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Contract Number

23-1914

SAP Number

Public Defender

Department Contract Representative
Telephone Number

Diana Lovelace
(909) 382-3950

Contractor
Contractor Representative
Telephone Number
Contract Term
Original Contract Amount
Amendment Amount
Total Contract Amount
Cost Center

Teresa Verduzco Villa

On File

Mar. 25, 2023 to Mar. 1, 2025

4910002753

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, San Bernardino County Public Defender, hereinafter called the County, desires to obtain the services of Contractor under the terms and conditions set forth in this Contract, and

WHEREAS, County finds Teresa Verduzco Villa, hereinafter referred to as Contractor, has the skills and knowledge necessary to provide services for the County; and

WHEREAS, County desires that such services be provided by Contractor and Contractor agrees to perform these services as set forth below;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of mutual covenants and conditions, the parties agree as follows:

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I. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONTRACTOR

Contractor shall be employed as a Paralegal, under the working title of "Public Defense Program Paralegal." Contractor shall work cooperatively with the staff of the County under the direction of a Chief Deputy Public Defender, performing a broad range of duties, including, but not limited to, the following:

- A. Provides assistance to attorneys with case research, hearing preparation, and witness coordination.
- B. Reviews, summarizes and organizes case files, legal documents, depositions, and exhibits.
- C. Performs a variety of legal research, providing attorneys support with analyzing facts, issues, elements, statutes, court decisions, legal documents and pleadings.
- D. Assists attorneys with the preparation and filing of various legal documents.
- E. Works with investigators and social workers to obtain relevant information and advance case resolutions and resentencing efforts.
- F. May lead a small clerical support team to advance client resentencing efforts.
- G. Uphold and adhere to the rules, regulations and policies of the County.

II. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

As a condition of employment, Contractor does hereby agree to follow and uphold the Conflict of Interest policy of the County's Personnel Rules as follows:

No official or employee shall engage in any business or transaction or shall have a financial or other personal interest or association, direct or indirect, which is in conflict with the proper discharge of official duties or would tend to impair independence of judgment or action in the performance of official duties. Personal, as distinguished from financial interest, includes an interest arising from blood or marriage relationships, or close business, personal or political associations. This section shall not serve to prohibit independent acts or other forms of enterprise during those hours not covered by active County employment, providing such acts do not constitute a conflict of interest as defined herein. Contractor is also subject to the provision of California Government Code Sections 1090, 1126, 87100, and any other conflict of interest code applicable to County employment.

III. TERM

This Contract shall be effective March 25, 2023 and shall remain in effect through March 1, 2025, subject to the termination provisions below. Notwithstanding the foregoing, either party may terminate this Contract at any time, without cause, with a fourteen (14) day prior written notice to the other party. This Contract may be terminated for just cause immediately by the County. Contractor shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority, who shall have the full authority and discretion to exercise County rights under this paragraph.

IV. COMPENSATION OF CONTRACTOR

Upon the effective date of this Contract, Contractor shall be considered a Contract employee in the County's Unclassified Service. Contractor shall receive only the benefits and compensation specifically set forth in this Contract. This Contract provides for the full

compensation to Contractor for the services required hereunder. This Contract supersedes any prior employment Contract of Contractor.

A. SALARY RATE

Contractor shall be compensated for services at a rate of \$31.91 per hour, which is equivalent to Step 9 of Range 49 of the salary schedule for employees in the Technical and Inspection Unit. Contractor shall not exceed forty (40) hours per workweek unless expressly authorized, pursuant to the Overtime provision of this Contract. Contractor shall be evaluated and will be eligible to receive step increases of approximately 2.5% at the beginning of the pay period following each completion of 1,040 service hours and upon approval of the appointing authority, up to the top step of the range, based on a meets standards work performance evaluation.

Contractor shall receive salary adjustments, including across-the-board adjustments, in the same amount and at the same time as employees in the Technical and Inspection Unit.

Contractor does not gain probationary or regular status during the term of this Contract. Payment for services shall be made bi-weekly during the term specified in Section III of this Contract.

B. BILINGUAL COMPENSATION

If Contractor is in a position designated by the appointing authority which requires bilingual translation involving the use of English and a second language as part of their regular duties, Contractor shall be entitled to bilingual compensation. Such compensation shall apply regardless of the total time required per day for such translation. Contractors in such positions must be certified as competent in translation skills by Human Resources to be eligible for compensation. Competency Certification is solely determined and administered by Human Resources. Level 1- verbal skill level is compensable at fifty dollars (\$50.00) per pay period. Level 2 - written skill level is compensable at fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) per pay period.

C. OVERTIME

Overtime shall be defined as all hours actually worked in excess of forty (40) hours a work period. For purposes of defining overtime, paid leave time, excluding sick leave, shall be considered as time actually worked. If Contractor is authorized by the Public Defender, or designee, to work overtime, Contractor shall be eligible to receive overtime compensation at one and one half (1½) times the Contractor's regular rate of pay.

In lieu of cash payment, upon request of the Contractor and approval of the appointing authority, Contractor may accrue compensating time off at premium hours. Cash payment at the Contractor's regular rate of pay shall automatically be paid for any compensating time, which exceeds eighty (80) hours, or for any hours on record immediately prior to termination of Contract.

D. LEAVE PROVISIONS

Contractor shall receive, or be subject to, the following Leave Provisions in the same manner and amount as employees in the Technical and Inspection Unit: Bereavement, Blood Donation, Holiday, Jury Duty, Sick, and Vacation.

Refer to Item P in this Section for processing of leave balances upon termination of this Contract.

E. MEDICAL AND DENTAL COVERAGE

Contractor must enroll in a medical and dental plan offered by the County, unless enrolled in other comparable employer sponsored coverage. If eligible, Contractor shall receive the Medical Premium Subsidy (MPS) and Dental Premium Subsidy (DPS) to offset the cost of medical plan premiums charged to Contractor pursuant to the terms and conditions for employees in the Technical and Inspection Unit. The applicable MPS shall be paid directly to the provider of the County-sponsored medical plan in which the Contractor has enrolled. In no case shall the MPS exceed the total cost of the medical insurance premium for the coverage selected (e.g., when the MPS amounts exceed the lowest HMO cost).

F. VISION CARE INSURANCE

Subject to carrier requirements, the County shall pay the premiums for vision care insurance for Contractor (employee-only coverage) if Contractor is in a paid status and is scheduled for at least forty-one (41) hours per pay period.

G. LIFE INSURANCE

The County shall pay premiums for a term life insurance policy for Contractor in the same manner and amount as employees in the Technical and Inspection Unit. County-paid life insurance will become effective the first pay period in which contractor is in a paid status and shall continue for each pay period Contractor is in a paid status. For pay periods in which Contractor does not meet the paid hours' requirement, Contractor shall have the option of continuing life insurance coverage at Contractor's expense.

H. ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT

Contractor shall be eligible to purchase Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance coverage and additional supplemental term life insurance in the same manner and amount as offered by the County to employees in the Technical and Inspection Unit.

I. EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Contractor shall be eligible for expense reimbursement in the same manner and amount as employees in the Technical and Inspection Unit.

J. RETIREMENT PLAN

Contractor shall participate in the County's PST Deferred Compensation Retirement Plan.

K. RETIREMENT MEDICAL TRUST ("Trust")

Upon termination of this Contract, Contractor shall be eligible to convert the cash value of unused Sick Leave to the Trust in the same manner and amount as employees in the Technical and Inspection Unit, provided the Contractor meets the eligibility requirements (e.g., years of service, etc.) for participation. Contractor shall not receive County contributions to the Trust.

Refer to Item Q in this section for processing of unused Sick Leave balances upon termination of this Contract.

L. SALARY SAVINGS PLAN

Contractor shall be eligible to participate in the County's 457(b) Salary Savings Plan, per the Plan Document. Contractor shall not receive County match contributions with respect to participation in such plan.

M. DEPENDENT CARE ASSISTANCE PLAN (DCAP) AND FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT (FSA) PLAN FOR MEDICAL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Contractor shall be eligible to participate in the County's DCAP and FSA Plans in the same manner as employees in the Technical and Inspection Unit and per the plan documents. Contractor shall not receive any County match contributions with respect to participation in either plan.

N. LEGALLY REQUIRED BENEFITS

Contractor shall receive all benefits as required by law when eligible (e.g., FMLA, ACA, Military Leave, Time Off for Voting, and Medicare). Where the County provides a greater benefit than is required by law, Contractor shall only receive the minimum benefit in accordance with the law, unless the greater benefit is specifically provided for in another provision of this Contract.

O. SHORT TERM DISABILITY

Contractor shall be eligible to receive the same Short-Term Disability insurance benefits as offered to employees in the Technical and Inspection Unit.

P. SERVICE AND EFFECT ON BENEFITS

If Contractor was a County employee immediately prior to entering into this contract, without separation from County employment, execution of this Contract shall not result in separation in County employment for purposes of determining eligibility for level of benefits including, but not limited to, health benefits, leave accrual rates, and retirement benefits. Thus, Contractor's rate for leave accruals is based on the start date of the period of continuous County employment that is extended by this Contract. Contractor shall maintain and carry forward Holiday, Vacation, other paid leave, and Sick leave balances. Contractor's retirement contribution rate is based on the date Contractor began participating in the County's general employee retirement system.

Q. BENEFITS UPON TERMINATION OF CONTRACT

Contractor Separated from County Service

Upon separation from County employment, Contractor shall be compensated for any unused Vacation and Holiday Leave at the then base rate of pay. Contractor will be eligible to convert the cash value of unused Sick Leave to the Retirement Medical Trust Fund in the same manner and amount as employees in the Technical and Inspection Unit, if eligibility requirements are met. If eligibility requirements are not met at the time of separation, unused Sick Leave shall be forfeited.

Contractor to Regular County Employment

In the event this Contract is terminated because Contractor is appointed to a regular County position without a break in service, the Contractor shall retain original Regular Hire Date. Eligibility for benefits, including, but not limited to, retirement system contributions, health benefits, and leave accrual rates shall be based upon the provisions of the applicable Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or ordinance in effect at the time Contractor was originally appointed to a regular County position. Seniority, for purposes of layoff, shall be determined by the original Regular Hire Date or as otherwise provided in the applicable MOU.

If appointment to a regular position is made, unused leave balances shall be maintained and carried over. Any leave balances carried over shall be in accordance with the applicable MOU for the bargaining unit associated with the position into which the Contractor was hired.

Contractor to New Contract Position

In the event the Contractor accepts another Contract position with the County without a break in service, Contractor shall maintain and carry over existing leave accrual rates and unused leave balances. Any leave balances carried over shall be in accordance with the applicable MOU for the bargaining unit associated with the position into which the Contractor was hired.

V. GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO CONTRACTOR

A. TOUR OF DUTY

Contractor's standard tour of duty (regularly scheduled workweek) shall be established by the Public Defender, or designee. The Public Defender, or designee, may modify or change the number of hours in a standard day, tour of duty or shift to meet the needs of the service. Contractor shall not work more than forty (40) hours per workweek without prior approval from the Public Defender, or his/her designee. The Public Defender shall have the right to direct Contractor to take such time off as is necessary to ensure that Contractor's actual time worked does not exceed forty (40) hours within any given work period.

B. CLASSIFICATION

Contractor will not attain regular status in this position, and as an unclassified Contract employee, will not be provided those rights under the San Bernardino County Personnel Rules afforded only to employees who have attained regular status. This Contract does not expand or alter any jurisdiction established by the Personnel Rules or any MOU. Contractor shall adhere to the County's and the Commission's standards of employee conduct, including all applicable rules, policies, and regulations. Violation of applicable standards may result in Contract termination or lesser penalties.

C. WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND LIABILITY COVERAGES

Contractor shall be covered by the County's Workers' Compensation insurance coverage during the hours actually worked under this Contract. Contractor shall be covered by the County's Public Liability Insurance only while performing services under this Contract. Contractor shall only receive those benefits as required by law.

D. USE OF PRIVATE VEHICLE

If the services to be performed under this Contract require Contractor to drive a vehicle, Contractor must possess a valid California Driver License at all times during the performance of duties under this Contract.

Contractor agrees to allow the County to obtain a Department of Motor Vehicles report of Contractor's driving record.

In order for Contractor to be able to use a private vehicle during the performance of duties under this Contract, Contractor shall be covered by vehicle liability insurance at least equal to the minimum requirements of the California Vehicle Code. Such requirements currently are:

1. Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for single injury or death;

2. Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for multiple injury or death;
3. Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for property damage.

Failure to comply with the requirements of this Paragraph shall be deemed cause for termination of this Contract, pursuant to Section III above.

E. EVIDENCE OF ELIGIBILITY TO WORK

Contractor shall submit evidence of eligibility to work in the United States and verification of identity within three (3) working days of the effective date of this Contract. Contractor shall submit to and successfully complete a pre-employment background check, including a medical examination through the County's Center for Employee Health and Wellness before employment commences. This provision is satisfied if Contractor is a current employee or Contractor who previously met the requirements of this provision.

F. DIRECT DEPOSIT

Contractor must make arrangements for the direct deposit of paychecks into the financial institution of their choice via electronic fund transfer. Inability or failure by Contractor to make such arrangements will result in the County paying Contractor via pay card.

G. MISCELLANEOUS

Government Code section 53243.2 requires the following provision be included in this Contract: If this Contract is terminated, any cash settlement related to the termination that Contractor may receive from the County shall be fully reimbursed to the County if Contractor is convicted of a crime involving an abuse of his or her office or position, as defined in Section 53243.4.

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. This Contract, consisting of nine (9) pages, is the full and complete document describing services regarding the Contractors rights and obligations of the parties, including all covenants, conditions, and benefits.
- B. This Contract may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which so executed shall be deemed to be an original, and such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same Contract. The parties shall be entitled to sign and transmit an electronic signature of this Contract (whether by facsimile, PDF or other email transmission), which signature shall be binding on the party whose name is contained therein. Each party providing an electronic signature agrees to promptly execute and deliver to the other party an original signed Contract upon request.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

►

Dawn Rowe

Dawn Rowe, Chair, Board of Supervisors

Dated: MAR 14 2023

SIGNED AND CERTIFIED THAT A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Lynna Monell
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
San Bernardino County

By

[Signature]
Deputy

(Print or type name of corporation, company, contractor, etc.)

By ►

[Signature]

(Authorized signature - sign in blue ink)

Name

Teresa Verduzco-Villa

(Print or type name of person signing contract)

Title

Contract Paralegal

(Print or Type)

Dated:

03/06/2023

On file

Address

FOR COUNTY USE ONLY

Approved as to Legal Form

► *[Signature]*

Cynthia O'Neill, County Counsel

Date

3/7/23

Reviewed for Contract Compliance

►

Date

Reviewed/Approved by Department

► *[Signature]*

Thomas W. Sone, Public Defender

Date

3/7/23