

# GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AGENCY

## MEMO

**To:** Great Redwood Trail Agency Board of Directors

**From:** Executive Director Stogner

**Date:** March 14, 2022

**Subject:** **Agenda Item F.3** - Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of Sonoma County Legal Services Agreement

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Sonoma County Counsel has served as General Counsel for North Coast Railroad Authority under a legal services agreement entered into by the County of Sonoma and NCRA on January 29, 2019.

The current item would approve a new legal services agreement with the County of Sonoma to continue to serve in this capacity as General Counsel to the Great Redwood Trail Authority as the reformed entity becomes fully operational. Sonoma County Counsel would continue to advise on operational and general public law matters, represent the agency in litigation matters, and assist with railbanking proceedings before the Surface Transportation Board, in concert with outside rail counsel.

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, in an action of March 1, 2022, has authorized County Counsel to continue to serve in this capacity of General Counsel for the Great Redwood Trail Agency.

The proposed legal services agreement, as with the currently operational agreement, would include provision for GRTA to pay the applicable fully loaded rate for County Counsel time, which is currently \$282.00 per hour, and will be automatically adjusted upon update to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors-adopted rate.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the Board approve the legal services agreement and authorize Sonoma County Counsel to continue to provide necessary legal services to the Great Redwood Trail Agency under its new name and mission.