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From: COB_mail
Subject: FW: January 5, 2016 Consent Calendar - Items 1 and 2

From: Michael M Racy <Michael@racyassociates.com>
Date: December 30, 2015 at 7:09:27 AM MST
To: Chuck Huckelberry <Chuck.Huckelberry@pima.gov>
Subject: District 1

Good Morning Supervisor Miller,

As you are aware the above two items will be on an upcoming agenda for the Board of Supervisors. Thank you for having a staff member return my call and requesting information on each item.

The renewal of the federal lobbying contract is under the same terms and conditions as the existing contract. Jim Kolbe and Steve Bloch work with me on the County's federal representation. Primary areas of work are on the Tres Rios del Norte restoration project, the Sonoran Corridor/Aerospace and Defense Corridor Raytheon buffer initiative and preservation of Davis Monthan Air Force Base. Just to highlight a few areas of significant success on each of these items: We have gained formal designation of the Sonoran Corridor (covered extensively in prior memos by the County Administrator's office and local media) and have been successful in gaining Arizona delegation (and beyond) support for the entire Sonoran Corridor/Raytheon effort and its many pieces. We have also reached preliminary agreement with the Army Corp. of Engineers on the integration of the Tres Rios project into newly adopted federal project standards. Potential defense restructuring efforts could have significant impacts on DM. The Arizona Delegation is especially well positioned to support the Base and we have worked to take advantage of this alignment in order to both preserve but ultimately to expand DM missions.

The State contract amendment requests a one-time increase in the annual contract maximum. The need for this increase is the result of the amount of time required to address issues related to the 1% constitutional cap. Although it was a very short legislative session, it was filled with intense work on many issues. The brevity of the session gave rise to a number of changes that were not as well thought-out as they might have been. For example the presidential primary election was left only partially funded, the shift in department of revenue and juvenile corrections costs were incomplete. Significant progress has been made over the interim on these and many other items including transportation/infrastructure financing, transfer of the juvenile system and appropriation of election costs for the newly adopted Special Election for Education. These and the many other items of concern to the County would normally have been managed well under the contract maximum amount. Generally we are tens of thousands of dollars under the contract maximum. However, and significantly, virtually all parties agree that the shift in responsibility for overages of the 1% Constitutional cap resulted in serious unintended consequences—most especially to Pima County taxpayers. Work on the constitution cap policy change (a very complicated intersection of property tax and school finance) has taken an exceptional amount of time and resulted in the requested amendment.

Thank you very much,
Michael

Michael M. Racy



535 W. Burton Drive
Tucson, AZ 85704-4201
Michael@RacyAssociates.com
520-906-4646 phone
520-742-5843 fax