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December 20, 2011

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: CONTRACT WITH WEST, A THOMSON REUTERS BUSINESS, TO PROVIDE ONLINE COMPUTERIZED LEGAL RESEARCH ACCESS FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY, COUNTY COUNSEL, CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES, ELECTIONS, and THE MARIN COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY, AT COST OF \$30,288 FOR FIRST YEAR, \$31,200 FOR SECOND YEAR AND \$32,136 FOR THIRD YEAR

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the President of the Board of Supervisors to execute an agreement with West, a Thomson Reuters business, in the total amount of \$93,624 for three years of online computerized legal research access for five separate departments.

SUMMARY: For the past fifteen years, several departments (County Counsel, District Attorney, Public Defender, Elections, and Child Support Services) contracted for legal research software, support and training for over 120 users with West Group. The contract is up for renewal. The total contract amount for January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2014 is \$93,624, a result of prudent negotiations that held the annual payments to a 6% increase the first year and 3% the second and third years. The initial 6% increase is due to the fact that we will be utilizing West's new technology (Westlaw Next!), which is considerably faster, using new algorithmic principles similar to Google technology.

After investigating other software, ultimately the majority of departments preferred to stay with West. The Public Defender's office, on the other hand, decided to go with a different product that would better suit their department's needs and results in a savings. The majority picked up another office, the Marin Housing Authority, as a partner in the new 3-year contract, as West promised to deliver the Housing Authority's services at a better price than they could have obtained on their own.

The benefits of using Westlaw have been enormous. Departments now have immediate and improved access to materials, improving their ability to perform essential job duties in a quick-paced environment

In an effort to mitigate the initial 6% increase, West agreed to discount the District Attorney's book library subscription by 15% for the duration of the contract. Next year in April, the County Counsel's office will also become eligible to discount their book library subscription by the same amount.

County Counsel currently participates in an agreement with West to cap subscription rates to no more than 6% per year. This has saved the County approximately \$24,630 over current rates. Next year, the County Counsel's office will be reducing their book library for a savings of \$6,000 per year.

FISCAL IMPACT: Sufficient funds exist within each departmental operating budget, resulting in no impact to the general fund. The annual breakdown is as follows

TIME PERIOD	MONTHLY GUARANTEED TOTAL	YEARLY GUARANTEED TOTAL
First Year (1/1/12-1/31/12)	\$2,524	\$30,288
Second Year (1/1/13- 12/31/13)	\$2,600	\$31,200
Third Year (1/1/14-12/31/14)	\$2,678	\$32,136
TOTAL CONTRACT VALUE		\$93,624

County Counsel will remain responsible for the monthly payments on behalf of the other departments by arranging with the Department of Finance to pay costs directly from the other department's budget centers.

PURCHASE REQUISITION NUMBER: 10026075.

It is anticipated that with the constant improvement in search engines, that the need for paid online computerized legal research services will be eliminated in the future.

REVIEWED BY:

X	Auditor-Controller	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
X	County Counsel	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Resources	X	N/A

Respectfully submitted,

PATRICK K. FAULKNER
County Counsel

cc: Barry Borden, District Attorney,
Peggy Toth, District Attorney,
Elaine Ginnold, Registrar of Voters
Margaret Bandel, Child Support Services
Ilya Filmus, Marin Housing Dept.
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