Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

[Email Me] Double click!

1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.
   The contract is for specialized legal services related to negotiations of Memorandum of Understanding with bargaining units for the In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority (Public Authority).
2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.
   Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, 5250 N. Palm Ave. Suite 310 Fresno CA 93704
   Contact: Shelline Bennett // (559) 256-7800 // sbennett@lcwlegal.com
3. What is the total cost of the acquisition? If an agreement, state the total cost of the initial term and the amounts for potential renewal terms.
   $175,00 over a 3 year-base term and 2 optional 1-year extensions, with no per term maximums.
4. Identify the unique qualities and/or capabilities of the service(s) and/or product(s) that qualify this as a Suspension of Competition acquisition.
   Liebert Cassidy Whitmore (LCW) specializes in working with Public Entities, Public Educational Institutions, Private Schools and Nonprofit Organizations. LCW have served as liaisons during negotiations between the Public Authority and SEIU labor since 2016. LCW possesses historical data regarding the agreement with the SEIU 2015 union. LCW provides labor law, guidelines, and strives to help negotiations move forward and avoid delays in the discussions. LCW also works with multiple neighboring counties and provides insights to the trends in labor discussions and legislation from the State. LCW are subject matter experts in the field of labor negotiations providing significant contributions for negotiations.
5. Identify from Administrative Policy #34 what circumstances constitute a Suspension of Competition.
   - ☐ In an emergency when goods or services are immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, welfare, or safety, or for the protection of County property.
   - ☐ When the contract is with a federal, state, or local governmental agency.
   - ☐ When the department head, with the concurrence of the Purchasing Agent, finds that the cost of preparing and administering a competitive bidding process in a particular case will equal or exceed the estimated contract amount or $5,000 whichever is more.
   - ☐ When a contract provides only for payment of per diem and travel expenses and there is to be no payment for services rendered.
   - ☒ When obtaining the services of expert witnesses for litigation or special counsel to assist the County.
   - ☐ When in unusual or extraordinary circumstances, the Board of Supervisors or the Purchasing Agent/Purchasing Manager determines that the best interests of the County would be served by not securing competitive bids or issuing a request for proposal.
6. Explain why the unique qualities and/or capabilities described above are essential to your department.
   The Public Authority has need of specialized counsel due to their unique role as employer of record for the purposes of the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act. As the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) recipient is the employer of represented IHSS providers there are unique challenges associated with the Public Authorities labor negotiations which only a specialized firm can address.
7. Provide a comprehensive explanation of the research done to verify that the recommended vendor is the only vendor with the unique qualities and/or capabilities stated above. Include a list of all other vendors contacted, what they were asked, and their responses.
   Online research was conducted searching for other law firms that handled labor negotiations between counties and the unions, especially with regards to IHSS. LCW were the only firm identified who specialized in aiding Counties in labor negotiations. A sample of those law offices investigated follows: The law offices of Tomassian, Pimentel, and Shapazian and James Diskint specialized in representing labor. The Law office of Melissa A. Proudian focused on individuals needing their cases reviewed to obtain assistance with social security denials.

cijones 5/15/2025 9:55:15 AM — Requested By:

Staff Analyst — Title

[Sign] Double click!

I approve this request to suspend competition for the service(s) and/or product(s) identified herein.

martik 5/15/2025 10:00:22 AM

[Sign] Double click!

Department Head Signature

rblackburn 5/23/2025 1:51:33 PM [⌫ Sign] Double click!

Purchasing Manager Signature