

January 23, 2002

**AUTHORIZATION TO RETAIN THE SERVICES OF M. BEATRIZ ARIAS, PH. D., TO CONDUCT HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT'S BILINGUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND OFFER**

**THE GENERAL COUNSEL REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:**

**DESCRIPTION:** The Board authorized a focused analysis of the district's progress in achieving the federal desegregation consent decree to which it has been subject since 1980. The

department seeks to retain several individuals to conduct a historical review of the district's bilingual education programs, bilingual education programs, transportation, and facility maintenance and construction. Following the experts' review, we anticipate that each will generate a summary report assessing historical achievements and, correspondingly, identifying and making recommendations wherein we need improvement. The Board will then use that information to coordinate a viable future plan regarding the consent decree.

Dr. Arias is a nationally recognized expert in the field of bilingual education and has received numerous federal and State grants relative to the improvement of bilingual education resources. She has received numerous fellowships and honors in the bilingual area and has provided expert/consultant services in a number of public school desegregation cases across the nation, including Texas (2000-01), Oakland, California (1984-85), Denver Colorado (1981-84), and Santa Barbara California (1979). She has also worked in Chicago, Illinois (1980), Los Angeles California (1978-80), and Santa Barbara California (1979).

In addition to reviewing the multitude of bilingual materials maintained by the district, Dr. Arias will conduct on site visits to district schools which are historically significant to the district's bilingual program. Dr. Arias ultimately will provide detailed analyses and opinions on the issue of the district's compliance with the consent decree bilingual program goals, presently and historically, and offer recommendations for the future. We expect that a draft report will issue in April of 2002.

As detailed in attached prospectus prepared by Dr. Arias, the projected cost for her complete services will be approximately \$23,000. The cost estimate is based on an estimated consulting time of 100 hours. Dr. Arias will be paid in two installments — one on February 28, 2002 and the second on April 5, 2002. The General Counsel requested that she submit hourly billing statements to the law department on a monthly basis.

**LSC REVIEW:** LSC approval is not applicable to this report.

Approved: \$25,000.00 to Law Department - Legal and Supportive Services - Professional L. FINANCIAL: Chair

