



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 2, 2016

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: City Attorney's Office

SUBJECT: Authorization For Agreement For Legal Services With Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the City Attorney to execute a legal services agreement with Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC, in an amount not to exceed \$75,000, for special counsel services relating to utility rates.

DISCUSSION:

Local agencies must comply with the substantive and procedural requirements of Proposition 218, approved by the voters in 1996 (Cal. Constitution art. XIII D), before they can impose fees and charges for services, including water and sewer fees.

Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC is recognized in California as a top quality law firm on Proposition 218. The City Attorney's Office has worked with the Colantuono firm on several tax related matters and recommends that Council authorize the City Attorney to execute a legal services agreement in a not to exceed amount of \$75,000 to assist the City Attorney's Office.

SUBMITTED BY: Ariel Pierre Calonne, City Attorney

APPROVED BY: Ariel Pierre Calonne, City Attorney

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office