJECT: Review, discuss, and possibly approve a month-to-month extension (not to exceed two months) to Tri-Strategies existing contract for Governmental Relations at a cost of \$3,000 per month; not to exceed \$6,000

DATE: June 17, 2020

I. RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Trustees makes a motion to approve a month-to-month extension (not to exceed two months) to Tri-Strategies existing contract for Governmental Relations at a cost of \$3,000 per month; not to exceed \$6,000.

II. BACKGROUND

At the June 10, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting, under the Interim District General Manager's Staff Update, Tri-Strategies representatives gave a very brief presentation on the services provided to date. No workshop date was set at this meeting for further decision of the upcoming Legislative Session. On Tuesday, June 16, 2020, State of Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak gave a press conference in which, amongst other things, he announced that he was going to call a special Legislative Session to discuss the State's budget deficit. Staff has been in touch with Tri-Strategies representatives to try and get insight into what potential impact(s) this special Legislative Session could have on the District. One of the items brought to our attention is the possibility of a sweep of funds/fund balances from local governments as the State of Nevada will be looking at any and all possibilities in making up the State's deficit. A sweep of funds/fund balances, briefly explained, is when the State makes a demand to Washoe County for their consolidated tax revenue. This demand would then cause Washoe County to not provide to the District its share of the consolidated tax revenue. Further, and it hasn't happened in the history of the District but during the recession period, it was considered by the State, to sweep excess funds/fund balances held by local governments in their reserves. This information is not provided to be alarmist but rather to share the magnitude of what having representation versus not having representation during the special Legislative Session could mean to the District. It is commonly known that our Legislators don't understand, through no fault of their

own, general improvement districts. Tri-Strategies has worked diligently to educate legislators as much as possible to be educated on what the District does and their continued representation during this special Legislative Session is probably the best insurance policy that the District could purchase during these uncertain times. By doing this extension, Tri-Strategies will advocate/fight against any sweep of funds/fund balances of the District and coordinate their work, to the best of their ability, with Washoe County's Legislative Advocate. The special session is forecasted to be called starting June 29 and continue for an undetermined amount of time. Tri-Strategies present contract with the District expires on June 30, 2020.

III. FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 2020/2021 operating budget includes funding for legislative consultants and that is where this funding would come from. This expense would total \$6,000 if contracted for two months.

IV. COMMENTS

Assuming that this request is approved, Staff will, as soon as is feasible, ask Tri-Strategies representatives to come before the Board at the earliest possible date to share with them the activities of the special Legislative Session.