

**MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY**

c/o Novato Fire Protection District

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**DATE:** May 15, 2013

**TO:** MERA Governing Board

**FROM:** Maureen Cassingham, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** AGENDA ITEM **D-4**: PROPOSED FIRST AMENDMENT TO PERSONAL/  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR  
GENERAL COUNSEL BETWEEN MERA AND  
RICHARDS, WATSON & GERSHON, LLC

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**Recommended Action:** Approve the Proposed First Amendment to the Personal/Professional Services Contract for General Counsel between MERA and Richards, Watson & Gershon, LLC and authorize the Executive Officer to execute same.

**Background:** Richards, Watson & Gershon (RWG), since March 15, 2004, has provided legal services to MERA through General Counsels Stepanicich and Karpiak. Both Counsels and their firm have served MERA extremely well.

The attached Contract modifies the compensation or fees that have not been adjusted since 2004, or the last nine years. The proposed increase in hourly rates is from \$225 to \$250. Specialized rates remain the same: \$225 to \$295 per hour depending on attorney experience.

RWG, in addition to their quality services, has performed well within budget limitations and has been very sensitive to same.

**ATTACHMENT:** First Amendment to Personal/Professional Services Contract for General Counsel between MERA and Richards, Watson & Gershon, LLC