



EXECUTIVE DECISION DOCUMENT

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL:		DocuSigned by: <i>Michael Jones</i> 47000790F2D7463...		GENERAL MANAGER ACTION REQ'D: Yes	
DATE: 5/6/2025		5/14/2025		BOARD INITIATED ITEM: No	
Originator/Prepared by: Manimegala Muthu Dept: Office of Infrastructure Delivery		General Counsel		Chief Financial Officer	
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Signature/Date: 5/14/2025		5/14/2025		5/14/2025	
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				District Secretary	
				BARC	
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				5/14/2025	
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For Action: (Operating) Palo Alto Networks Firewall Subscription Renewal

PURPOSE:

Request Board authorization for the General Manager to enter into Agreement No. 6M3758 with SSPData, Inc. to renew Palo Alto Networks Firewall subscription software licensingservices for a 1-year duration, for an amount not to exceed \$104,472.10.

DISCUSSION:

The District Operational Technology Infrastructure is essential to BART operations, supporting train movement, fare collection, and worker safety. This proposed software subscription for continued use of Palo Alto Networks firewall licenses enhances network protection against increasing cybersecurity threats, particularly from Advanced Persistent Threats (APTs) The subscription provides real-time threat detection, malware prevention, and intrusion blocking and mitigates operational downtime, data breaches, and compliance risks, in mission-critical systems vital to public transportation and rider safety.

The procurement will be made through the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) cooperative purchasing program approved for purchase of software services by the Board in 2016. NASPO ValuePoint (formerly Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA) NASPO) is a cooperative purchasing program, aggregating the demand of all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the organized US territories, their political subdivisions and other eligible entities.

The State of California participates in the NASPO program, its local agencies and districts, including BART, are authorized by California Public Contract Code section 10298 to

purchase items from the suppliers' awarded contracts by NASPO without further competitive bidding. This procurement will be pursuant to the Utah Value Point Master Agreement Number AR3229 and the State of California Participating Addendum Number 7-20-70-47- 06 with Palo Alto Networks, expiring September 30, 2026. The procurement will be from SSP Data Inc., an authorized reseller of Palo Alto Networks software, subscription and services.

Pursuant to the District's Non-Federal Small Business Program, the Office of Civil Rights reviewed the scope of work and determined that there are no certified Small Businesses (SB) certified by the California Department of General Services, capable of providing the goods and services in this scope of work. Therefore, the Small Business Program does not apply to this NASPO ValuePoint agreement.

Pursuant to the District's Non-Discrimination Program for Subcontracting, the Availability Percentages for this Contract are 5.5% for Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) and 2.8% for Women Business Enterprises (WBEs). This transaction is for a Cybersecurity Enhancement Software subscription renewal. The reseller, SSP Data Inc., will not be subcontracting any portion of the Work and therefore, the provisions of the District's Non-Discrimination Program for Subcontracting do not apply.

The Office of the General Counsel will approve the agreement as to form before it is executed.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The subject EDD proposes a one-year term with a total cost from the operating fund of \$104,472.10 from the end of the current subscription term. The Office of Infrastructure Delivery operating budget (Department 0802821-Communications & Controls, Account 681355-Software & Tech Support) will fund the Agreement including the following estimated expenditures by fiscal year:

Description	Amount
FY25 (June 2025)	\$8,014.30
FY26 (July 1, 2025 – June 2, 2026)	\$96,457.80
TOTAL	\$104,472.10

Funding for the Agreement in Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) is included in the department's approved operating budget. Funding for the Agreement is included in the department's preliminary FY26 operating budget, subject to Board approval. The current subscription cost is \$111,369 and the renewal cost is \$104,472.10. The decrease in cost is due to price reduction for the subscription from the manufacturer (Palo Alto Networks) to the reseller

(SSP Data Inc.,).

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer certifies that funds are currently available to meet this obligation.

This action is not anticipated to have any Fiscal Impact on unprogrammed District reserves.

ALTERNATIVES:

The District could choose not to implement the software subscription renewal resulting in lapse of network security protections, leaving critical systems vulnerable to cyber threats and noncompliance with cybersecurity standards.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board adopt the following motion:

MOTION:

The General Manager or his designee is authorized to enter into Agreement No. 6M3758 with SSP Data, Inc. to renew Palo Alto Network Firewall subscription software licensing services for a 1-year duration, for an amount not to exceed \$104,472.10.