

# Delta Conveyance Finance Authority

## Supplemental Board Memo

**Contact: Brian Thomas, Executive Director**

**AGENDA DATE: January 17, 2019**

**Item No. 7.e.**

**Subject: Selection of General Counsel – Supplemental Report**

### **Detailed Report**

On January 14, 2019, an interview committee consisting of the Executive Director, certain Board members, and certain professional staff from Authority member agencies interviewed the lead candidate law firms for the role of Authority Counsel from the pool identified in the agenda notice and previous staff report. This Supplemental Board Memo provides additional information by summarizing the committee recommendation. The committee found all candidate law firms to be of high quality and interviewed the following three firms: Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill, LLP; Meyers Nave Riback Silver & Wilson, PLC; and Richards Watson & Gershon, PC.

After considering written responses and results of the interview, the committee recommends the selection of Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill. While all three of the firms interviewed are outstanding firms, the committee recommends Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill on the basis of their combination of strength and experience in the water industry, demonstrated expertise in public agency law, work with local agencies (including cities and special districts), understanding of the many issues surrounding the financing of the WaterFix, experience of the senior attorneys who will be working with the Finance Authority (Steve O'Neill and Keith Lemieux), understanding of legal issues associated with water rates and charges, assessments and taxes, and work with joint powers agencies (including finance authorities similar to the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority).

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the President and Executive Director to negotiate a contract for services, at a cost not to exceed \$75,000 in fiscal year 2018/19. Future annual contract amounts will be subject to board appropriation through the budget process.