

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



**FROM:** Supervisor Kevin Jeffries

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
December 31, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Re-Evaluation of Legislative Advocacy Needs by Riverside County

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the new Director of Legislative Affairs to do a comprehensive evaluation of Riverside County's lobbyist contracts, including legislative successes and failures; and
2. Postpone the renewals or new contracts with any lobbying firms until such report has been reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Riverside County Executive Office has recently created the new position of Director of Legislative Affairs to coordinate our state and federal legislative needs. Riverside County currently contracts with three state legislative lobbying firms at a cost of \$224,000 per year and a federal lobbyist at \$188,000 per year. The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District also contracts separately with a federal lobbyist for \$175,000 per year.

Kevin Jeffries, First District Supervisor

**BACKGROUND**

**Summary (continued)**

When Riverside was represented legislatively almost entirely by members of the minority party at both the state and federal level, it was important to have outside lobbying firms available to develop relationships and assist in gaining access with representatives of the State Legislative and Congressional leadership. At a time when Riverside County is represented by a strong, bi-partisan delegation in both Sacramento and Washington DC that stay in regular contact with members of the Board of Supervisors and County Staff, and who are sensitive to Riverside County's needs, it is time to re-evaluate the need for outside lobbying contracts, especially now that legislative expertise has been brought within the Executive Office in the new position of Director of Legislative Affairs.

This proposal instructs the Executive Office to postpone any extension or renewal of our current lobbying contracts or creation of any new contracts until such time as a comprehensive presentation is made to the Board by the Director of Legislative Affairs as to the past accomplishments of our current lobbyists, accompanied with a report as to a recommended legislative agenda and the utilization and justification to employ Sacramento lobbyists going forward.

**Impact on Citizens and Businesses**

Citizens and Businesses benefit from strong legislative advocacy that is done as cost effectively as possible. This proposal would evaluate the level of success from the county's current lobbyist team and consider whether future legislative advocacy could be done with fewer taxpayer dollars.