

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FROM:** Supervisor Stone

**SUBMITTAL DATE:** July 6, 2011

**SUBJECT:** STOP LOBBYING IN CALIFORNIA EXCESSIVELY (S.L.I.C.E.)

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the county continue the effective representation by our federal lobbyist, Tom Walters, and that the county **SLICE** out the following three state lobbying firms: Michael Corbett; Nielson, Merksamer; Cal Strategies, and retain the firm **Cline Duplissea**, that has done an *outstanding job* of lobbying on behalf of the county, and has kept board members aware of hostile county/state legislation.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Using just one Sacramento firm, Cline Duplissea, will save the taxpayers of our County **\$400,230.** a year during these challenging economic times.


**BACKGROUND:**

The County of Riverside has wisely utilized lobbying firms both at the State and Federal levels to advocate on our behalf. We spend a significant amount of taxpayer money on our lobbying efforts and a review is warranted and timely. In 2011, the county contracted with the following firms for lobbying services:

<u>LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY</u>	<u>FIRM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>CONTRACT ENDS</u>	<u>RENEWALS</u>
FEDERAL	TOM WALTERS	\$187,000	1/13	2
STATE	MICHAEL CORBETT	\$122,400	12/09	2
STATE	NIELSON, MERKSAMER	\$115,830	12/09	2
STATE	CLINE DUPLISSEA	\$147,600	12/11	0
STATE	CAL STRATEGIES	\$162,000	12/10	2
TOTAL FEDERAL ANNUAL COSTS FOR LOBBYING SERVICES:		\$187,000		
TOTAL STATE ANNUAL COSTS FOR LOBBYING SERVICES:		\$547,830		

The County of Riverside has been well served by the federal lobbyist, Tom Walters, who routinely visits the board policy makers here in Riverside and has been very helpful in arranging visits to Washington, DC with federal agencies and federal elected officials.

When examining the state lobbying investment, it is clear that the county is spending huge amounts of money and getting very little in return. Why does the county contract with four different firms to provide state advocacy on behalf of the county? Are the results positive? The state continues to enact unfriendly and punitive legislation in spite of the four lobbying firms under contract! With diminishing county budgets, and a legislature that is **completely dysfunctional**, using four expensive lobbying firms, with little influence in Sacramento, is no longer an effective use of taxpayer's money. The only firm that has regularly kept me apprised of state issues and sought my input is Cline Duplissea, which is the firm I am requesting we *retain*.

  
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Jeff Stone Third District Supervisor

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