

AGENDA STAFF REPORT

MEETING NAME: REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

MEETING DATE(S): JANUARY 15 & 20, 2026

FROM: MARION CHAMPION – ASSISTANT GENERAL
MANAGER

FOR: ACTION X DIRECTION _____ INFORMATION _____



FEDERAL ADVOCACY SERVICES—CARPI & CLAY, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended to authorize the General Manager to execute an Agreement for Services with Carpi & Clay Government Relations in the amount of \$5000/month for the term February 1, 2026, to January 31, 2027.

SUMMARY

The District’s legislative outreach and advocacy program is continuously active at the federal level. The program includes participation in industry efforts sponsored by ACWA and legislative advocacy services provided through a Washington, D.C. representative. Our contract with Carpi and Clay for federal advocacy services expires in January.

ANALYSIS

Laura Morgan-Kessler has served as the District’s DC Representative for the past six years. Prior to that, she assisted Thane Young for 12 years serving MSWD. Through the combined efforts of Young/Morgan and MSWD, the Groundwater Quality Protection Program has received significant federal funding, including a planning authorization in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000 and construction authorization for \$35 million through the 2007 WRDA. During the past six years, the project has received the following federal funding: \$1.2 million in the FY18 USACE Work Plan; \$250,000 in the FY22 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill; \$800,000 in the FY23 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill; and \$2.7 million in the Senate FY24 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

FISCAL IMPACT & STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Annual cost is \$60,000, plus travel and incidental expenses not to exceed \$2,500. This action aligns with Strategic Plan Goal No. 1.4 cultivate positive relationships with legislative contacts.

ATTACHMENTS

2026 Carpi & Clay Agreement

FINANCIAL DATA		
Cost Associated with this action:	\$60,000	
Current FY cost:	\$25,000	
Future FY cost:	\$35,000	
Is it covered in current year budget:	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Budget adjustment needed:	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If yes, year needed:	NA	
All previous contracts including dates, amounts and board approvals are attached or have been made available.		
FUNDING SOURCES		
Source of funds:	Public Affairs	
BID/Job#	702	
Current BID/Job balance	\$166,428.72	
Balance remaining if approved:	\$141,428.72	