

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Administration Committee**

September 8, 2021

Agenda Item 2g - 21-1122

**Legal Services Agreement Amendment – Special CEQA Counsel  
related to Plan Bay Area 2050: Thomas Law Group (\$100,000)**

---

- Subject:** This memorandum requests approval to amend the contract with Thomas Law Group (TLG) to increase the compensation by \$100,000 resulting in a new not-to-exceed amount of \$250,000 on a sole-source basis for on-going services as MTC's special CEQA counsel related to Plan Bay Area 2050.
- Background:** TLG's founder, Tina Thomas, is a respected CEQA expert and litigator who served as Senator Steinberg's CEQA advisor during the drafting of SB 375. Since 2009, Ms. Thomas has advised MTC and ABAG on CEQA compliance throughout the process of adopting the original Plan Bay Area, the 2013 Sustainable Communities Strategy/Regional Transportation Plan, which concluded in July 2013 and was jointly approved by MTC and ABAG. TLG also successfully represented MTC and ABAG on the various lawsuits resulting from the adoption of Plan Bay Area and continued to advise MTC and ABAG on Plan Bay Area 2040, which was adopted in 2017. As a result, TLG has unparalleled experience advising on legal issues related to compliance with SB 375 and CEQA regarding the Sustainable Communities Strategy/Regional Transportation Plan and in particular, the issues facing MTC and ABAG in this process.
- TLG is neither a small business operation (SBE) nor a disadvantaged enterprise (DBE) and has no subcontractors.
- Issues:** None
- Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the Committee authorize the Executive Director or designee to negotiate and enter into a contract amendment for \$100,000 with TLG for a new contract not to exceed amount of \$250,000 to provide on-going services as MTC's special CEQA counsel related to Plan Bay Area 2050.
- Attachments:** Request for Committee Approval

  
Therese W. McMillan

## REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

### Summary of Proposed Legal Services Agreement Amendment

Work Item No.:	1121
Law Firm:	Thomas Law Group
Work Project Title:	Special CEQA Counsel related to Plan Bay Area 2050
Purpose of Project:	On-going services as MTC's special CEQA counsel related to Plan Bay Area 2050.
Brief Scope of Work:	Legal assistance regarding compliance with the provisions of SB 375 and the California Environmental Quality ACT (CEQA) with respect to Plan Bay Area 2050.
Project Cost Not to Exceed:	This amendment: \$100,000 Current contract amount before this amendment: \$150,000 Maximum contract amount after the amendment: \$250,000
Funding Source:	RTP/SCS development
Fiscal Impact:	\$100,000 is available in the FY 2021-22 agency budget
Motion by Committee:	That the Executive Director or her designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a contract amendment with Thomas Law Group to assist MTC for the services as described above and in the Summary Sheet dated September 8, 2021 and that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to set aside \$100,000 for such amendment.
Administration Committee:	<hr/> Federal D. Glover, Chair
Approved:	Date: September 8, 2021