

CITY OF MERCED
THIRD AMENDMENT TO
AGREEMENT FOR USE AND TRANSACTIONS TAX SERVICES

1. PARTIES AND DATE.

This Third Amendment to the Agreement for Use and Transactions Tax Services ("Third Amendment") is entered into on the 1st day of July, 2024, by and between the CITY of MERCED ("CITY") and Hinderliter de Llamas and Associates, a California corporation ("Consultant"). CITY and Consultant are sometimes individually referred to herein as "Party" and collectively as "Parties."

2. RECITALS.

2.1 Agreement. The Parties entered into that certain Agreement for Transaction Tax Services dated July 15, 1996 ("Agreement").

2.2 Third Amendment. The Parties now desire to amend the Agreement to include consultation services for Transaction Tax – Measure C.

Exhibit A, attached hereto, is hereby incorporated into the Exhibits of the Agreement.

2.3 Remaining Provisions of Agreement. Except as otherwise specifically set forth in this Third Amendment, the remaining provisions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

CITY OF MERCED

HINDERLITER DE LLAMAS & ASSOC.

By: _____

By:  _____
Robert Gray, Vice President.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Attorney
City of Merced

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SERVICES

1. Transactions Tax and Economic Analysis/Forecasting Services/Reports

- 1.1. Consultant shall establish a database containing all applicable Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) registration data for each business within the Measure “C” District boundaries holding a seller’s permit account. Said database shall also identify the quarterly transactions and use tax allocations under each account for the most current and previous quarters where available.
- 1.2. Consultant shall provide updated reports each quarter identifying changes in allocation totals by individual businesses, business groups and by categories. Quarterly aberrations due to State audits, fund transfers, and receivables, along with late or double payments, will also be identified. Quarterly reconciliation worksheets to assist finance officer with budget forecasting will be included.
- 1.3. Consultant shall advise and work with CITY Staff on planning and economic questions related to maximizing revenues, preparation of revenue projections and general information on transactions and use tax questions.
- 1.4. Consultant shall make available to CITY the HdL proprietary software program and Measure “C” database containing all applicable registration and quarterly allocation information for CITY business outlets registered with the Department of Tax and Fee Administration. The database will be updated quarterly.

2. Deficiency/Allocation Reviews and Recovery

- 2.1. Consultant shall conduct on-going reviews to identify and correct unreported transactions and tax payments and distribution errors thereby generating previously unrealized revenue for the City. Reviews shall include:
 - 2.1.(a) Comparison of county-wide local tax allocations to transactions tax for brick and mortar stores and other cash register-based businesses, where clearly all transactions are conducted on-site within the Measure “C” City boundaries, and therefore subject to transactions tax.
 - 2.1.(b) Review of any significant one-time use tax allocations to ensure that there is corresponding transaction tax payments for taxpayers with nexus within the City boundaries.
 - 2.1.(c) Review of state-wide transactions tax allocations and patterns to identify any obvious errors and omissions.
 - 2.1.(d) Identification and follow-up with any potentially large purchasers of supplies and equipment (e.g. hospitals, universities, manufacturing plants, agricultural operations, refineries) to ensure that their major vendors are properly reporting corresponding transactions tax payments to the Measure “C” Transactions Tax District.
- 2.2. Consultant will initiate, where the probability of an error exists, contacts with the appropriate taxpayer management and accounting officials to verify whether current tax receipts accurately reflect the local sales activity. Such contacts will be conducted in a professional and courteous manner so as to enhance CITY’s relations with the business community.

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2.2. Consultant shall prepare and submit to the Department of Tax and Fee Administration all information necessary to correct any allocation errors and deficiencies that are identified and shall follow-up with the individual businesses and the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration to ensure that all back quarter payments due the CITY are recovered.

3. Consulting and Other Optional Services

Consultant may from time to time in its sole discretion, consult with City's staff, including without limitation, regarding (i) technical questions and other issues related to sales, use and transactions tax, (ii) utilization of reports to enhance business license collection efforts, (iii) sales tax projections for proposed annexations, economic development projects and budget planning, (iv) negotiating/review of tax sharing agreements, (v) establishing purchasing corporations, (vi) meeting with taxpayers to encourage self-assessment of tax obligations, and (vii) other sales, use or transactions tax revenue-related matters.

4. Confidentiality Information

Section 7056 of the State of California Revenue and Taxation Code ("R&T Code") specifically limits the disclosure of confidential taxpayer information contained in the records of the CDTFA. Section 7056 specifies the conditions under which a city, county or district may authorize persons other than such city, county or district's officers and employees to examine state sales and use tax records.

The following conditions specified in Section 7056-(b)(1) of the State of California R&T Code are hereby made part of this Agreement:

- 4.1. Consultant is authorized by this Agreement to examine sales, use or transactions and use tax records of the CDTFA provided to City pursuant to contract under the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law R&T Code Section 7200 et.seq.
- 4.2. Consultant is required to disclose information contained in, or derived from, those sales or transactions and use tax records only to an officer or employee of City who is authorized by City resolution provided to the CDTFA to examine the information.
- 4.3. Consultant is prohibited from performing consulting services for a retailer (as defined in R&T Code Section 6015), during the term of this agreement.
- 4.4. Consultant is prohibited from retaining the information contained in or derived from those sales, use or transactions and use tax records after this agreement has expired. Information obtained by examination of the CDTFA records shall be used only for purposes related to collection of local sales and use tax or for other governmental functions of the City as set forth by resolution adopted pursuant to Section 7056 (b) of the Revenue and Taxation Code. The resolution shall designate the Consultant as a person authorized to examine sales and use tax records and certify that this agreement meets the requirements set forth above and in Section 7056 (b), (1) of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

5. Software Use and Proprietary Information

Software Use. Consultant hereby provides authorization to City to access Consultant's Sales Tax website if City chooses to subscribe to the software and reports option. The website shall only be used by authorized City staff. No access will be granted to any third party without explicit written authorization by Consultant. City shall not sublet, duplicate, modify, decompile, reverse engineer, disassemble, or attempt to derive the source code of said software. The software use granted hereunder

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shall not imply ownership by City of said software, or any right of City to sell said software or the use of same, or any right to use said software for the benefit of others. This software use authorization is not transferable. Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement, the software use authorization shall expire, and all City staff website logins shall be de-activated.

Proprietary Information. As used herein, the term “proprietary information” means all information or material that has or could have commercial value or other utility in Consultant’s business, including without limitation: Consultant’s (i) computer or data processing programs; (ii) data processing applications, routines, subroutines, techniques or systems; desktop or web-based software; (iii) business processes; (iv) marketing plans, analysis and strategies; and (v) materials and techniques used; as well as the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Except as otherwise required by law, City shall hold in confidence and shall not use (except as expressly authorized by this Agreement) or disclose to any other party any proprietary information provided, learned of or obtained by City in connection with this Agreement. The obligations imposed by this Section shall survive any expiration or termination of this Agreement or otherwise. The terms of this Section shall not apply to any information that is public information.