

EWEB Board Consent Calendar Request

For Contract Awards, Renewals, and Increases

The Board is being asked to approve an agreement and additional funds with **GDS Associates** for **Consulting/Legal Services**.

Board Meeting Date: October 1, 2024
Project Name/Contract #: Services Agreement / 19-2736
Manager: Megan Capper Ext. 7363
Executive Officer: Brian Booth Ext. 7774

Contract Amount:

Original Contract Amount: \$114,000 over first 5 years (2019-2023)
Additional \$ Previously Approved: \$0
Spend over last approval: \$0
Amount this Request: \$224,000 (\$114,000 from 2019-2023 and \$110,000 for 2024-2028)
% Increase over last approval: NA
Resulting Cumulative Total: **\$224,000 (over 10 years)**

Contracting Method:

Method of Solicitation: Direct Negotiation/Sole Source
If applicable, basis for exemption: EWEB Rule 6-180 Membership Fees – Trade Organization
Term of Agreement: Annual membership until EWEB elects to leave membership group
Option to Renew? Yes
Approval for purchases “as needed”: Yes No
Proposals/Bids Received (Range): NA
Selection Basis: Sole Source

Narrative:

Operational Requirement and Alignment with Strategic Plan

EWEB is part of the Western Power Agency Group (WPAG), a group of 25 publicly owned utilities in the Northwest that represents their members interests before BPA and in other regional and national forums and has been represented in every major BPA rate proceeding since 1980. The group has also been represented before Congress, the Northwest Power Planning Council, and other regional forums. As a requirement of membership, WPAG members share the costs of two consultants, including the legal firm GDS Associates. EWEB’s share of the consulting fees and expenses is determined annually by WPAG according to their budget allocation (provided annually) amongst all members. Since the cost of the consultants are shared among all members, this ensures that all members receive the best possible cost of the consulting services.

Contracted Goods or Services

The Board is being asked to approve an agreement with GDS Associates for EWEB’s portion of legal services as a membership requirement of WPAG.

Purchasing Process

Exemption – EWEB Rule 6-0180 Membership Fees for Trade Organizations

Proposals/Bids Received

NA

Prior Contract Activities

NA

ACTION REQUESTED:

Management requests the Board approve an agreement and additional funds with GDS Associates for Consulting/Legal Services. Approximately \$250,000 was planned for these services in the Energy Division 2024 budget. Variances will be managed within the budget process and Board policy.

BUDGET CATEGORY: Energy O&M, Memberships and Dues