

# AGENDA STAFF REPORT

**MEETING NAME:** REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

**MEETING DATE(S):** January 11 & 16, 2024

**FROM:** Marion Champion, Government & Public Affairs  
Manager

**FOR:** ACTION   X   DIRECTION        INFORMATION       



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

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the Interim General Manager to execute an Agreement for Services with Carpi & Clay Government Relations in the amount of \$5,000/month for the term beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 31, 2025.

**SUMMARY**

The current agreement with Carpi and Clay for federal advocacy services expires on January 31, 2023. 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 five years.

Prior to that, she assisted Thane Young for 12 years in serving MSWD. Through the combined efforts of Young/Morgan, the District Board, and staff, the District’s Groundwater Quality Protection Program received significant federal funding, a planning authorization in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000, and construction authorization for \$35 million through the 2007 WRDA.

Due to Laura’s direct intervention with the District’s Congressional delegation, as well as the USACE, the District has received the following federal funding for the USACE during the past five years:

- \$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
- \$2.7 million in the Senate FY24 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill (pending Congress finalizing the FY24 bills)

FINANCIAL DATA	
Cost Associated with this action:	\$62,500
Current FY cost:	\$28,000
Future FY cost:	\$25,250
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	\$63,609
Balance remaining if approved:	\$38,359

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Annual cost is \$60,000, plus travel and incidental expenses not to exceed \$2,500. Remaining cost for FY24 includes five months of service, plus incidental expenses.

**ATTACHMENTS**

2024 Carpi & Clay Agreement

2023 Carpi & Clay Agreement