

Communication from Public

Name: Ann Rosenthal, President, Los Angeles City Attorneys' Association

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Council File No: 26-0668

Comments for Public Posting: The Los Angeles City Attorneys' Association (LACAA) files the attached objection to City Attorney Report No. R26-0257, as it violates AB 339, Gov't Code, § 3504.1, requiring the City Attorney's Office to give notice to LACAA before contracting out legal services that could be performed by employees represented by LACAA.



Los Angeles
CITY ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

June 3, 2026

Barak Vaughn, Esq.
Managing Director, Business, Finance and Operations
Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney
200 North Main Street, 8th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Email: barak.vaughn@lacity.org

Re: Objection to Violation of California Government Code § 3504.1; Demand for Statutory Notice and Compliance Concerning Proposed Legal Services Agreement with Stoel Rives LLP

Dear Mr. Vaughn:

LACAA writes to object to the City's proposed legal services agreement with Stoel Rives LLP, to provide legal services, and to demand immediate compliance with California Government Code § 3504.1. The City Attorney's Office must provide at least 45 days' written notice to a recognized employee organization before renewing or extending an existing contract for services within the scope of represented job classifications. The proposed contract qualifies as a "request for proposals, request for quotes, or renewing or extending an existing contract to perform services that are within the scope of work of the job classifications represented by the recognized employee organization." To date, no notice has been provided to LACAA.

The City Attorney's May 4, 2026, report to the Budget & Finance Committee requests the City Council to approve the retention of Stoel Rives LLP as outside counsel and that the City enter into a three-year contract for a budget not to exceed \$300,000, with no purpose stated for the contract at all. LACAA never received the requisite written notice specifying the contract's duration, scope, cost, draft solicitation, and necessity, and instead found this Report on the Budget & Finance Committee agenda for June 4, 2026. Proceeding without notice is a clear statutory violation and risks avoidable disruption, cost, and labor-relations harm.

To mitigate the violation of section 3504.1, LACAA demands the following:

1. Immediate issuance of the required 45 days' written notice under Government Code § 3504.1 to LACAA, including: (a) contract duration; (b) scope of services; (c) cost and funding source; (d) draft solicitation or contract amendment; and (e) statement of necessity.

2. Written acknowledgment from the City that section 3504.1 applies to the proposed amendment and that the City will comply going forward, and refrain from approving or implementing the proposed legal services agreement until the 45-day notice period has run, absent a properly substantiated emergency or exigent circumstance and provision of as much notice as practicable.
3. Confirmation that the City will look to the Deputy City Attorneys in the City Attorney's Office to handle matters within the scope of work of the job classification represented by LACAA.

Please provide the above notice and acknowledgments within five (5) business days, and advise whether the City intends to pause any approval or implementation of the proposed legal services agreement pending full compliance with § 3504.1. LACAA reserves all rights and remedies.

Sincerely,



Ann Rosenthal
President
Los Angeles City Attorneys' Association

Cc: David E. Mastagni, LACAA Legal Counsel
Budget & Finance Committee, CF 26-0668