

OVERSIGHT BOARD AGENDA STAFF REPORT

TO: Honorable Chair and Members of the Oversight Board

FROM: Michael Huntley, Staff liaison from the Successor Agency to the former City of Montebello Community Redevelopment Agency

SUBJECT: Consideration of retaining legal counsel for the Oversight Board

DATE: June 6, 2012

BACKGROUND

On April 24, 2012, the Oversight Board directed staff to identify legal counsel to provide service to the Board due to the complexity of issues that may arise related to the legislation in AB 1X 26.

DISCUSSION

Since the April 24, 2012 meeting, staff has identified 12 law firms that specialize in redevelopment law, real estate transactions and the legislation related to AB 1X 26. Staff contacted all of the law firms and e-mailed each of the firms an RFQ (Request for Qualifications). By the close of business on Monday, April 30, 2012, staff received five submittals from the following law firms:

1. Goldfarb Lipman Attorneys
2. Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth
3. Kane, Ballmer & Berkman
4. Pierce Law Firm
5. Meyers Nave

At the May 2, 2012 meeting, the Oversight Board selected a subcommittee made up of Chairman Breskin, Member Plotkins and staff liaison Huntley to review the top three law firms identified by the Board.

On May 10, 2012, the subcommittee interviewed the legal firms of Stradling, Yocca Carlson & Ruth and Goldfarb Lipman Attorneys. The subcommittee had also schedule an interview with the law firm of Kane, Ballmer & Berkman, but at the last minute, they withdrew their application.

Subsequent to the interviews, it was the subcommittee's opinion that the law firm of Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth was the most qualified to provide legal guidance to the Oversight Board.

RECOMMENDATION

It is staff's recommendation that the Oversight Board:

1. Approve a professional service agreement between the Montebello Oversight Board and the law firm of Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth.
2. Direct staff to prepare a professional services agreement for final signature by the Chairman of the Oversight Board.