


REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2016

TO: MAYOR AND HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER 

BY: NATHAN HAMBURGER, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER *h 21*

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO APPROVE A CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH DOWNS GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Over the past fifteen-plus years, the City has been dedicated to establishing and maintaining strong professional working relationships with the various state and federal elected representatives that serve the community. Members of the City Council and staff have been assisted in the past through the use of a consultant services agreement that had been with the firm of Venable LLC. Mr. Thomas Downs has served as our representative since the very start of these endeavors and has been instrumental in helping to secure over \$10.5 million for the Kanan and Reyes Adobe Interchange Improvement projects, FEMA Disaster Recovery Funding, as well as several open space preservation grants. In addition to this, Mr. Downs has utilized his professional relationships with various legislative staff members, key federal agency staff, and various non-profit and quasi-governmental agencies for the benefit of the City. These relationships, along with several coordinated discussions with key decision makers, have proved valuable in the assistance of the launching of our Tourism Improvement District, development of a true partnership with the National Parks Service, and several of our water quality projects.

Mr. Downs has recently started a new firm, Downs Government Affairs, which will allow him to focus exclusively on local and regional government entities as clients. This affords the City, the opportunity to retain Mr. Downs and his established relationships with various legislative and department stakeholders at the federal level and allows for continuity in the City's approach to address its specific needs. This specifically relates to the City's efforts in acquiring and preserving open space, water quality, tourism and infrastructure enhancements. As the federal funding landscape has changed over the past several years, it has become more important than ever to have good standing relationships and contacts with the various federal agency staff that the City is required to work with to insure that our projects and programs receive the necessary amount of attention and support.

In addition, Mr. Downs has agreed to assist the City in developing a Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan that will not only have the necessary information when disasters strike to insure that the City is prepared to receive any support funding provided, but also to

insure that a collective and meaningful mechanism is in place when larger scale disasters occur within California, that we are prepared to address those and receive support funding where needed, as we are faced with a multitude of potential natural disasters. Mr. Downs has secured the assistance of several high level officials, who recently served with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist in these efforts. This work would be included as part of our agreement that is being considered by the City Council.

Mr. Downs was also agreeable to maintaining the same annual costs, at \$55,000, in order to help maintain the City's already established balanced budget and thus, there are no proposed financial impacts for this current or the next fiscal year.

The proposed agreement has been reviewed by the City Attorney and approved as to form.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council approve the Consultant Services Agreement with Downs Government Affairs.

Attachment: Agreement – Downs Government Affairs

**AGREEMENT FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES
WITH THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS**

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| NAME OF CONSULTANT: | Downs Government Affairs |
| RESPONSIBLE PRINCIPAL OF CONSULTANT: | Attn: Thomas Downs |
| CONSULTANT'S ADDRESS: | 1629 K. Street, NW, Suite 300 Washington, D.C. 20006 |
| CITY'S ADDRESS: | City of Agoura Hills 30001 Ladyface Court Agoura Hills, CA 91301 Attn: City Manager |
| PREPARED BY: | Nathan Hamburger |
| COMMENCEMENT DATE: | January 27, 2016 |
| TERMINATION DATE: | June 30, 2017 |
| CONSIDERATION: | Contract Price Not to Exceed: \$ 55,000/yr |

ADDITIONAL SERVICES *(Describe Services, Amount, and Approval):*

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Date: _____ Amount: \$ _____ Authorized By: _____
(Not to Exceed 10% of Contract Price) City Manager

**AGREEMENT FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES BETWEEN
THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS AND DOWNS
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

THIS AGREEMENT is made and effective as of January 27, 2016, between the City of Agoura Hills, a municipal corporation ("City") and Downs Government Affairs ("Consultant"). In consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions set forth herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. TERM

This Agreement shall commence on January 27, 2016, and shall remain and continue in effect until tasks described herein are completed, but in no event later than June 30, 2017, unless sooner terminated pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement.

The City may, at its option, extend this Agreement for one additional term of one, year upon providing written notice of its intent to extend this Agreement to the Consultant not less than thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the initial Term. Such extension shall be at the same price and conditions as set forth herein.

2. SERVICES

Consultant shall perform the services and tasks described and set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein as though set forth in full. Consultant shall complete the tasks according to the schedule of performance which is also set forth in Exhibit A.

3. PERFORMANCE

In meeting its obligations under this Agreement, Consultant shall at all times faithfully and competently perform all tasks described herein in a manner satisfactory to CITY and consistent with that level of care and skill ordinarily exercised by members of the profession currently practicing in the same locality under similar conditions.

4. PAYMENT

A. The City agrees to pay Consultant monthly, in accordance with the payment rates and terms and the schedule of payment as set forth in Exhibit B, Payment Rates and Schedule, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference as though set forth in full, based upon actual time spent on the above tasks. Any terms in Exhibit B other than the payment rates and schedule of payment are null and void. This amount shall not exceed fifty-five thousand dollars and no cents (\$ 55,000.00) ("Contract Price") for the initial Term of the Agreement unless additional payment is approved as provided in this Agreement.

The City Manager may approve additional work up to ten percent (10%) of the amount of the Agreement. Any additional work in excess of this amount shall be approved by the City Council.

B. Consultant shall not be compensated for any services rendered in connection with its performance of this Agreement which are in addition to those set forth herein, unless such additional services are authorized in advance and in writing by the City Manager. Consultant shall be compensated for any additional services in the amounts and in the manner as agreed to by the City Council and Consultant at the time City's written authorization is given to Consultant for the performance of said services.

C. Consultant shall submit invoices monthly for actual services performed. Invoices shall be submitted between the first and fifteenth business day of each month, for services provided in the previous month. Payment shall be made within thirty (30) days of receipt of each invoice as to all non-disputed fees. If the City disputes any of Consultant's fees, it shall give written notice to Consultant within thirty (30) days of receipt of an invoice of any disputed fees set forth on the invoice. For all reimbursements authorized by this Agreement, Consultant shall provide receipts on all reimbursable expenses in excess of Fifty Dollars (\$50) in such form as approved by the Director of Finance.

5. SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT WITHOUT CAUSE

A. The City may at any time, for any reason, with or without cause, suspend or terminate this Agreement, or any portion hereof, by serving upon the Consultant at least ten (10) days prior written notice. Upon receipt of said notice, the Consultant shall immediately cease all work under this Agreement, unless the notice provides otherwise. If the City suspends or terminates a portion of this Agreement, such suspension or termination shall not make void or invalidate the remainder of this Agreement.

B. In the event this Agreement is terminated pursuant to this Section, the City shall pay to Consultant the actual value of the work performed up to the time of termination, provided that the work performed is of value to the City. Upon termination of the Agreement pursuant to this Section, the Consultant will submit an invoice to the City pursuant to Section entitled "**PAYMENT**" herein.

6. DEFAULT OF CONSULTANT

A. The Consultant's failure to comply with the provisions of this Agreement shall constitute a default. In the event that Consultant is in default for cause under the terms of this Agreement, City shall have no obligation or duty to continue compensating Consultant for any work performed after the date of default and can terminate this Agreement immediately by written notice to the Consultant. If such failure by the Consultant to make progress in the performance of work hereunder arises out of causes beyond the Consultant's control, and without fault or negligence of the Consultant, it shall not be considered a default.

B. If the City Manager or his delegate determines that the Consultant is in default in the performance of any of the terms or conditions of this Agreement, it shall serve the Consultant with written notice of the default. The Consultant shall have ten (10) days after service upon it of said notice in which to cure the default by rendering a satisfactory performance. In the event that the Consultant fails to cure its default within such period of time, the City shall have the right, notwithstanding any

other provision of this Agreement, to terminate this Agreement without further notice and without prejudice to any other remedy to which it may be entitled at law, in equity or under this Agreement.”

7. OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS

A. Consultant shall maintain complete and accurate records with respect to sales, costs, expenses, receipts and other such information required by City that relate to the performance of services under this Agreement. Consultant shall maintain adequate records of services provided in sufficient detail to permit an evaluation of services. All such records shall be maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and shall be clearly identified and readily accessible. Consultant shall provide free access to the representatives of City or its designees at reasonable times to such books and records, shall give City the right to examine and audit said books and records, shall permit City to make transcripts therefrom as necessary, and shall allow inspection of all work, data, documents, proceedings and activities related to this Agreement. Such records, together with supporting documents, shall be maintained for a period of three (3) years after receipt of final payment.

B. Upon completion of, or in the event of termination or suspension of this Agreement, all original documents, designs, drawings, maps, models, computer files containing data generated for the work, surveys, notes, and other documents prepared in the course of providing the services to be performed pursuant to this Agreement shall become the sole property of the City and may be used, reused or otherwise disposed of by the City without the permission of the Consultant. With respect to computer files containing data generated for the work, Consultant shall make available to the City, upon reasonable written request by the City, the necessary computer software and hardware for purposes of accessing, compiling, transferring and printing computer files.

8. INDEMNIFICATION

Consultant shall defend, indemnify, and hold the City, its officials, officers, employees, agents and independent consultants serving in the role of City officials, and volunteers (collectively “Indemnitees”) free and harmless from any and all claims, demands, causes of action, proceedings, costs, expenses, liabilities, losses, damages or injuries, in law or equity, to property or persons, including wrongful death (collectively “Claims”), in any manner arising out of or incident to any acts or omissions of Consultant, its officials, officers, employees, agents or sub-consultants in connection with the performance of this Agreement, including without limitation the payment of all consequential damages, attorneys’ fees, and other related costs and expenses, except for such Claims arising out of the sole negligence or willful misconduct of the Indemnitees. With respect to any and all such Claims, Consultant shall defend Indemnitees at Consultant’s own cost, expense, and risk and shall pay and satisfy any judgment, award, or decree that may be rendered against Indemnitees. Consultant shall reimburse Indemnitees for any and all legal expenses and costs incurred by each of them in connection therewith or in enforcing the indemnity herein provided. Consultant’s obligation to indemnify shall not be restricted to insurance proceeds, if any,

received by Consultant or Indemnitees. All duties of Consultant under this Section shall survive termination of this Agreement.

9. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Prior to commencement of work, Consultant shall procure, provide, and maintain, at Consultant's own expense, for the duration of this Agreement, insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property, which may arise from or in connection with the performance of the work hereunder by the Consultant, its agents, representatives, or employees.

A. Minimum Scope of Insurance. Coverage shall be at least as broad as:

1) Insurance Services Office Commercial General Liability form No. CG 00 01 11 85 or 88, or equivalent.

2) Insurance Services Office Business Auto Coverage form CA 00 01 06 92, or equivalent, covering Automobile Liability, code 1 (any auto). If the Consultant owns no automobiles, a non-owned auto endorsement to the General Liability policy described above is acceptable.

3) Worker's Compensation insurance as required by the State of California and Employer's Liability Insurance. If the Consultant has no employees while performing under this Agreement, worker's compensation insurance is not required, but Consultant shall execute a declaration that it has no employees.

4) Professional Liability Insurance shall be written on a policy form providing professional liability for the Consultant's profession.

B. Minimum Limits of Insurance. Consultant shall maintain limits no less than:

1) General Liability: \$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage, including without limitation, blanket contractual liability. If Commercial General Liability Insurance or other form with a general aggregate limit is used, either the general aggregate limit shall apply separately to this project/location or the general aggregate limit shall be twice the required occurrence limit.

2) Automobile Liability: \$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury and property damage for all activities of the Consultant arising out of or in connection with work to be performed under this Agreement, including coverage for any owned, hired, non-owned or rental vehicles.

3) Worker's Compensation as required by the State of California; Employer's Liability: One million dollars (\$1,000,000) per accident for bodily injury or disease.

4) Professional Liability coverage: One million (\$1,000,000) per claim and in aggregate.

C. Deductibles and Self-Insured Retentions. Any deductibles or self-insured retentions must be declared to and approved by the City Manager. At the option of the City Manager, either the insurer shall reduce or eliminate such deductibles or self-insured retentions as respects the City, its officers, officials, employees and volunteers; or the Consultant shall procure a bond guaranteeing payment of losses and related investigations, claim administration and defense expenses.

D. Other Insurance Provisions. The general liability and automobile liability policies are to contain, or be endorsed to contain, the following provisions:

1) The City, its officers, officials, employees and volunteers are to be covered and named as additional insureds in respect to: liability arising out of activities performed by or on behalf of the Consultant; products and completed operations of the Consultant; premises owned, occupied or used by the Consultant; or automobiles owned, leased, hired or borrowed by the Consultant. The coverage shall contain no special limitations on the scope of protection afforded to the City, its officers, officials, employees or volunteers.

2) For any claims related to this project, the Consultant's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance as respects the City, its officers, officials, employees and volunteers. Any insurance or self-insured maintained by the City, its officers, officials, employees or volunteers shall be excess of the Consultant's insurance and shall not contribute with it.

3) Any failure to comply with reporting or other provisions of the policies including breaches of warranties shall not affect coverage provided to the City, its officers, officials, employees or volunteers.

4) The Consultant's insurance shall apply separately to each insured against whom claim is made or suit is brought, except with respect to the limits of the insurer's liability.

5) Each insurance policy required by this clause shall be endorsed to state that coverage shall not be suspended, voided, canceled by either party, reduced in coverage or in limits except after thirty (30) days' prior written notice has been given to the City. Consultant agrees to oblige its insurance agent or broker and insurers to provide City with a thirty (30) day notice of cancellation (except for nonpayment for which a ten (10) day notice is required) or nonrenewal of coverage for each required coverage.

E. Acceptability of Insurers. Insurance is to be placed with insurers with a current A.M. Best's rating of no less than A:VII, unless otherwise acceptable to the City. Self insurance shall not be considered to comply with these insurance requirements.

F. Verification of Coverage. **Consultant shall furnish the City with original endorsements, specifically naming the City of Agoura Hills, its officers, officials, employees and volunteers as additional insured, effecting coverage required by this clause.** The endorsements are to be signed by a person authorized by that insurer to bind coverage on its behalf. The endorsements are to be on forms

acceptable to the City. Insurance certificates and endorsements must be received and approved by City's Risk Manager prior to commencement of performance. Current insurance certificates and endorsements shall be kept on file with the City at all times during the term of this agreement. City reserves the right to require complete, certified copies of all required insurance policies, at any time.

G. Mailing Instructions. Insurance documents shall be mailed with the signed Agreement to the attention of the staff person indicated on the cover sheet of this Agreement, to the City of Agoura Hills, 30001 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, CA 91301. Executed Agreement(s) cannot be released nor may any work commence on a project until the signed Agreement and appropriate insurance documents are on file with the City Clerk.

10. INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT

A. Consultant is and shall at all times remain as to the City a wholly independent Consultant. The personnel performing the services under this Agreement on behalf of Consultant shall at all times be under Consultant's exclusive direction and control. Neither City nor any of its officers, employees, agents, or volunteers shall have control over the conduct of Consultant or any of Consultant's officers, employees, or agents except as set forth in this Agreement. Consultant shall not at any time or in any manner represent that it or any of its officers, employees or agents are in any manner officers, employees or agents of the City. Consultant shall not incur or have the power to incur any debt, obligation or liability whatever against City, or bind City in any manner.

B. No employee benefits shall be available to Consultant in connection with the performance of this Agreement. Except for the fees paid to Consultant as provided in the Agreement, City shall not pay salaries, wages, or other compensation to Consultant for performing services hereunder for City. City shall not be liable for compensation or indemnification to Consultant for injury or sickness arising out of performing services hereunder.

11. LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Consultant shall keep itself informed of all local, State and Federal ordinances, laws and regulations which in any manner affect those employed by it or in any way affect the performance of its service pursuant to this Agreement. The Consultant shall at all times observe and comply with all such ordinances, laws and regulations. The City, and its officers and employees, shall not be liable at law or in equity occasioned by failure of the Consultant to comply with this section.

12. RELEASE OF INFORMATION

A. All information gained by Consultant in performance of this Agreement shall be considered confidential and shall not be released by Consultant without City's prior written authorization. Consultant, its officers, employees, agents or sub-consultants, shall not without written authorization from the City Manager or unless requested by the City Attorney, voluntarily provide declarations, letters of support, testimony at depositions, response to interrogatories or other information concerning the

At all times during the term of this Agreement, Consultant shall have in full force and effect, all licenses required of it by law for the performance of the services described in this Agreement.

16. GOVERNING LAW

The City and Consultant understand and agree that the laws of the State of California shall govern the rights, obligations, duties and liabilities of the parties to this Agreement and also govern the interpretation of this Agreement. Any litigation concerning this Agreement shall take place in the municipal, superior, or federal district court with geographic jurisdiction over the City of Agoura Hills. In the event such litigation is filed by one party against the other to enforce its rights under this Agreement, the prevailing party, as determined by the Court's judgment, shall be entitled to reasonable attorney fees and litigation expenses for the relief granted.

17. PROHIBITED INTEREST

No officer, or employee of the City of Agoura Hills shall have any financial interest, direct or indirect, in this Agreement, the proceeds thereof, the Consultant, or Consultant's sub-consultants for this project, during his/her tenure or for one year thereafter. The Consultant hereby warrants and represents to the City that no officer or employee of the City of Agoura Hills has any interest, whether contractual, non-contractual, financial or otherwise, in this transaction, or in the business of the Consultant or Consultant's sub-consultants on this project. Consultant further agrees to notify the City in the event any such interest is discovered whether or not such interest is prohibited by law or this Agreement.

18. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Agreement contains the entire understanding between the parties relating to the obligations of the parties described in this Agreement. All prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, representations and statements, oral or written, are merged into this Agreement and shall be of no further force or effect. Each party is entering into this Agreement based solely upon the representations set forth herein and upon each party's own independent investigation of any and all facts such party deems material.

19. AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE THIS AGREEMENT

The person or persons executing this Agreement on behalf of Consultant warrants and represents that he or she has the authority to execute this Agreement on behalf of the Consultant and has the authority to bind Consultant to the performance of its obligations hereunder.

20. COUNTERPARTS

This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, all such executed counterparts shall constitute the same agreement, and the signature of any party to any counterpart shall be deemed a signature to, and may be appended to, any other counterpart.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed the day and year first above written.

CITY OF AGOURA HILLS

Harry Schwarz,
Mayor

ATTEST:

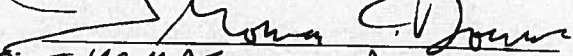
Kimberly M. Rodrigues, MMC
City Clerk
Date Approved by City Council: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Candice K. Lee,
City Attorney

CONSULTANT

Downs Government Affairs
1629 K. Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20006
Thomas Downs
(202) 403-2302

By: 
Name: THOMAS C. DOWNS
Title: PRINCIPAL

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

[Signatures of Two Corporate Officers Required]

NA - SOLE OWNER OF LLC
TCD

EXHIBIT A

TASKS TO BE PERFORMED

The specific elements (scope of work) of this service include:

- Assist in developing and implementing an annual federal agenda that will benefit the City
- Represent the City before the CA Congressional delegation and other congressional and federal offices
- Assist in tracking and seeking funding for priority initiatives for the City
- Evaluate the President's Annual Budget for funding opportunities
- Plan and coordinate the City's Washington DC visits
- Draft legislation and related advocacy materials for the City
- Maintain Lobbying Disclosure Act compliance
- Development of a Pre-Disaster Recovery Framework/Plan (FEMA, natural disasters)

EXHIBIT B

PAYMENT RATES AND SCHEDULE

Invoices will be paid at \$4,167.00/month with a total not to exceed amount on a fiscal year basis of \$55,000.