

City of Carson City
Agenda Report

Item # 9-4D

Date Submitted: 5/26/09

Agenda Date Requested: 6/4/09

Time Requested: Consent

To: Mayor and Supervisors

From: Nick Providenti, Finance Director

Subject Title: Action to confirm the engagement of Swendseid & Stern as bond counsel to Carson City, Nevada in connection with the Approximate \$3,400,000 Carson City, Nevada General Obligation (Limited Tax) Water Bonds (Additionally Secured by Pledged Revenues) Series 2009.

Staff Summary: The agreement between the City and the firm of Swendseid and Stern sets forth the role proposed to be served and the responsibilities proposed to be assumed as bond counsel.

Type of Action Requested: (check one)

Resolution

Ordinance

Formal Action/Motion

Other (Specify)

Does this action require a Business Impact Statement: () Yes (XX) No

Recommended Board Action: I move to confirm the engagement of Swendseid & Stern as bond counsel to Carson City, Nevada in connection with the Approximate \$3,400,000 Carson City, Nevada General Obligation (Limited Tax) Water Bonds (Additionally Secured by Pledged Revenues) Series 2009.

Explanation for Recommended Board Action: The attached letter will operate as the form of agreement between the City and the firm of Swendseid and Stern sets forth the role proposed to be served and the responsibilities proposed to be assumed as bond counsel.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation: N/A

Fiscal Impact: \$25,000 to \$35,000

Explanation of Impact: N/A

Funding Source: Water Fund

Alternatives: Not to confirm Swendseid and Stern as bond counsel.

Supporting Material: Engagement Letter

Prepared By: Nick Providenti

Reviewed By: _____

(Department Head)

: 

(City Manager)

: Melanie Banketta

(District Attorney)

: Nancy Paulson

(Finance Director)

Date: _____

Date: 5/26/09

Date: 5-26-09

Date: 5/26/09

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____

1) _____

Aye/Nay

2) _____

(Vote Recorded By)

Swendseid & Stern

a partnership of professional corporations
a member in

Sherman & Howard L.L.C.

WITH OFFICES IN:

DENVER
COLORADO SPRINGS
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS
VAIL
PHOENIX
ST. LOUIS

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RENO, NEVADA 89501
TELEPHONE: 775-323-1980
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SUITE 500
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89169
TELEPHONE: 702-387-6073
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May 11, 2009

E-Mail: jstern@sah.com

Nick Providenti
Finance Director
Carson City
201 N. Carson, No. 3
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Approx. \$3,400,000
Carson City, Nevada
General Obligation (Limited Tax) Water Bonds
(Additionally Secured by Pledged Revenues)
Series 2009

Dear Nick:

We are pleased to confirm our engagement as bond counsel to Carson City, Nevada (the "City"), in connection with the above-captioned bonds (the "Bonds"). This letter will operate as the form of agreement between the City and our firm and sets forth the role we propose to serve and the responsibilities we propose to assume as bond counsel.

Scope of Services as Bond Counsel. Bond counsel is engaged as a recognized expert whose primary responsibility is to render an objective legal opinion with respect to the authorization and issuance of bonds. As your bond counsel, we will prepare or examine all legal proceedings needed preliminary to and in the issuance of the Bonds relating to the validity and enforceability thereof (including Board proceedings relating to Debt Management Commission approval, the sale and final issuance of the Bonds and appropriate closing certificates). All proceedings that we prepare will be prepared in collaboration with you, the City's attorney, the City's financial consultant and other authorized representatives of the City. Our services as bond counsel also include an examination of an executed transcript of proceedings and such additional duties as we deem necessary to render our final approving opinion relating to the Bonds and the exclusion of the interest paid on the Bonds (subject to certain limitations which may be expressed in the opinion) from gross income for federal income tax purposes. Our opinion will be addressed to the City and will be executed and delivered by us in written form on the date the Bonds are exchanged for their purchase price (the "Closing"). The opinion will be based on facts and law existing as of its date.

As bond counsel, we will not assume or undertake responsibility for assisting in the preparation of a prospectus or official statement pertaining to the financing. Since the City intends to

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sell its bonds to the State of Nevada Revolving Fund, the preparation of an official statement relating to the bonds will not be necessary.

Our services as bond counsel are limited to those contracted for explicitly herein; the City's execution of this letter constitutes an acknowledgment of those limitations. Specifically, but without implied limitation, our responsibilities do not include any representation by Swendseid & Stern in connection with any IRS audit or any litigation involving the City or the Bonds. Neither do we assume responsibility for the preparation of any collateral documents (*e.g.*, environmental impact statements) which are to be filed with any state, federal or other regulatory agency. Nor do our services include financial advice (including advice about the structure of the Bonds, that being the role of the financial consultant) or advice on the investment of funds related to the Bond issue. If such services are requested of us, we suggest that we discuss the nature and extent of those services and an estimate of our fee at the time of the request.

Attorney-Client Relationship. In performing our services as bond counsel, the City will be our client and an attorney-client relationship will exist between us. We will represent the interests of the City rather than its Board, its individual members, or the City's employees. We assume that other parties to the transaction will retain such counsel as they deem necessary and appropriate to represent their interests in this transaction.

Conflicts of Interest. Our firm represents the State of Nevada (the "State") in issuing certain bonds, the proceeds of which, together with other funds, are deposited in the State Revolving Fund ("SRF"). Since the State will loan money to the City from the SRF, under the Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct (the "Rules") governing lawyers, attorneys of this firm cannot simultaneously represent the City unless this firm reasonably believes that our representation of the City as bond counsel (i) will not be materially limited, and (ii) will not adversely affect this firm's relationship with the State, and unless both the State and the City consent to the representation after consultation. The City's execution of this letter signifies the City's consent to this firm's continued representation of the State.

Our firm sometimes represents, in other unrelated transactions, the State and certain of the financial institutions that may be involved in this Bond transaction, such as underwriters, credit enhancers, and banks that act as paying agents or trustees. We do not believe that any of these representations will materially limit or adversely affect our ability to represent the City in connection with the Bonds, even though such representations may be characterized as adverse under the Rules. In any event, during the term of our engagement hereunder, we will not accept a representation of any of these parties in any matter in which the City is an adverse party. However, pursuant to the Rules, we do ask that you consent to our representation of such parties in transactions that do not directly or indirectly involve the City. Your execution of this letter will signify the City's prospective consent to such adverse representations in matters unrelated to the Bonds while we are serving as bond counsel hereunder.

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Proposed Fees. Based upon: (i) our current understanding of the terms, structure, size and schedule of the financing, (ii) the responsibilities we will undertake pursuant to this letter, (iii) the time and labor we anticipate devoting to the financing, and (iv) the skill and experience required to complete the services properly, we estimate that our fee as bond counsel would be in the range of \$25,000 to \$30,000. Such fee may vary: (i) if the principal amount of Bonds actually issued differs significantly from the amount stated above, (ii) if material changes in the structure of the financing occur, or (iii) if unusual or unforeseen circumstances arise which require a significant increase in our time or our responsibilities.

In the event the transaction is delayed and the Bonds are not delivered at Closing on or before December 31, 2009, it will be necessary for us to repeat and update much of our work and a commensurate increase in our fees will result. Any such revision of our fee as bond counsel would, however, be made only after obtaining your approval.

In addition, this letter authorizes us to make disbursements on your behalf, which we estimate will not exceed \$1,000. The City agrees to reimburse us for such disbursements, including travel costs, photocopying, facsimile transmissions, deliveries, filing fees, computer assisted research, and other necessary office expenses.

Our fees and expenses are usually paid at Closing out of Bond proceeds. We customarily do not submit any statement until the Closing, unless there is a substantial delay in completing the financing. If, for any reason, the financing is not consummated or is completed without the rendition of our opinion as bond counsel, we will expect to be compensated at our normal hourly rates (currently ranging from \$195.00 to \$450.00 depending on personnel) for time actually spent on your behalf, plus disbursements.

Document Retention. At or within a reasonable period after the Closing, we will review the file to determine what materials should be retained as a record of our representation and those which are no longer needed. We will provide you with a copy of the customary transcript of documents after Closing and will return any original documents obtained from you (if a copy is not included in the transcript). We will retain for several years a copy of the transcript and such other materials as correspondence, final substantive work product, documents obtained from you, and documents obtained from third parties. We will not retain such materials as duplicates of the above-described material, or drafts and notes that do not appear needed any longer.

Ordinarily the firm will keep the retained materials until seven years after the final maturity of the Bonds. At the end of that time, unless you advise us in writing to the contrary, we will destroy the bulk of the file. If the file is especially voluminous, we may destroy all or portions of it earlier, as our storage facilities are limited. If you prefer other arrangements for retention or disposition of our files in this matter, please advise us in writing.

Personnel. Jennifer Stern, who is a licensed Nevada lawyer and resident of our Nevada offices, will be the principal lawyer involved in performing legal services for you pursuant to this letter,

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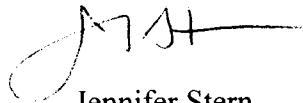
and she will report to and take direction from Nick Providenti, the City's Finance Director. Where appropriate, certain tasks may be performed by other attorneys or paralegals. In addition, Ms. Stern may be assisted in performing these legal services by lawyers in our non-Nevada offices who are not licensed to practice law in Nevada. Generally, these lawyers assist us in matters of federal tax law and federal securities law. We sometimes consult with these lawyers in attempting to resolve questions of municipal law and municipal finance law, and sometimes these lawyers also assist us in legal research and document drafting. In any event, our Nevada lawyers will be responsible for all legal services and legal work rendered to you pursuant to this letter and all formal legal opinions will be rendered and executed by Swendseid & Stern, a member in Sherman & Howard L.L.C., which is the name under which our Nevada office does business.

Termination of Engagement. Upon delivery of our approving opinion, our responsibilities as bond counsel will terminate with respect to the Bonds, and our representation of the City and the attorney-client relationship created by this engagement letter will be concluded. Should the City seek the advice of bond counsel on a post-closing matter or seek other, additional legal services, we would be happy to discuss the nature and extent of our separate engagement at that time.

Approval. If the foregoing terms of this engagement are acceptable to you, please so indicate by returning the enclosed original of this letter signed by the officer so authorized, retaining the enclosed copy for your files.

We very much appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the City as bond counsel and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Stern

Approved by:

Carson City, Nevada

By: _____

Its: _____

Date: _____