

Golden State Risk Management Authority

Staff Report

Summary:

Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and Management (PRISM), the County's current provider of primary liability coverage, has announced the discontinuation of its primary liability program effective July 1, 2026. To ensure uninterrupted coverage, the staff proposes to join the Golden State Risk Management Authority (GSRMA), a joint powers authority that provides primary liability coverage and risk management services. Adoption of the proposed resolution will formally accept the governing Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and Bylaws, authorize membership, and approve withdrawal from PRISM.

Background:

The County has historically obtained primary liability coverage through PRISM as part of its risk management program. Due to PRISM's decision to discontinue this line of coverage, the County must transition to a new provider by July 1, 2026. Staff evaluated available options, including self-insured retention, and a quote in the open-insurance market, and determined that GSRMA provides a suitable and reliable alternative.

Membership in GSRMA requires the County to formally accept its Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and Bylaws, which establishes governance, coverage structure, and member responsibilities.

Discussion:

GSRMA provides primary liability coverage, claims administration, and risk management support comparable to the County's current program. By joining GSRMA, the County will maintain continuity of coverage and access to established risk management resources.

The proposed resolution authorizes the Deputy County Administrator Personnel and Risk Management Officer to execute all required agreements and documents, including the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and related coverage documents, ensuring timely enrollment and no lapse in coverage.

Withdrawal from PRISM will be completed in accordance with its governing requirements and timelines. Staff will coordinate closely with both entities to ensure a seamless transition.

Fiscal Impact:

The cost of participation in GSRMA is anticipated to be \$2,709,149 which is \$70,586 less than the PRISM anticipated cost of \$2,779,735 based on a cost comparison from 2025/26. Funding will be included in the FY 2026–27 budget.