



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of May 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 5-C

PREPARED BY: Patricia Taylor, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

Award Contract: Lobbying and Intergovernmental Services

Enclosure: No

Action: Authorize staff to enter a three-year contract with Khouri Consulting, with two optional one-year extensions, in an amount not to exceed \$75,900 for Year 1, with an annual increase of five percent for Years 2 and 3

SUMMARY:

Khouri Consulting has played a key role in establishing and advancing MCTC's legislative platform by providing strategic support on a range of intergovernmental efforts. Their services include drafting letters to state and federal legislators, advising on legislative and lobbying activities, coordinating meetings with legislators and stakeholders, and providing ongoing support in the legislative and regulatory arenas.

Key Accomplishments:

Fiscal Year 2023:

- Conducted annual review of introduced bills, including analysis, position recommendations, board presentations, and coordination of Legislative Day.
- Provided testimony before policy and budget committees.
- Successfully opposed AB 6, AB 7, and AB 1778, which proposed eliminating funding for highway projects.
- Supported the enactment of SB 768, requiring HCD to evaluate the use of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as a CEQA metric for housing projects.
- Advocated for the passage of SB 125, securing \$18.8 million in transit capital and operations funding for MCTC.

Fiscal Year 2024:

- Conducted annual review of introduced bills with analysis, recommendations, and presentations to the MCTC Board.
- Advocated for the restoration of \$260 million in REAP funding to preserve support for affordable housing.
- Successfully assisted in securing ITIP funding for:
 - Highway 99 South Madera (Ave. 7–12) – \$39 million (carryover from 2022 ITIP),
 - Highway 99 North Madera (Ave. 17–21½) – \$4.3 million,
 - Madera High-Speed Rail Station – \$80 million.

Fiscal Year 2025:

- Conducted annual review of introduced bills, including analysis, position recommendations, board presentations, and coordination of Legislative Day.
- Currently advocating for Cap-and-Trade Extension to sustain HSR funding and related transit programs.
- Provided policy briefings on declining state revenue from the gas tax and outlined potential funding solutions.

Recommendation:

Staff recommend that MCTC retain Khouri Consulting by authorizing staff to enter a three-year contract with Khouri Consulting, with two optional one-year extensions, in an amount not to exceed \$75,900 for Year 1, with an annual increase of five percent (5%) for Years 2 and 3.

Proposed Contract Costs:

- Year 1: \$75,900
- Year 2: \$79,695
- Year 3: \$83,680

If approved, these costs will be reflected in the member agency assessment fees.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2024-25 Overall Work Program and Budget.