RPLG Renne Public Law Group®
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May 4, 2026

Via Email: bfreeman@napa.lafco.ca.gov
Brendon Freeman
Executive Officer
Napa Local Agency Formation Commission
1754 2nd St Unit C
Napa, CA 94559

Re: Legal Services Agreement – Local Agency Formation Commission of Napa County

Dear Mr. Freeman:

Thank you for providing Renne Public Law Group ("RPLG") with the opportunity to provide legal services on behalf of the Local Agency Formation Commission of Napa County ("Napa LAFCO"). We appreciate the opportunity to serve as Napa LAFCO's lawyers and look forward to working with you on this matter.

This letter sets forth our agreement concerning the legal services we will provide and our fee and expense reimbursement arrangements for those services. This agreement creates an attorney-client relationship between Napa LAFCO and RPLG. Please read this entire agreement before signing and returning it to us.

1. **Scope of Engagement.** RPLG will provide legal advice and representation to Napa LAFCO in connection with two pending applications involving the City of American Canyon. Our work is limited to such services. If we agree to provide legal services in additional discrete matters, we will confirm the engagement and bill separately for such services.

2. **Fees and Personnel.** As compensation for our services, our fees will be based on a blended rate of $350.00 for all attorneys. Rates will generally be increased annually on January 1 by the greater of 5% or the relevant local CPI increase over the prior 12-month period, rounded to the nearest $5.

   I will be the attorney in charge of your matter. However, this agreement retains the legal services of our law firm and not of a particular attorney. If other attorneys are assigned to work on your matter, their time will be billed at the blended rate. In the unlikely event of a dispute over fees, the parties agree that the dispute will be submitted to arbitration pursuant to the California State Bar's Mandatory Fee Arbitration Program. Compensation for the services described in this agreement, inclusive of expenses, is not to exceed $5,000.00 unless this agreement is approved by the Napa LAFCO Commission.

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3. **Billing and Payment Responsibilities.** RPLG will send monthly statements, which are due within 30 days of receipt. If Napa LAFCO has any questions about an invoice, please promptly telephone or write to me so that we may discuss these matters. Billing is done in 1/10ths of an hour increments.

   Billing and payment procedures are outlined in Attachment A

4. **Termination of Services.** Napa LAFCO may terminate RPLG's services at any time by written notice. After receiving such notice, we will cease providing services. RPLG will cooperate with Napa LAFCO in the orderly transfer of all related files and records to Napa LAFCO's new counsel.

   RPLG may terminate its services for any reason upon reasonable written notice, consistent with the Rules of Professional Conduct. If we terminate our services, you agree to execute a substitution of attorneys promptly and otherwise cooperate in effecting that termination.

   Termination of our services, whether by you or by us, will not relieve the obligation to pay for services rendered and costs incurred before our services formally ceased.

5. **No Guarantee of Outcome.** Any comments made by us about the potential outcome of this matter are expressions of opinion only and are not guarantees or promises about any outcome or results.

6. **Governing Law.** This agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

7. **Entire Agreement; Full Understanding; Modifications in Writing.** This letter contains our entire agreement about our representation. Any modifications or additions to this letter agreement must be made in writing.

8. **Joint Representation.** Our firm maintains Of Counsel agreements with certain legal specialists. Because these individuals are deemed independent contractors under the applicable provisions of the tax laws and not employees of the firm, it is necessary that you consent to dual representation by the firm and the specialist in the event the matter that you have engaged us to handle requires the use of that specialist. This arrangement has no effect whatsoever on the cost of your legal services; rather it is an ethical requirement that we disclose this fact and that you consent. You are consenting by signing this letter.

9. **Conflicts.** As you know, RPLG represents numerous public agencies, nonprofits and private clients throughout California. It is inevitable that certain clients might have certain objectives and policies that are not shared by other clients. For example, a city may support proposed legislation, while another city may be opposed to it.

Napa LAFCO recognizes this reality, acknowledges that this sort of policy disagreement may occur, and agrees that it will not assert a legal conflict of interest based on these types of policy or legislative disagreements. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to diminish or override RPLG's duty to adhere to the Rules of Professional Responsibility, including the rules governing legal conflicts of interest.

10. **Indemnification.** To the fullest extent permitted by law**,** RPLG shall indemnify, defend, and save harmless Napa LAFCO, its agents, officers, and employees from and against any and all liability, expenses, including defense costs and legal fees, and claims for damages resulting from RPLG's willful misconduct or negligent acts or omissions, arising from or connected with services performed under this Agreement. RPLG's obligations under this paragraph apply unless it is finally adjudicated that the liability was caused by the negligence or sole willful misconduct of Napa LAFCO. If it is finally adjudicated that liability is caused by the comparative negligence or willful misconduct of Napa LAFCO, then RPLG's obligation under this paragraph shall be reduced in proportion to the established comparative liability.

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11. **Insurance.** RPLG shall maintain Professional Liability Insurance that covers the service to be performed in connection with the Agreement in an amount not less than $2 million.

Very truly yours,

Rubin E. Cruse, Jr.
Partner

Approved:

Jonathan V. Holtzman
Managing Partner

cc: RPLG Billing Department

These terms are accepted and agreed to as of the date of this letter.

Napa Local Agency Formation Commission

Signature: Brendon Freeman

Print Name: Brendon Freeman
Title: Executive Officer

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ATTACHMENT A

RENNE PUBLIC LAW GROUP
STATEMENT OF FEE AND BILLING INFORMATION

The following is a general description of our fee and billing policies. These general policies may be modified by the specific engagement letter or agreement to which this summary is attached.

Professional Fees. Our fees for professional services are based on the fair value of the services rendered. To help us determine the value of our services, our attorneys and paralegals maintain time records for each client and matter. Our attorneys and paralegals are assigned hourly rates which are based on years of experience, specialization, training and level of professional attainment. We adjust our rates periodically (usually at the beginning of each year) to take into account inflation and the increased experience of our professional personnel.

To keep professional fees at a minimum, legal work that does not require more experienced attorneys will be performed, where feasible, by attorneys with lower billing rates. Of course, the quality of the work is paramount, and we do not sacrifice quality to economy.

Before undertaking a particular assignment, we will, if requested, provide you with a fee estimate to the extent possible. Estimates are not possible for some matters, however, and cannot be relied on in many others because the scope of our work will not be clear at the outset. When a fee estimate is given, it is only an estimate; it is not a maximum or minimum fee quotation. The actual fee may be more or less than the quoted estimate.

Billing and Payment Procedures. Unless other arrangements are made at the time of the engagement, invoices will be sent monthly. Invoices for outside services exceeding $100 may be billed separately. Occasionally, however, we may defer billing for a given month or months if the accrued fees and costs do not warrant current billing or if other circumstances would make it appropriate to defer billing.

Our invoices contain a brief narrative description of the work performed; if requested, the initials of the attorney who performed the work will appear on the statement. The invoice will include a line item reflecting in-house administrative costs. The firm's in-house administrative costs include duplicating, facsimile charges, telephone charges, e-mail, postage, mileage and other administrative expenses.

The Firm charges separately for disbursements to third parties made on the client's behalf. Such costs and disbursements include, for example, the following: travel-related expenses, transcription, overnight delivery, production and messenger services.

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If you have any questions regarding an invoice, the Billing Coordinator or Accounting Manager is available to answer your questions. For any unresolved matters, the Bar Association has an arbitration mechanism that can be used to resolve such matters.