

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2021**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 15**

**SUBJECT: ADVANCING FEDERAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On January 26, 2021(14), the Board authorized a revised 2021 Legislative Program that includes focused and succinct guiding principles and key legislative initiatives and priorities which set the County on a new course of advocacy. This Board also directed the CAO to review and calibrate the roles and responsibilities of the Office of Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs staff and functions according to the new legislative program to focus on proactive action and nimble advocacy of the adopted guiding principles and legislative priorities. Building on that direction, and in response to recent federal actions, it has become clear that the County would greatly benefit from having staff based in Washington, D.C. and co-located with the National Association of Counties (NACo).

The changing dynamics in Washington, D.C. over the first few months of the Biden Administration has provided fiscal and policy opportunities that greatly benefit the County of San Diego, with more opportunities on the horizon. Combined with our new, flexible Legislative Program that has allowed the County to engage for the first time proactively in a broad array of legislative opportunities, it is the right time to build momentum on the ground in Washington, D.C. Replicating a model adopted by Miami-Dade County, co-locating a staff member with NACo provides real-time and face-to-face access to the county-focused advocacy NACo provides as well as close proximity to Capitol Hill and our delegation's D.C. offices.

Today's action would add a staff member to the Office of Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs to be based in Washington, D.C. in the offices of NACo, and be responsible for focused efforts on advancing the Board's Legislative Program on all federal advocacy efforts.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Approve the request to add one staff year(s) to support the Office of Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs, take appropriate administrative actions to on-board, and direct the Department of Human Resources to classify the position at the appropriate level.
2. Authorize the Director of the Department of General Services, and upon successful negotiations, enter into a lease or license, and any other necessary agreement(s), with the National Association of Counties for office space and associated support services for one County employee for an initial term of up to five years with five one-year options.
3. Transfer appropriations of \$270,000 from the Finance and General Government Group Executive Office, Service and Supplies to the Chief Administrative Office, Salaries & Benefits (\$245,000) and Services & Supplies (\$25,000) in support of the addition of one staff year.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The County of San Diego has had items on two Board agendas this year to address crafting a Legislative Program that meets the needs of the entire region. This includes adding to the legislative priorities an Equity and Justice section as well as creating Guiding Principles to advocate for legislation that ensures equity, transparency, and access for all residents. By advancing these efforts through legislative advocacy at the federal level, we are ensuring policy change and financial resources for programs and services that benefit and uplift the residents we serve.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operational Plan in the Finance and General Government Group Executive Office. If approved, this request will result in estimated current year costs of \$270,000 based on unassigned General Fund fund balance, and similar ongoing annual costs in subsequent years based on General Purpose Revenue. There will be an increase in net General Fund cost and an increase of one staff year.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

## **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Fletcher, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Fletcher, Desmond

ABSENT: Lawson-Remer

State of California)  
County of San Diego)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**

**by** Andrew Potter

