



Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney
Hydee Feldstein Soto

REPORT NO. R25-0518
OCT 16 2025

**REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO
GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 54956.9(d)(1), (d)(2), & (e)(2)**

REPORT RE:

**PROPOSED LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH
MUNGER, TOLLES & OLSON LLP FOR LEGAL SERVICES RELATED TO THE
JANUARY 2025 WILDFIRE LITIGATION AND RELATED FEDERAL
INVESTIGATIONS; PROPOSED GRANT OF INFORMED WRITTEN CONSENT**

**(GRIGSBY, et al. v. CITY OF LOS ANGELES, et al., Case No. 25STCV00832,
AND SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION)**

The Honorable City Council
of the City of Los Angeles
Room 340, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Members:

This Office recommends that discussion with, and advice from, legal counsel for City Council action be scheduled and held in closed session pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1), (d)(2), and (e)(2) (numerous potential cases). Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1), (d)(2), and (e)(2) requires you to state publicly prior to the closed session what subdivision of this section authorizes the closed meeting, and that the closed session is being held to confer or discuss with, or receive advice from, legal counsel regarding pending litigation and regarding a significant exposure to litigation regarding facts and circumstances that are known to a potential plaintiff or plaintiffs, that might result in litigation against the City, and which facts or circumstances shall be publicly stated on the agenda or announced.

The pending litigation involves the above listed complaint regarding the City's alleged liability regarding damage relating to the Palisades Fire, which began on January 7, 2025. The significant exposure to litigation involves potential plaintiffs' claims of liability against the City regarding damage also relating to the Palisades Fire and potential litigation resulting from ongoing federal investigations relating to the Palisades Fire.

Munger, Tolles & Olson (MTO) is currently representing the City, through the Department of Water & Power (LADWP), in defense of the *Grigsby* litigation. MTO was selected by this Office and LADWP after an expedited, competitive mini-bid process in January involving the leading wildfire defense firms. MTO has defended lawsuits related to some of the largest wildfires in the United States, including the recent Maui wildfires. Given MTO's experience defending the City in this very litigation and familiarity with the City's evidence and defenses, the time sensitivity and avoidance of duplication that would result from retaining separate counsel to represent the general funded portion of the defense of this litigation, means that it is neither reasonably practicable nor in the City's best interest to delay this retention to proceed through a new competitive process. See Los Angeles City Charter Sections 371(e)(2) and 372. Expertise and efficiencies will also be gained by utilizing MTO for purposes of ongoing federal investigations related to the same wildfire.

Informed Written Consent

MTO disclosed that it currently represents Edison International and Southern California Edison Company (and their related entities) (SCE), although not in any litigation adverse to the City of Los Angeles. MTO nevertheless seeks the City's informed written consent to its continued and future representation of SCE in matters unrelated to the Palisades Fire, as well as its legislative and/or advocacy efforts for SCE and other clients related to wildfire legislation. This Office recommends the City Council provide the requested informed written consent.

Recommendations

Additionally, this Office puts forth the following Recommendations for the City Council's consideration:

AUTHORIZE the City Attorney to enter into a new contract with Munger, Tolles & Olson for assistance in the litigation matter described above related to the Palisades Fire in January 2025 and related federal investigations, for an initial term of three years and an initial amount of \$750,000; and

APPROVE of the granting of informed written consent for Munger, Tolles & Olson regarding its continued representation of Edison International and Southern California Edison Company (and their related entities).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact this Office at (213) 978-8130. 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 
VALERIE L. FLORES
Chief Deputy City Attorney

VLf:MD:ac