



## BOARD OF UTILITIES COMMISSIONERS

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CHRISTOPHER J. GARNER, General Manager

January 5, 2023

### **Subject**

Authorize the General Manager to execute the Second Amendment to Agreement WD-3577 to exercise a one-year contract term extension with The Gualco Group to provide state advocacy and lobbying services, in an amount not to exceed \$95,000.

### **Executive Summary**

In December 2020, the Long Beach Utilities Department (formerly Long Beach Water Department) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a state advocacy and lobbying consultant to support LBWD staff in the development and pursuit of Department legislative and regulatory priorities, as articulated in the Board-approved LBWD Policy Platform and Guidelines.

The Department entered into a one-year contract with The Gualco Group in an amount not to exceed \$95,000, with options to renew for two additional one-year periods with Board approval. In January 2021, the Board approved the first renewal of the current contract, effective January 1 through December 31, 2022. This request is for the second renewal of the current contract with The Gualco Group in an amount not to exceed \$95,000.

To maintain a strong, effective and respected Sacramento presence for the Department, The Gualco Group will continue to consult, monitor, represent, assist, and lobby the Legislature, the Office of the Governor, and various regulatory agencies including, but not limited to, the State Water Resources Control Board, the California Water Commission, and the Department of Water Resources. As the State of California has begun to incorporate climate change and energy efficiency considerations into much of their work, The Gualco Group is well-positioned to support the Department. Over the years, The Gualco Group has also engaged with the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), which in addition to water, provides information and advocacy work related to natural gas utility as well. During this second contract extension, The Gualco Group has committed to continue regular communication with the Board, coordinated through the General Manager and Government Affairs staff.

### **Recommendation**

Authorize the General Manager to execute the Second Amendment to Agreement WD-3577 to exercise a one-year contract term extension with The Gualco Group to provide state advocacy and lobbying services, in an amount not to exceed \$95,000.

**Fiscal Impact:** The maximum FY 23 cost of the contract to the Water Fund will be \$95,000. These costs are included in the Water Fund FY 23 Budget and financial projections.

Diana Tang  
Deputy General Manager

Christopher J. Garner  
General Manager