



**Contract and Award Letter  
Purchase Resolution – Exhibit “A”**

**TO:** Board of Contracts and Awards  
**FROM:** Christopher D. Bacha, City Attorney  
Ramiro Chavez, Environmental Services Director  
**COPY:** City Council, City Manager, City Clerk, EIC Coordinator, LEAP Coordinator, and  
Brittany Riolo, Senior Buyer, Finance/Procurement  
**SUBJECT:** Amendment to Legal Services Agreement with Marten Law LLP  
Contract No. C3720  
April 14, 2026 City Council  
**DATE:** March 16, 2026

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**RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY:**

The City Attorney’s Office and Environmental Services request approval to increase Contract No. C3720, with Marten Law, LLP, Seattle, WA, by \$500,000, plus applicable taxes, budgeted from Fund 4300, for expert legal services and representation to the City in matters related to the Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit (“PSNGP”), wastewater permits and/or litigation and administrative appeals arising from wastewater permits. This increase will bring the contract to a projected total of \$1,000,000.

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Foster a vibrant and diverse economy with good jobs for all Tacoma residents.
- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Law Firm was hired to provide legal services related to environmental law and regulation. The Law Firm has specialized knowledge and expertise in this practice area and can provide legal services and representation to the City in matters relating to wastewater permits and/or litigation and administrative appeals arising from wastewater permits.

**ISSUE:** This request to increase funding is made so that the Law Firm can continue its representation in ongoing PSNGP related permitting, wastewater permits and/or litigation and administrative appeals arising from wastewater permits.

**ALTERNATIVES:** An alternative would be to retain a different law firm; however, this would increase the cost of legal services and negatively impact the City’s ability to effectively take legal action through existing appeals and motions, and negotiate settlement.

Utilizing in-house counsel is another alternative, however, the City Attorney’s Office does not have the in-house resources that are necessary to effectively advocate on behalf of the City in the current litigation. Marten Law has a team of specialized attorneys with knowledge and experience in this field of law.



**COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS:**

Marten Law attorneys have substantial experience and expertise in environmental law matters and can provide the City with timely, cost-effective, and accurate advice and legal services.

CONTRACT HISTORY: This contract was originally awarded to Marten Law LLP, as a result of a Waiver – Direct Negotiation Agreement in January 2024. The agreement included a not to exceed amount of \$500,000.

SUSTAINABILITY: Amending the City’s contract with outside counsel will not increase the City’s carbon footprint as the majority of all meetings have been held remotely to minimize the carbon footprint associated with travel for in-person meetings.

**EQUITY IN CONTRACTING (EIC) COMPLIANCE:**

Not applicable - EIC Exception: Direct Negotiation Waiver

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM (LEAP) COMPLIANCE: Not applicable to this contract.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**EXPENDITURES:**

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
Wastewater Fund 4300	IO 80028009	5311300	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>Up to \$500,000</b>

**REVENUES:**

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
Wastewater Fund 4300	523900	4343150	(\$500,000)
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>Up to (\$500,000)</b>

**FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$500,000**

**ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes**

**IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED. N/A**

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