

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**

Resolution authorizing execution of an amendment to the Agreement for Professional Services with Pacifica Law Group LLP, outside counsel for the City in addressing and investigating the events surrounding the January 17, 2022 landslide and in the lawsuit brought by the Surdi family in King County Superior Court, in an amount not to exceed \$625,000, exclusive of any applicable taxes.

Kathy Gerla, City Attorney, 452-7220  
Cheryl Zakrzewski, Assistant City Attorney, 452-4081  
*City Attorney's Office*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Resolution authorizes execution of an amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Pacifica Law Group for the continued investigation and response to the events surrounding the January 17, 2022 landslide in the Somerset neighborhood and as counsel for the City in the lawsuit brought by the Surdi family.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10147

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

On January 17, 2022, a landslide occurred in the Somerset neighborhood, knocking a home off its foundation. The City retained Pacifica Law Group to assist the City in addressing various legal issues which arose as a result of the landslide, including the demolition of the home, the investigation into the cause of the landslide, mitigation efforts by the various involved property owners, and in responding to numerous public records. On January 7, 2022, the Surdi family filed a lawsuit in King County Superior Court (Cause No: 22-2-08592-4) against the City. The Pacifica Law Group is also assisting the City in responding to and defending that lawsuit. This contract amendment covers ongoing work related to these ongoing legal issues, including but not limited to the investigation into the cause of the January 17, 2022 landslide and the defense of the lawsuit brought by the Surdi family.

**POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS****Policy Impact**

Bellevue City Code 4.28.040 provides that professional services contracts in excess of \$90,000 require Council approval.

**Fiscal Impact**

This action obligates the City to increase the total contract amount for legal services provided by Pacifica Law Group LLP by \$210,000.

Original Contract	\$ 40,000
Amendment #1	\$ 50,000
Amendment #2	\$210,000

Amendment #3	\$325,000
<b>New Contract Total Amount</b>	<b>\$625,000</b>

Sufficient funds exist within the 2021-2022 biennial budget to fund this contract.

## OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing execution of an amendment to the Agreement for Professional Services with Pacifica Law Group LLP, outside counsel for the City in addressing and investigating the events surrounding the January 17, 2022 landslide and in the lawsuit brought by the Surdi family in King County Superior Court, in an amount not to exceed \$625,000, exclusive of any applicable taxes.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

## ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Resolution No. 10147

## AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

Amendment #3 to the Agreement for Services (Professional Services Contract)