

## STAFF REPORT

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**DATE:** June 10, 2024  
**TO:** Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Jason Johnson, VP, Finance/CFO  
**SUBJ:** APPROVING THE SIXTH AMENDMENT TO THE PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH DENISE STANDRIDGE

### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Attached Resolution.

### RESULT OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approving the Resolution will amend the Personal Services Contract with Denise Standridge extending the contract through June 30, 2025, and increasing the total consideration to \$220,140.

### FISCAL IMPACT

The current total contract value is \$165,140, with a proposed increase in consideration in this amendment of \$55,000, to bring the total value to \$220,140. The additional cost is included in the FY25 Operating Budget.

### DISCUSSION

On February 5, 2020, SacRT entered into a Personal Services Contract with Denise Standridge to provide assistance to the Risk Management Department in managing and representing SacRT in personal injury tort claims filed against SacRT. Ms. Standridge is an attorney licensed to practice law in California. As noted below, she has extensive litigation experience and experience providing advice and counsel to a public transit agency. Ms. Standridge continues to provide expert guidance and support in litigation matters.

Ms. Standridge will also be providing training, assistance, and consultation to the Attorney III, Artak Paskevichyan, in the Risk Department regarding the handling of litigation matters. This includes but is not limited to virtually reviewing medical records; drafting legal documents and pleadings; taking and/or defending depositions; reviewing case files; interacting with experts; and making court appearances.

At this time, Mr. Paskevichyan is the sole in-house litigation attorney at SacRT. Ms. Standridge will assist with the trial preparations and the litigation workload. This

position will also be available to cover the sole Attorney III handling litigation whenever he is not available due to scheduling conflicts or if he is out on vacation or other leave.

Ms. Standridge brings with her a unique set of skills. She was general counsel and litigator for AC Transit in the Bay Area and has extensive experience in public transit and California public law. She has been in the public transit industry since 2001 and has been handling civil litigation for 30 years. She also spent 5-6 years litigating in Sacramento and was acting as settlement conference judge pro tem. She has handled 30 jury trials, thousands of depositions, and about 1,000 arbitrations and mediations. With Mr. Paskevichyan being the sole in-house litigation attorney, the litigation workload, and need for a back-up litigation attorney, SacRT's Attorney III will require the assistance and support of Ms. Standridge throughout the year to effectively defend lawsuits against SacRT.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-06-053

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Regional Transit District on this date:

June 10, 2024

**APPROVING THE SIXTH AMENDMENT TO THE PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH DENISE STANDRIDGE**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

THAT, the Board approves the execution of the Sixth Amendment to the Personal Services Contract Senior Attorney between Sacramento Regional Transit District, therein referred to as "SacRT," and Denise Standridge, therein referred to as "TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE," whereby the term is extended to June 30, 2025, and the total consideration is increased by \$55,000 to \$220,140, is hereby approved.

THAT, the Chair and General Manager/CEO are hereby authorized and directed to execute said Sixth Amendment.

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PATRICK KENNEDY, Chair

A T T E S T:

HENRY LI, Secretary

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tabetha Smith, Assistant Secretary