



September 4, 2025

Board of Directors
Ventura Regional Sanitation District
Ventura, California

CONSIDER AND APPROVE ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$51,000 FOR LEBEAU THELEN LLP FOR LEGAL SERVICES RELATED TO THE COMPREHENSIVE GROUNDWATER ADJUDICATION CASE, OPV COALITION, ET AL. V. FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY, ET AL., SANTA BARBARA SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. VENCI00555357

RECOMMENDATIONS

Consider and approve additional funding pursuant to the May 15, 2025, engagement letter with LeBeau Thelen–) for legal services in an amount not to exceed \$51,000 regarding *OPV Coalition et al. v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, et al.*, Santa Barbara Superior Court Case VENCI00555357.

FISCAL IMPACT

An allocation of \$51,000 is necessary to cover these costs as they were not anticipated or included in the Adopted FY 2026-27 Budget. The monies would come from available fund balance of the Bailard Landfill.

BACKGROUND

On May 15, 2025, your Board approved an engagement letter with LeBeau Thelen LLP, a law firm in Bakersfield, CA with water rights expertise, for the subject legal services. So far, the retainer fee of \$3,500 has been paid and is being held by the law firm the District's account. The estimated amount in legal fees to the conclusion of this multi-phased lawsuit is approximately \$30,000 (on the high side), and VRSD currently has outstanding legal invoices totaling \$20,594.25 for May, June, and July 2025.

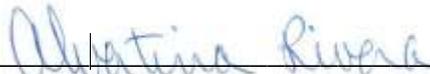
PROPOSAL

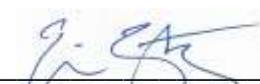
Staff recommends that the Board approve an additional amount of \$51,000 for LeBeau Thelen, LLP for its water litigation counsel in the subject matter.

This letter has been reviewed by Legal Counsel as to form.

If you should have any questions or need additional information, please contact Eric Zetz by phone at (805) 658-4648 or email at ericzetz@vrsd.com.

Eric Zetz, General Manager

APPROVED FOR FISCAL IMPACT: 
Tina Rivera, Director of Finance

APPROVED FOR AGENDA: 
Eric Zetz, General Manager

Attachments: None