

 **NOSSAMAN** LLP | Memorandum

TO: Monterey County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Ashley S. Walker, Senior Policy Advisor

RE: Strategic Grant Services Program: 2022 Annual Report

DATE: January 10, 2023

I. Introduction

The Strategic Grants Services Program (SGSP) was created by the Board of Supervisors in recognition of the need to concentrate funding efforts on the County's highest priority needs and projects. Nossaman began working with County's CAO-Intergovernmental & Legislative Affairs Division (IGLA) in September 2014 on the new program to enhance the County's success at securing grant funding. Nossaman works in close collaboration with the IGLA office to align our efforts with the County's Legislative Program. This alignment ensures that the many narrowly focused state and federal grant funding opportunities still support the County's primary goals.

The designation of "priority projects" which Nossaman has/or will work on is based on the following criteria:

- Alignment with the Board's Strategic Initiatives & Milestones
- Alignment with the Board's Legislative Priorities
- Availability of grant funding
- Ability to meet grant requirements
- Grant matching fund requirements
- Analysis of the ability to develop a competitive grant application

Nossaman engages on a regular basis with County Departments to provide feedback and suggest strategies regarding funding needs for priority projects. Often times this preparation work sets up projects for future funding opportunities, such as upcoming bond programs.

II. Summary of Accomplishments in 2022

The SGSP has been a very successful partnership between the County and Nossaman. A summary of our accomplishments in 2022 include:

- **Total Grant and Funding Secured since September 2014:** Worked with County Departments to secure a total of \$69,284,446 for high priority projects.
- **Total Grant and State Funding Secured in 2022:** Worked with County Departments to secure a total of \$21,262,035 for varies projects awarded in 2022.
- **Grant Applications Submitted:** Assisted various county departments with the submission of 10 grant applications.

- **Pending Grant Applications:** There are currently 2 pending grant applications Nossaman has assisted the County with, totaling **\$24,188,600**.
- **Alerts:** Nossaman alerted varies county department of 28 different funding opportunities that may be of interest to those departments and nonprofit partners on topics such as homelessness, water, climate adaptation, public health, affordable housing, parks, and public safety.
- **Grant Application Support Letters:** Coordinated securing grant 21 support letters for varies projects benefiting the County.
- **Funding Needs:** Consulted with all department heads and Supervisors to collect updated information on critical unfunded projects within the County.
- **Strategic Grant Services Program Work Plan:** Under the guidance of the Board's Legislative Committee and in collaboration with departments, developed a work plan for calendar year 2022 focused on 16 priority projects.

III. Strategic Advice Provided on Projects

Nossaman regularly assists with on-going County projects in need of funding and provides research on grant opportunities at the request of Supervisors and/or Department heads. These efforts don't necessarily result in the immediate submission of a grant application, but rather lay the groundwork for future funding opportunities. Below is an outline of the projects we worked on in 2022.

- **Department Meetings:** Nossaman participated in several meetings with Departments whose projects are listed on the potential work for Harris and Associates. Nossaman evaluated potential grant programs that would be good fits for the projects on this list, and provided Departments with key information about the grant programs.
- **FY 2022-23 Budget Act Funding Opportunities:** The state budget provided several different funding opportunities for the County, and Nossaman initially identified programs likely to benefit the County's projects. Potential state budget funding pots that Nossaman identified, included those focused on: wildfire resilience, water resilience, climate resilience, sustainable agriculture, and the Cap and Trade expenditure plan.
- **Interlake Tunnel & Fish Screens:** Nossaman lobbied for funding in the 2022-23 State Budget, and continued to research and monitor any potential funding programs that this project would be eligible and competitive for.
- **San Antonio and Nacimiento Dam and Spillway:** Nossaman continued to work with a statewide coalition to advocate for funding in a statewide bond that could be used for projects such as dam and spillway repairs. Additionally, Nossaman lobbied for funding in the 2022-23 State Budget and successfully secured over \$6 million.
- **Proposition 68 Grants:** The County submitted several applications to both the Regional Parks Program and the Rural Tourism and Recreation Program. While none of the projects were funded, we did scope out these projects for potential future funding opportunities. Nossaman worked with staff to review all of the County's applications for funding, provide comments and suggestions to enhance competitiveness, and secured support letters from our Legislative Delegation. The applications included:

- Proposition 68 Rural Recreation and Tourism Program:
 - San Lorenzo Park: This project will expand the park offerings with the addition of a Splash Pad.
 - Lake San Antonio Marina Project: This project will construct a new Marina in the Lake San Antonio South Shore recreation area to revitalize park visitation.
 - Lake San Antonio Amphitheater Project: This project will add an Amphitheater to Lake San Antonio North Shore to revitalize park visitation.
- Proposition 68 Regional Parks Program:
 - Salinas Bike and Skate Park: The 855 East Laurel Street Project is a new 1.7 acre Bike and Skate Park.
- **Active Transportation Program (ATP):** The County's PWFDP Department and the County's Health Department submitted several ATP applications. The projects have both infrastructure and non-infrastructure components, and the County Health Department will be performing outreach and non-infrastructure activities. Nossaman met with County staff and provided input and suggestions on the 3 of the draft applications. On October 20 the California Transportation Commission released the 2023 Active Transportation Program (ATP) staff recommendations for funding. The County had submitted 5 applications, 3 of which successfully secured funding.
 - Chualar Complete Streets: This project will include sidewalks to close the gaps in the community and allow for safe pedestrian use. The project will include crosswalks as well to ensure there are safe routes to schools and public transportation facilities. Nossaman met with County staff about this project, reviewed the application and made suggestions to the grant narrative. Funding requested and secured: \$6,349,000
 - Castroville Complete Streets: This project will include sidewalks to close the gaps in the community and allow for safe pedestrian use. The project will include crosswalks as well to ensure there are safe routes to schools and public transportation facilities. Nossaman met with County staff about this project, reviewed the application and made suggestions to the grant narrative. Funding requested and secured: \$6,463,000
 - San Ardo Complete Streets: The County received technical assistance from Caltrans on this application. This project will include sidewalks to close the gaps in the community and allow for safe pedestrian use. The project will include crosswalks as well to ensure there are safe routes to schools and public transportation facilities. Nossaman did not work on this application. Funding requested and secured: \$3,448,000

Additionally, the County applied for the following ATP applications that were not recommended for funding:

- Esquiline Road Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Improvement Project: The project will construct a new bridge with pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Nossaman did not work on this application.
- Carmel Valley Road: The proposed project consists of constructing a Class II bike lane on Carmel Valley Road from the entrance to Los Laureles Lodge to the intersection of Panetta Road. The segment of road is narrow and cannot safely accommodate bicyclists and motorists at the same time. Nossaman met with County staff about this project, reviewed the application and made suggestions to the grant narrative.

- **FY 2022 OJP Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative:** Nossaman participated in several meetings with the County and County's partners, including the City of Salinas, to discuss an application for funding in order to create a critical incident response team, which would be trauma related. Nossaman participated in the group preparation meetings and secure letters of support from our legislative delegation. The application was submitted, but was not selected for funding.
- **San Lucas Clean Drinking Water Project:** Nossaman has been highly engaged on this project, providing strategic advice on funding opportunities to provide a solution to the drinking water issues in the community of San Lucas. Nossaman lobbied for funding in the 2022-23 State Budget for this project. Supervisors Alejo and Lopez met with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to discuss the need for a clean drinking water solution in the community of San Lucas, and funding for the project. Nossaman has also been working closely with the SWRCB, and has set up meetings with the Chair of the Board and several Divisions, to discuss next steps regarding accessing funding for the project. Additionally, Nossaman set up a meeting with the Governor's office to discuss the project and potential funding through the State Budget. The SWRCB recommended that the San Lucas Water District accept an offer of Technical Assistance to evaluate a long term solution for safe, clean drinking water for the community of San Lucas. Nossaman will continue to work on identifying opportunities to fund this critical drinking water project.

IV. Upcoming Grant Opportunities in 2023

There are several upcoming grant opportunities we have identified that align with County priorities and projects. Some of these programs are outlined in our SGSP 2023 Work Plan. Examples of upcoming opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- **Active Transportation Program (ATP):** Bike and pedestrian improvements, connectivity improvements.
- **Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC):** Affordable housing related infrastructure, sustainable transportation infrastructure.
- **California Drinking Water State Revolving Fund:** Assists public water systems in financing the cost of drinking water infrastructure projects needed to achieve or maintain compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements.
- **CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention and Forest Health Grants:** Wildfire Prevention Grants Program seeks to award local projects in and near fire threatened communities that focus on increasing the protection of people, structures, and communities. Forest Health Grant Program will award funding for landscape scale forest restoration projects that restore forest resilience to catastrophic disturbance.
- **Dam Safety Grant Program:** Details are TBD.
- **Habitat Conservation Fund:** Eligible projects include: nature interpretation programs to bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas, protection of various plant and animal species, and acquisition and development of wildlife corridors and trails.

- **Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant:** This opportunity provides funding for communities to implement mitigation activities to reduce risk to life and property from natural hazards. In CA, natural hazards include wildfire, earthquake, drought, extreme weather, flooding, and other impacts of climate change. HMGP funding can also support the development of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP) and project scoping activities.
- **Local Housing Trust Fund:** Provides matching funds for entities that set aside funding in a trust fund for affordable housing.
- **Small Community Drought Relief Program:** Funding to provide immediate relief in response to conditions arising from a drought scenario to address immediate impacts on human health and safety and on fish and wildlife resources and to provide water to persons or communities that lose or are threatened with the loss or contamination of water supplies.
- **Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Grant Program:** Funding for communities, including Tribes, facing the loss or contamination of their water supplies due to the drought; and to address immediate drought impacts on human health and safety, and to protect fish and wildlife resources plus other public benefits, such as ecosystem improvements.