



COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

AGENDA DATE: Recurring Item

CONSENT OR REGULAR: Regular

CONTRACT REFERENCE NO
(IF APPLICABLE): N/A

SUBJECT: Discuss and take appropriate action regarding the 83rd Legislative Session to present information for the Court's consideration regarding pending legislation and to receive reports regarding the County's federal legislative initiative and take any action necessary.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION OF TOPIC:

El Paso County has engaged two firms, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta for state legislative representation and Van Scoyoc and Associates (VSA) for federal legislative representation. The state's 83rd Legislative session convened on January 8, 2013. The County adopted its state legislative agenda on October 1, 2012. Pursuant to that agenda, the lobby team, working with Rep. Marisa Marquez, has filed HB 685 related to strengthening accountability for emergency service districts; HB 687 for some final adjustments to the County's ethics legislation; HB 688 regarding local ability to deny access to autopsy photographs; and, HB 689 regarding photographic devices at railroad crossings. The lobby team is hard at work on other items that are part of the County's agenda. This standing item allows for ongoing reporting to cover some of the major initiatives that the state lobby team is managing as it moves the County's initiatives forward. The Court engaged VSA to manage its federal interests at the legislative and executive level. VSA has visited El Paso County twice since its engagement on November 26, 2012. VSA reported its progress in framing a federal legislative agenda to Commissioners Court on January 31, 2013. Staff will relay any additional information not conveyed to the Court at this meeting.

Fiscal Impact: Commissioners Court has authorized the resources necessary for this effort. The County's internal Legislative Committee is an in-kind resource that supports Commissioners Court at no additional expense to the County.

PRIOR COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION (IF ANY): Commissioners Court approved an agreement with Bickerstaff Health Delgado Acosta LLP on December 8, 2008, its County Legislative Agenda for the 83rd session on October 1, 2012 and its contract with VSA on November 26, 2012.

RECOMMENDATION: The Department recommends support.

COUNTY ATTORNEY APPROVAL

The attached document has been given legal review by the El Paso County Attorney's Office on behalf of the County of El Paso, its officers, and employees. Said legal review should not be relied upon by any person or entity other than the County of El Paso, its officers, and employees.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

LEGAL REVIEW:

LEGAL REVIEW NOTES (If Applicable):

DATE:

SUBMITTED BY:

County Clerk's Office (915) 546-2071