



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Office of the County Counsel



Date: February 7, 2017
Board Meeting Date: February 14, 2017
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: John C. Beiers, County Counsel

Subject: Agreement with Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell LLP for legal services in connection with the operation of San Carlos Airport

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing an agreement with Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell LLP for legal services in connection with the operation of San Carlos Airport.

BACKGROUND:

The San Carlos Airport is owned and operated by the County of San Mateo and is home to approximately 500 aircraft and over 25 aviation-related businesses generating over 130,000 flights per year. On March 8, 2016, your Board conducted a study session regarding a review of airport operations and options for noise reduction procedures. Since the session, County leadership and Airport staff have continued to meet with community residents, Airport businesses and Associations, State and Federally-elected Representatives, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to discuss options to reduce the impacts of aircraft overflights on the community. Further, County staff, at your Board's direction, has been reviewing airport operations and options for noise reduction procedures.

DISCUSSION:

In connection with County staff's review of airport operations and options for noise reduction procedures, staff requires legal services, including advice regarding relevant regulatory requirements and federal law. Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell LLP is a law firm specializing in aviation law, and it is particularly qualified to provide this type of advice. There are a limited number of law firms with this type of expertise. The County Counsel's office conducted a broad search for aviation law counsel and determined that Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell LLP was best suited to provide the legal services required.

Our office has reviewed and approved both the resolution and the agreement.

Authorizing this Agreement will contribute to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Livable Community by helping address San Carlos Airport concerns raised by residents, airport users and businesses in a way that fits their collective needs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The term of the agreement is February 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019. The total not-to-exceed amount is \$100,000. The Airport Enterprise Fund currently does not have sufficient funds to support this cost and funding will be needed from an alternative funding source, such as the General Fund.

