

**AGENDA STAFF REPORT**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 14 & 19, 2021**

**FROM:**       **General Manager**                               Arden Wallum

**BY:**         **Assistant General Manager**               Brian Macy

**FOR:**       ☒ **ACTION**       ☐ Direction   ☐ Information

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**FEDERAL ADVOCACY SERVICES—CARPI & CLAY, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the General Manager to execute an Agreement for Services with Carpi & Clay Government Relations, in the amount of \$4,000/month for the term beginning February 1, 2021 and ending January 31, 2022.

**SUMMARY**

The current agreement with Carpi and Clay for federal advocacy services expires on January 31, 2021. Our primary advocate, Laura Morgan Kessler, has represented the District for more than a decade. Laura was brought to MSWD by Thane Young, our original federal advocate.

**ANALYSIS**

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.

Laura Morgan-Kessler has served as the District's Washington Representative for the past two years. Prior to that she assisted Thane Young for approximately 11 years in serving MSWD. Through the combined efforts of Young/Morgan, District Board and staff, the District's Groundwater Quality Protection Program received significant federal funding as well as a planning authorization in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000, and construction authorization for \$35 million through the 2007 WRDA. Funding provided to MSWD (\$1.2 million) in the USACE's 2018 Work Plan due to Laura's intervention with the USACE San Francisco field office.

MSWD will be perusing additional funding through the USACE 2021/22 workplan.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Annual cost is \$48,000, plus travel and incidental expenses not to exceed \$4,000.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Agreement  
Letter