



Commission Staff Report

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: December 5, 2024

SUBJECT: LaVigne Strategies, LLC—Three Year Multi-Task Consulting Services Agreement, with an option to extend for two additional years, for State Legislative Consulting Services; Applicable to the following: Northern California Power Agency (NCPA)

AGENDA CATEGORY: Consent

FROM:	Jane Cirrincione	METHOD OF SELECTION:
	Assistant General Manager	<i>Competitive Pricing Process</i>
Division:	Legislative & Regulatory Affairs	<i>If other, please describe:</i>
Department:	Legislative & Regulatory	

IMPACTED MEMBERS:

All Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	City of Lodi <input type="checkbox"/>	City of Shasta Lake <input type="checkbox"/>
Alameda Municipal Power <input type="checkbox"/>	City of Lompoc <input type="checkbox"/>	City of Ukiah <input type="checkbox"/>
San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit <input type="checkbox"/>	City of Palo Alto <input type="checkbox"/>	Plumas-Sierra REC <input type="checkbox"/>
City of Biggs <input type="checkbox"/>	City of Redding <input type="checkbox"/>	Port of Oakland <input type="checkbox"/>
City of Gridley <input type="checkbox"/>	City of Roseville <input type="checkbox"/>	Truckee Donner PUD <input type="checkbox"/>
City of Healdsburg <input type="checkbox"/>	City of Santa Clara <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>

If other, please specify

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution 24-136 authorizing the General Manager or his designee to enter into a Multi-Task Consulting Services Agreement with LaVigne Strategies, LLC for state legislative consulting services, with any non-substantial changes recommended and approved by NCPA General Counsel, with a not-to-exceed amount of \$180,000 per year and a not-to-exceed amount of \$540,000 over the three-year term, for use by NCPA. The agreement includes the possibility for amendment to extend the term for an additional two years for a maximum contract term of five years and, in that event, a total not-to-exceed amount of \$900,000.

BACKGROUND:

NCPA has contracted for state legislative consulting services with Government Affairs Consulting for several decades, but due to the retirement of the firm's Principal Gregg Cook at the end of 2024, NCPA issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) LR 2401 on September 10, 2024 to solicit proposals from qualified consultants providing outside state legislative consulting services. The scope of services include representation before the State Legislature and the Administration, advocacy on behalf of policies that promote the interests of the electricity consumers served by our member utility systems, and support of NCPA member advocacy and conference events. Qualifications required a minimum of ten years of direct lobbying experience before the State Legislature, an understanding of public power-related policy issues, and demonstrated proactive approach to advocacy.

NCPA created a review group for the RFP consisting of NCPA staff, General Manager, and a Commission representative to evaluate and score timely proposals submitted to the RFP. Six vendors responded to the RFP by the deadline of October 15, 2024; all six responses received were from established and successful lobbying firms. LaVigne Strategies, LLC was selected based on the scoring review group's evaluation of the firm's costs, experience, and project approach. The proposal meets and exceeds the required qualifications, and the firm has demonstrated an ability to effectively perform all of the duties within the RFP's scope of work. In addition, LaVigne Strategies, LLC will subcontract with Boot Advocacy for additional support and coverage of NCPA's lobbying and advocacy needs, providing a strong team of two senior principals to represent NCPA.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Upon execution, the total cost of the agreement is not to exceed \$540,000.00 over three years. The fee for these state legislative services will be paid as a \$15,000 monthly retainer including all expenses. This fee will not change over the three-year term of the contract. NCPA expenditures for these services are limited to the amount authorized for state legislative advocacy by the NCPA Commission in the agency's annual budget. The agreement includes an option to extend the contract for an additional two years for a maximum contract term of five years and, in that event, a total not-to-exceed amount of \$900,000. If the contract is extended, the monthly retainer will remain at \$15,000 for the entire five-year term.

SELECTION PROCESS:

One vendor was selected as a result of an RFP process in accordance with NCPA's procurement policies and procedures. An RFP was posted on NCPA's website from September 10, 2024 through October 15, 2024. Six responses were received and evaluated based upon the

following criteria: 1) Quality and completeness of proposal; 2) Knowledge, experience and skills to provide the requested services; 3) Staffing availability to support advocacy needs without interruption; 4) Competitive rates for the requested services; 5) Demonstrated strong client focus; and 6) Existing client base compatibility with NCPA's interests and needs.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

This activity would not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the physical environment and is therefore not a "project" for purposes of Section 21065 the California Environmental Quality Act. No environmental review is necessary.

COMMITTEE REVIEW:

Pending Legislative & Regulatory Affairs Committee review and approval during its regularly scheduled meeting on December 4, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

RANDY S. HOWARD
General Manager

Attachments (2):

- Resolution 24-136
- Multi-Task Consulting Services Agreement with LaVigne Strategies, LLC

RESOLUTION 24-136

**RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA POWER AGENCY
APPROVING A MULTI-TASK CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH
LAVIGNE STRATEGIES, LLC**

(reference Staff Report #279:24)

WHEREAS, state legislative consulting services are required by the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) to assure strong representation of the agency and its Members as state legislative policies are developed; and

WHEREAS, a vendor to provide these services was selected as a result of a recent Request for Proposal process in accordance with NCPA's procurement policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, LaVigne Strategies, LLC is an experienced and highly-qualified provider of these services; and

WHEREAS, the NCPA Commission has reviewed the Multi-Task Consulting Services Agreement with LaVigne Strategies, LLC to provide such services as needed by NCPA; and

WHEREAS, this activity would not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the physical environment and is therefore not a "project" for purposes of Section 21065 the California Environmental Quality Act. No environmental review is necessary; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission of the Northern California Power Agency authorizes the General Manager or his designee to enter into a Multi-Task Consulting Services Agreement for state legislative consulting services, with any non-substantial changes as approved by the NCPA General Counsel, which shall not exceed \$540,000 over three years, for use by NCPA. The agreement includes an option to extend the term for an additional two years for a maximum contract term of five years and, in that event, a total not-to-exceed amount of \$900,000

PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2024 by the following vote on roll call:

	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Abstained</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Alameda	_____	_____	_____
San Francisco BART	_____	_____	_____
Biggs	_____	_____	_____
Gridley	_____	_____	_____
Healdsburg	_____	_____	_____
Lodi	_____	_____	_____
Lompoc	_____	_____	_____
Palo Alto	_____	_____	_____
Port of Oakland	_____	_____	_____
Redding	_____	_____	_____
Roseville	_____	_____	_____
Santa Clara	_____	_____	_____
Shasta Lake	_____	_____	_____
Truckee Donner	_____	_____	_____
Ukiah	_____	_____	_____
Plumas-Sierra	_____	_____	_____

JENELLE OSBORNE
CHAIR

ATTEST: CARRIE POLLO
ASSISTANT SECRETARY



MULTI-TASK CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA POWER AGENCY AND LAVIGNE STRATEGIES, LLC

This Consulting Services Agreement ("Agreement") is made by and between the Northern California Power Agency, a joint powers agency with its main office located at 651 Commerce Drive, Roseville, CA 95678-6420 ("Agency") and LaVigne Strategies, LLC, a corporation with its office located at 1215 K Street, Suite 2230, Sacramento, CA 95814 ("Consultant") (together sometimes referred to as the "Parties") as of _____, 2024 ("Effective Date") in Roseville, California.

Section 1. SERVICES. Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement, Consultant shall provide to Agency the services described in the Scope of Services attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein ("Services"), at the time and place and in the manner specified therein.

- 1.1 Term of Agreement.** The term of this Agreement shall begin on the Effective Date and shall end when Consultant completes the Services, or no later than three (3) years from the date this Agreement was signed by Agency, whichever is shorter, unless the term of the Agreement is otherwise terminated or modified, as provided herein. The Parties may elect to execute an Option to Extend the three-year term for two additional years, as mutually agreed, however the total maximum term of the Agreement shall not exceed five (5) years. A copy of the Two-Year Option to Extend the Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit C.
- 1.2 Standard of Performance.** Consultant shall perform the Services in the manner and according to the standards observed by a competent practitioner of the profession in which Consultant is engaged and for which Consultant is providing the Services. Consultant represents that it is licensed, qualified and experienced to provide the Services set forth herein.
- 1.3 Assignment of Personnel.** Consultant shall assign only competent personnel to perform the Services. In the event that Agency, in its sole discretion, at any time during the term of this Agreement, requests the reassignment of any such personnel, Consultant shall, immediately upon receiving written notice from Agency of such request, reassign such personnel.
- 1.4 Services Provided.** Services provided under this Agreement by Consultant may include Services directly to the Agency.
- 1.5 Request for Services.** At such time that Agency determines to use Consultant's Services under this Agreement, Agency shall issue a Purchase Order. The Purchase Order shall identify the specific services to be performed ("Requested Services"), may include a not-to-exceed monetary cap on Requested Services and expenditures authorized by that Purchase Order, and a time by which the Requested Services shall be completed. Consultant shall have seven calendar days from the date of the Agency's issuance of the Purchase Order in which to respond in writing that Consultant chooses not to perform the Requested

Services. If Consultant agrees to perform the Requested Services, begins to perform the Requested Services, or does not respond within the seven day period specified, then Consultant will have agreed to perform the Requested Services on the terms set forth in the Purchase Order, this Agreement and its Exhibits.

Section 2. COMPENSATION. Agency hereby agrees to pay Consultant an amount **NOT TO EXCEED** One Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$180,000) per year and Five Hundred Forty Thousand dollars (\$540,000) over the three (3) year term of the Agreement for the Services, which shall include all fees, costs, expenses and other reimbursables, as set forth in Consultant's fee schedule, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit B. This dollar amount is not a guarantee that Agency will pay that full amount to the Consultant, but is merely a limit of potential Agency expenditures under this Agreement. Should the Parties execute an Option to Extend the Agreement for an additional two years on the same terms and conditions, the total not-to-exceed amount over the five (5) year term of the Agreement would be Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000).

2.1 Invoices. Consultant shall submit invoices, not more often than once a month during the term of this Agreement, based on the cost for services performed and reimbursable costs incurred prior to the invoice date. Invoices shall contain the following information:

- The beginning and ending dates of the billing period;
- Services performed;
- The Purchase Order number authorizing the Services;
- At Agency's option, the total number of hours of work performed under the Agreement by Consultant and each employee, agent, and subcontractor of Consultant performing services hereunder; and
- At Agency's option, when the Consultant's Scope of Work identifies tasks, for each work item in each task, a copy of the applicable time entries showing the name of the person doing the work, the hours spent by each person, a brief description of the work, and each reimbursable expense, with supporting documentation, to Agency's reasonable satisfaction.

Invoices shall be sent to:

Northern California Power Agency
651 Commerce Drive
Roseville, California 95678
Attn: Accounts Payable
AcctsPayable@ncpa.com

2.2 Monthly Payment. Agency shall make monthly payments, based on invoices received, for services satisfactorily performed, and for authorized reimbursable costs incurred. Agency shall have thirty (30) days from the receipt of an invoice that complies with all of the requirements above to pay Consultant.

- 2.3 Payment of Taxes.** Consultant is solely responsible for the payment of all federal, state and local taxes, including employment taxes, incurred under this Agreement.
- 2.4 Authorization to Perform Services.** The Consultant is not authorized to perform any Services or incur any costs whatsoever under the terms of this Agreement until receipt of written authorization from the Contract Administrator.
- 2.5 Timing for Submittal of Final Invoice.** Consultant shall have ninety (90) days after completion of its Services to submit its final invoice for the Requested Services. In the event Consultant fails to submit an invoice to Agency for any amounts due within the ninety (90) day period, Consultant is deemed to have waived its right to collect its final payment from Agency.

Section 3. FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT. Except as set forth herein, Consultant shall, at its sole cost and expense, provide all facilities and equipment that may be necessary to perform the Services.

Section 4. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS. Before beginning any work under this Agreement, Consultant, at its own cost and expense, shall procure the types and amounts of insurance listed below and shall maintain the types and amounts of insurance listed below for the period covered by this Agreement.

- 4.1 Workers' Compensation.** If Consultant employs any person, Consultant shall maintain Statutory Workers' Compensation Insurance and Employer's Liability Insurance for any and all persons employed directly or indirectly by Consultant with limits of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per accident.
- 4.2 Commercial General and Automobile Liability Insurance.**
- 4.2.1 Commercial General Insurance.** Consultant shall maintain commercial general liability insurance for the term of this Agreement, including products liability, covering any loss or liability, including the cost of defense of any action, for bodily injury, death, personal injury and broad form property damage which may arise out of the operations of Consultant. The policy shall provide a minimum limit of \$2,000,000 per occurrence/\$2,000,000 aggregate. Commercial general coverage shall be at least as broad as ISO Commercial General Liability form CG 0001 (current edition) on "an occurrence" basis covering comprehensive General Liability, with a self-insured retention or deductible of no more than \$100,000. No endorsement shall be attached limiting the coverage.
- 4.2.2 Automobile Liability.** Consultant shall maintain automobile liability insurance form CA 0001 (current edition) for the term of this Agreement covering any loss or liability, including the cost of defense of any action, arising from the operation, maintenance or use of any vehicle (symbol 1),

whether or not owned by the Consultant, on or off Agency premises. The policy shall provide a minimum limit of \$1,000,000 per each accident, with a self-insured retention or deductible of no more than \$100,000. This insurance shall provide contractual liability covering all motor vehicles and mobile equipment to the extent coverage may be excluded from general liability insurance.

4.2.3 General Liability/Umbrella Insurance. The coverage amounts set forth above may be met by a combination of underlying and umbrella policies as long as in combination the limits equal or exceed those stated.

4.3 Professional Liability Insurance. Not applicable.

4.4 All Policies Requirements.

4.4.1 Verification of coverage. Prior to beginning any work under this Agreement, Consultant shall provide Agency with (1) a Certificate of Insurance that demonstrates compliance with all applicable insurance provisions contained herein and (2) policy endorsements to the policies referenced in Section 4.2, adding the Agency as an additional insured and declaring such insurance primary in regard to work performed pursuant to this Agreement.

4.4.2 Notice of Reduction in or Cancellation of Coverage. Consultant shall provide at least thirty (30) days prior written notice to Agency of any reduction in scope or amount, cancellation, or modification adverse to Agency of the policies referenced in Section 4.

4.4.3 Higher Limits. If Consultant maintains higher limits than the minimums specified herein, the Agency shall be entitled to coverage for the higher limits maintained by the Consultant.

4.4.4 Additional Certificates and Endorsements. Not applicable.

4.4.5 Waiver of Subrogation. Consultant agrees to waive subrogation which any insurer of Consultant may acquire from Consultant by virtue of the payment of any loss. Consultant agrees to obtain any endorsement that may be necessary to effect this waiver of subrogation. In addition, the Workers' Compensation policy shall be endorsed with a waiver of subrogation in favor of Agency for all work performed by Consultant, its employees, agents and subcontractors.

4.5 Consultant's Obligation. Consultant shall be solely responsible for ensuring that all equipment, vehicles and other items utilized in the performance of Services are operated, provided or otherwise utilized in a manner that ensures they are and remain covered by the policies referenced in Section 4 during this

Agreement. Consultant shall also ensure that all workers involved in the provision of Services are properly classified as employees, agents or independent contractors and are and remain covered by any and all workers' compensation insurance required by applicable law during this Agreement.

Section 5. INDEMNIFICATION AND CONSULTANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

- 5.1 Effect of Insurance.** Agency's acceptance of insurance certificates and endorsements required under this Agreement does not relieve Consultant from liability under this indemnification and hold harmless clause. This indemnification and hold harmless clause shall apply to any damages or claims for damages whether or not such insurance policies shall have been determined to apply. By execution of this Agreement, Consultant acknowledges and agrees to the provisions of this Section and that it is a material element of consideration.
- 5.2 Scope.** Consultant shall indemnify, defend with counsel reasonably acceptable to the Agency, and hold harmless the Agency, and its officials, commissioners, officers, employees, agents and volunteers from and against all losses, liabilities, claims, demands, suits, actions, damages, expenses, penalties, fines, costs (including without limitation costs and fees of litigation), judgments and causes of action of every nature arising out of or in connection with any acts or omissions by Consultant, its officers, officials, agents, and employees, except as caused by the sole or gross negligence of Agency. Notwithstanding, should this Agreement be construed as a construction agreement under Civil Code section 2783, then the exception referenced above shall also be for the active negligence of Agency.

Section 6. STATUS OF CONSULTANT.

- 6.1 Independent Contractor.** Consultant is an independent contractor and not an employee of Agency. Agency shall have the right to control Consultant only insofar as the results of Consultant's Services and assignment of personnel pursuant to Section 1; otherwise, Agency shall not have the right to control the means by which Consultant accomplishes Services rendered pursuant to this Agreement. Notwithstanding any other Agency, state, or federal policy, rule, regulation, law, or ordinance to the contrary, Consultant and any of its employees, agents, and subcontractors providing services under this Agreement shall not qualify for or become entitled to, and hereby agree to waive any and all claims to, any compensation, benefit, or any incident of employment by Agency, including but not limited to eligibility to enroll in the California Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) as an employee of Agency and entitlement to any contribution to be paid by Agency for employer contributions and/or employee contributions for PERS benefits.

Consultant shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Agency for the payment of any employee and/or employer contributions for PERS benefits on behalf of Consultant or its employees, agents, or subcontractors, as well as for the

payment of any penalties and interest on such contributions, which would otherwise be the responsibility of Agency. Consultant and Agency acknowledge and agree that compensation paid by Agency to Consultant under this Agreement is based upon Consultant's estimated costs of providing the Services, including salaries and benefits of employees, agents and subcontractors of Consultant.

Consultant shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Agency from any lawsuit, administrative action, or other claim for penalties, losses, costs, damages, expense and liability of every kind, nature and description that arise out of, pertain to, or relate to such claims, whether directly or indirectly, due to Consultant's failure to secure workers' compensation insurance for its employees, agents, or subcontractors.

Consultant agrees that it is responsible for the provision of group healthcare benefits to its fulltime employees under 26 U.S.C. § 4980H of the Affordable Care Act. To the extent permitted by law, Consultant shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless Agency from any penalty issued to Agency under the Affordable Care Act resulting from the performance of the Services by any employee, agent, or subcontractor of Consultant.

- 6.2 Consultant Not Agent.** Except as Agency may specify in writing, Consultant shall have no authority, express or implied, to act on behalf of Agency in any capacity whatsoever as an agent. Consultant shall have no authority, express or implied, pursuant to this Agreement to bind Agency to any obligation whatsoever.
- 6.3 Assignment and Subcontracting.** This Agreement contemplates personal performance by Consultant and is based upon a determination of Consultant's unique professional competence, experience, and specialized professional knowledge. A substantial inducement to Agency for entering into this Agreement was and is the personal reputation and competence of Consultant. Consultant may not assign this Agreement or any interest therein without the prior written approval of the Agency. Consultant shall not subcontract any portion of the performance contemplated and provided for herein, other than to the subcontractors identified in Exhibit A, without prior written approval of the Agency. Where written approval is granted by the Agency, Consultant shall supervise all work subcontracted by Consultant in performing the services and shall be responsible for all work performed by a subcontractor as if Consultant itself had performed such work. The subcontracting of any work to subcontractors shall not relieve Consultant from any of its obligations under this Agreement with respect to the services and Consultant is obligated to ensure that any and all subcontractors performing any services shall be fully insured in all respects and to the same extent as set forth under Section 4, to Agency's satisfaction.

Section 7. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

- 7.1 **Governing Law.** The laws of the State of California shall govern this Agreement.
- 7.2 **Compliance with Applicable Laws.** Consultant and its subcontractors and agents, if any, shall comply with all laws applicable to the performance of the work hereunder.
- 7.3 **Licenses and Permits.** Consultant represents and warrants to Agency that Consultant and its employees, agents, and subcontractors (if any) have and will maintain at their sole expense during the term of this Agreement all licenses, permits, qualifications, and approvals of whatever nature that are legally required to practice their respective professions.

Section 8. TERMINATION AND MODIFICATION.

- 8.1 **Termination.** Agency may cancel this Agreement at any time and without cause upon ten (10) days prior written notice to Consultant.

In the event of termination, Consultant shall be entitled to compensation for Services satisfactorily completed as of the effective date of termination; Agency, however, may condition payment of such compensation upon Consultant delivering to Agency any or all records or documents, as referenced in Section 9.1 hereof.

- 8.2 **Amendments.** The Parties may amend this Agreement only by a writing signed by all the Parties.
- 8.3 **Survival.** All obligations arising prior to the termination of this Agreement and all provisions of this Agreement allocating liability between Agency and Consultant shall survive the termination of this Agreement.
- 8.4 **Options upon Breach by Consultant.** If Consultant materially breaches any of the terms of this Agreement, including but not limited to those set forth in Section 4, Agency's remedies shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- 8.4.1 Immediately terminate the Agreement;
 - 8.4.2 Retain the plans, specifications, drawings, reports, design documents, and any other work product prepared by Consultant pursuant to this Agreement;
 - 8.4.3 Retain a different consultant to complete the Services not finished by Consultant; and/or
 - 8.4.4 Charge Consultant the difference between the costs to complete the Services that is unfinished at the time of breach and the amount that

Agency would have paid Consultant pursuant hereto if Consultant had completed the Services.

Section 9. KEEPING AND STATUS OF RECORDS.

- 9.1 Records Created as Part of Consultant's Performance.** All reports, data, maps, models, charts, studies, surveys, photographs, memoranda, plans, studies, specifications, records, files, or any other documents or materials, in electronic or any other form, that Consultant prepares or obtains pursuant to this Agreement and that relate to the matters covered hereunder shall be the property of the Agency. Consultant hereby agrees to deliver those documents to the Agency upon termination of the Agreement. Agency and Consultant agree that, unless approved by Agency in writing, Consultant shall not release to any non-parties to this Agreement any data, plans, specifications, reports and other documents.
- 9.2 Consultant's Books and Records.** Consultant shall maintain any and all records or other documents evidencing or relating to charges for Services or expenditures and disbursements charged to the Agency under this Agreement for a minimum of three (3) years, or for any longer period required by law, from the date of final payment to the Consultant to this Agreement.
- 9.3 Inspection and Audit of Records.** Any records or documents that this Agreement requires Consultant to maintain shall be made available for inspection, audit, and/or copying at any time during regular business hours, upon oral or written request of the Agency. Under California Government Code Section 8546.7, if the amount of public funds expended under this Agreement exceeds ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), the Agreement shall be subject to the examination and audit of the State Auditor, at the request of Agency or as part of any audit of the Agency, for a period of three (3) years after final payment under the Agreement.
- 9.4 Confidential Information and Disclosure.**
- 9.4.1 Confidential Information.** The term "Confidential Information", as used herein, shall mean any and all confidential, proprietary, or trade secret information, whether written, recorded, electronic, oral or otherwise, where the Confidential Information is made available in a tangible medium of expression and marked in a prominent location as confidential, proprietary and/or trade secret information. Confidential Information shall not include information that: (a) was already known to the Receiving Party or is otherwise a matter of public knowledge, (b) was disclosed to Receiving Party by a third party without violating any confidentiality agreement, (c) was independently developed by Receiving Party without reverse engineering, as evidenced by written records thereof, or (d) was not marked as confidential Information in accordance with this section.

9.4.2 Non-Disclosure of Confidential Information. During the term of this Agreement, either party may disclose ("The Disclosing Party") confidential Information to the other party ("the Receiving Party"). The Receiving Party: (a) shall hold the Disclosing Party's Confidential Information in confident; and (b) shall take all reasonable steps to prevent any unauthorized possession, use, copying, transfer or disclosure of such Confidential Information.

9.4.3 Permitted Disclosure. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following disclosures of Confidential Information are allowed. Receiving Party shall endeavor to provide prior written notice to Disclosing Party of any permitted disclosure made pursuant to Section 9.4.3.2 or 9.4.3.3. Disclosing Party may seek a protective order, including without limitation, a temporary restraining order to prevent or contest such permitted disclosure; provided, however, that Disclosing Party shall seek such remedies at its sole expense. Neither party shall have any liability for such permitted disclosures:

9.4.3.1 Disclosure to employees, agents, consultants, contractors, subcontractors or other representatives of Receiving Party that have a need to know in connection with this Agreement.

9.4.3.2 Disclosure in response to a valid order of a court, government or regulatory agency or as may otherwise be required by law; and

9.4.3.3 Disclosure by Agency in response to a request pursuant to the California Public Records Act.

9.4.4 Handling of Confidential Information. Upon conclusion or termination of the Agreement, Receiving Party shall return to Disclosing Party or destroy Confidential Information (including all copies thereof), if requested by Disclosing Party in writing. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Receiving Party may retain copies of such Confidential Information, subject to the confidentiality provisions of this Agreement: (a) for archival purposes in its computer system; (b) in its legal department files; and (c) in files of Receiving Party's representatives where such copies are necessary to comply with applicable law. Party shall not disclose the Disclosing Party's Information to any person other than those of the Receiving Party's employees, agents, consultants, contractors and subcontractors who have a need to know in connection with this Agreement.

Section 10. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

10.1 Attorneys' Fees. If a party to this Agreement brings any action, including an action for declaratory relief, to enforce or interpret the provision of this

Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees in addition to any other relief to which that party may be entitled. The court may set such fees in the same action or in a separate action brought for that purpose.

- 10.2 Venue.** In the event that either party brings any action against the other under this Agreement, the Parties agree that trial of such action shall be vested exclusively in the state courts of California in the County of Placer or in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California.
- 10.3 Severability.** If a court of competent jurisdiction finds or rules that any provision of this Agreement is invalid, void, or unenforceable, the provisions of this Agreement not so adjudged shall remain in full force and effect. The invalidity in whole or in part of any provision of this Agreement shall not void or affect the validity of any other provision of this Agreement.
- 10.4 No Implied Waiver of Breach.** The waiver of any breach of a specific provision of this Agreement does not constitute a waiver of any other breach of that term or any other term of this Agreement.
- 10.5 Successors and Assigns.** The provisions of this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and shall apply to and bind the successors and assigns of the Parties.
- 10.6 Conflict of Interest.** Consultant may serve other clients, but none whose activities within the corporate limits of Agency or whose business, regardless of location, would place Consultant in a "conflict of interest," as that term is defined in the Political Reform Act, codified at California Government Code Section 81000 *et seq.*
- Consultant shall not employ any Agency official in the work performed pursuant to this Agreement. No officer or employee of Agency shall have any financial interest in this Agreement that would violate California Government Code Sections 1090 *et seq.*
- 10.7 Contract Administrator.** This Agreement shall be administered by Jane Cirrincione, Assistant General Manager, or his/her designee, who shall act as the Agency's representative. All correspondence shall be directed to or through the representative.
- 10.8 Notices.** Any written notice to Consultant shall be sent to:

Shane LaVigne
Principal
LaVigne Strategies, LLC
1215 K Street, Suite 2230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Any written notice to Agency shall be sent to:

Randy S. Howard
General Manager
Northern California Power Agency
651 Commerce Drive
Roseville, CA 95678

With a copy to:

Jane E. Luckhardt
General Counsel
Northern California Power Agency
651 Commerce Drive
Roseville, CA 95678

10.9 Professional Seal. Where applicable in the determination of the Agency, the first page of a technical report, first page of design specifications, and each page of construction drawings shall be stamped/sealed and signed by the licensed professional responsible for the report/design preparation.

10.10 Integration; Incorporation. This Agreement, including all the exhibits attached hereto, represents the entire and integrated agreement between Agency and Consultant and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, or agreements, either written or oral. All exhibits attached hereto are incorporated by reference herein.

10.11 Alternative Dispute Resolution. If any dispute arises between the Parties that cannot be settled after engaging in good faith negotiations, Agency and Consultant agree to resolve the dispute in accordance with the following:

10.11.1 Each party shall designate a senior management or executive level representative to negotiate any dispute;

10.11.2 The representatives shall attempt, through good faith negotiations, to resolve the dispute by any means within their authority.

10.11.3 If the issue remains unresolved after fifteen (15) days of good faith negotiations, the Parties shall attempt to resolve the disagreement by negotiation between legal counsel. If the above process fails, the Parties shall resolve any remaining disputes through mediation to expedite the resolution of the dispute.

10.11.4 The mediation process shall provide for the selection within fifteen (15) days by both Parties of a disinterested third person as mediator, shall be commenced within thirty (30) days and shall be

concluded within fifteen (15) days from the commencement of the mediation.

10.11.5 The Parties shall equally bear the costs of any third party in any alternative dispute resolution process.

10.11.6 The alternative dispute resolution process is a material condition to this Agreement and must be exhausted as an administrative prior to either Party initiating legal action. This alternative dispute resolution process is not intended to nor shall be construed to change the time periods for filing a claim or action specified by Government Code §§ 900 *et seq.*

10.12 Controlling Provisions. In the case of any conflict between the terms of this Agreement and the Exhibits hereto, a Purchase Order, or Consultant's Proposal (if any), the Agreement shall control. In the case of any conflict between the Exhibits hereto and a Purchase Order or the Consultant's Proposal, the Exhibits shall control. In the case of any conflict between the terms of a Purchase Order and the Consultant's Proposal, the Purchase Order shall control.

10.13 Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which together shall constitute one agreement.

10.14 Construction of Agreement. Each party hereto has had an equivalent opportunity to participate in the drafting of the Agreement and/or to consult with legal counsel. Therefore, the usual construction of an agreement against the drafting party shall not apply hereto.

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10.15 No Third-Party Beneficiaries. This Agreement is made solely for the benefit of the parties hereto, with no intent to benefit any non-signatory third parties.

The Parties have executed this Agreement as of the date signed by the Agency.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA POWER AGENCY

LAVIGNE STRATEGIES, LLC

Date_____

Date_____

RANDY S. HOWARD
GENERAL MANAGER

SHANE LAVIGNE
PRINCIPAL

Attest:

Assistant Secretary of the Commission

Approved as to Form:

Jane E. Luckhardt, General Counsel

EXHIBIT A

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Consultant shall provide representation for the Agency in the California State Legislature, as well as the Administration, to advocate on behalf of policies that promote the interests of the electricity consumers served by NCPA's member utility systems. In this role, Consultant will:

- Represent NCPA before the State Legislature and the Administration.
- Work closely with, and under the direction of, NCPA management.
- Identify and track legislative and regulatory policy proposals that impact NCPA and its member systems.
- Initiate and execute strategies to advance policies of importance to NCPA and its member systems.
- Educate policymakers and staff regarding the implications of legislation for NCPA and its member systems. Maintain strong relationships with NCPA's state legislative delegation, members of committees with jurisdiction over energy and environmental issues, the governor's office, and agency representatives. Testify in committee proceedings as needed.
- Coordinate and facilitate meetings with state policymakers and staff for NCPA staff and members
- Prepare issue papers and other briefing documents related to NCPA's priority issues. Develop testimony and legislative correspondence.
- Provide regular reports to NCPA and its members regarding legislative actions and other proceedings that may impact NCPA and/or its member utility systems. This includes the preparation of articles for weekly member publication.
- Provide support for two Sacramento-based grassroots advocacy events each year where NCPA members meet with state policymakers and key staff regarding legislative issues. Includes preparation of meeting materials, member briefings, scheduling and organization of meetings, and attending meetings to represent NCPA. Also requires some planning and support of event logistics.
- Attend NCPA's annual state legislative staff tour and support event logistics where needed.
- Provide support for other NCPA conferences, events, and Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee meetings. Includes securing speakers on key policy topics, participating as a panelist or moderator, and providing legislative updates and briefings to committee members during public meetings. This will require in-state travel.
- Work in close partnership with trade and advocacy organizations, including California Municipal Utilities Association, the Southern California Public Power Authority, and other consumer, energy and environmental policy stakeholders. Develop coalition partnerships as issues warrant.

Consultant may subcontract with Boot Advocacy, LLC to provide services to Agency, as listed above.

EXHIBIT B

COMPENSATION SCHEDULE AND HOURLY FEES

Compensation for all tasks, including hourly fees and expenses, shall not exceed \$540,000. Should the Parties execute an Option to Extend the Agreement for an additional two years on the same terms and conditions, the total not-to-exceed amount shall not exceed \$900,000.

The hourly rates and or compensation break down and an estimated amount of expenses is as follows:

- The fixed monthly retainer fee is \$15,000, inclusive of all fees, costs, expenses, and other reimbursables.

NOTE: As a public agency, NCPA shall not reimburse Consultant for travel, food and related costs in excess of those permitted by the Internal Revenue Service.

EXHIBIT C

**TWO YEAR OPTION TO EXTEND MULTI-TASK CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA POWER AGENCY AND
LAVIGNE STRATEGIES, LLC ("Option Agreement")**

This Option Agreement is entered into by and between the Northern California Power Agency ("Agency") and LaVigne Strategies, LLC ("Consultant") (collectively referred to as "the Parties") as of _____, 202__.

WHEREAS, the Parties entered into a Multi-Task Consulting Services Agreement dated effective _____, (the "Agreement") for Consultant to provide the Services described in Exhibit A to the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Parties now desire to exercise the option in Section 1.1 of the Agreement to extend the term of the Agreement for an additional two (2) year period from the original expiration date of _____ to a new expiration date of _____; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Pursuant to Section 1.1 of the Agreement, the Parties agree to execute this Option Agreement and extend the term of the Agreement for two (2) additional years for a total term of five (5) years to a new expiration date of _____.
2. This Option Agreement in no way alters the terms and conditions of the Agreement except to extend the term as contemplated in Section 1.1 of the Agreement.

Date: _____

Date: _____

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA POWER AGENCY

LAVIGNE STRATEGIES, LLC

RANDY S. HOWARD, General Manager

SHANE LAVIGNE, Principal

Attest:

Assistant Secretary of the Commission

Approved as to Form:

Jane E. Luckhardt, General Counsel