



Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney
Hydee Feldstein Soto

REPORT NO. R26 - 0234
APR 21 2026

REPORT RE:

**REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
FOR SUMMA LLP (NOW KNOWN AS RUTH LLP)
FOR ITS REPRESENTATION OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

The Honorable City Council
of the City of Los Angeles
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Members:

By this report, this Office recommends that the City amend its contract with Summa LLP to reflect its name change to ruth LLP (the Firm), and that the City Attorney be authorized to execute a conflict of interest waiver to allow the Firm, currently retained to assist in defense of the City and individual City employees in proceedings relating to the Hyperion sewage discharge incident of July 2021 (the Hyperion Matter), to also represent the plaintiff in the litigation *Sinisterra v. City of Los Angeles, et al.*, Case No. 2:25-cv-06915 (C.D. Cal.) (the *Sinisterra* Matter). The Firm submitted its request for waiver of the conflict pursuant to its duty under the California Rule of Professional Conduct 1.7.

The Firm was retained in September 2021 to assist and represent the City of Los Angeles in the federal inquiry due to their experience in defense associated with this matter, with a focus in representing non-target City employees who the government sought to question in the matter regarding any act or omission in the scope of the employee's employment with the City. These individuals were directly and most closely involved with the Hyperion incident, and some of them are now former employees of the City. Because of the Firm's deep knowledge of facts of the Hyperion matter and the key

witnesses' roles and excellent working relationship with these current and former City employees, the Firm has been representing such individual City employees, who have been subpoenaed for deposition in the civil lawsuit proceedings concerning the Hyperion Matter. The Firm has not provided affirmative legal services to the City itself (as distinct from representation of individual City employees) since before July 2024.

The Firm is now being retained to represent Valentina Sinisterra, the plaintiff in a civil rights case against the Los Angeles Police Department in which the City of Los Angeles is named as a codefendant. The *Sinisterra* matter is unrelated to the Hyperion Matter. There is no substantive overlap between the two matters in parties, subject matter, facts, legal issues, witnesses, or documents. The Firm does not believe that the *Sinisterra* matter will materially interfere with its ability to provide competent and diligent representation to the City in the Hyperion Matter.

The City Attorney has no legal objection to the waiver and recommends that the waiver be approved and that the City Attorney be authorized to execute a waiver with Summa LLP (now ruth LLP).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned at (213) 978-8100. A member of this Office will be available when you consider this matter to answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO, City Attorney

By 
ANNE HALEY
Assistant City Attorney