

ATKINSON, ANDELSON, LOYA, RUUD & ROMO

A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

12800 CENTER COURT DRIVE SOUTH, SUITE 300
CERRITOS, CALIFORNIA 90703-9364
(562) 653-3200 • (714) 826-5480

FAX (562) 653-3333
WWW.AALRR.COM

FRESNO
(559) 225-6700

IRVINE
(949) 453-4260

MARIN
(628) 234-6200

PASADENA
(626) 583-8600

PLEASANTON
(925) 227-9200

RIVERSIDE
(951) 683-1122

SACRAMENTO
(916) 923-1200

SAN DIEGO
(858) 485-9526

December 3, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Stefan Bean
FROM: Anthony P. De Marco
DATE: December 3, 2024
RE: OCDE - Counsel for Committee

Dr. Bean, pursuant to the request of the County Committee, which is interested in associating with legal counsel, I believe the following three attorneys could be the best fit. I am familiar with each of these attorneys and their expertise, both through interaction with mutual Orange County clients, and through my affiliation with the California Council of School Attorneys as a past Board Member and President.

- Spencer Covert (Tustin, CA). Mr. Covert is a shareholder in the firm of Parker & Covert. Mr. Covert has broad expertise in the representation of K12 school districts, community colleges, and county offices of education. Although Mr. Covert does not typically personally do all of the committee work himself, Mr. Covert's firm has 8 attorneys, and real estate matters are included within their specialties. Mr. Covert's rates are competitive, typically in the \$375-\$450 per hour range.
- Margaret Chidester (Irvine, CA). Ms. Chidester is the owner of the Law Offices of Margaret A. Chidester. Ms. Chidester has extensive experience representing public education agencies. Ms. Chidester also has specific expertise working on the types of issues likely to require the Committee to seek legal advice. Ms. Chidester's hourly rates tend to be more cost efficient, in the range of \$350-\$375 per hour.
- Michael Travis (Irvine, CA). Mr. Travis is a partner at Best, Best & Krieger. Mr. Travis formerly worked for Mr. Covert, and also worked for a time at Lozano Smith. Mr. Travis is known for his representation of mostly K12 and community college districts. However, he is an experienced attorney and could handle any of the questions coming from the Committee members. BBK rates are typically a little higher than most firms which specialize in school law; perhaps in the \$400-\$500 range.