



**TO:** Board of Supervisors, County of Monterey      **DATE:** January 29, 2019

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**RE:** Strategic Grant Services Program: 2018 Annual Report

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## **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 Intergovernmental & Legislative Affairs Division (IGLA) in September 2014 on the new program to enhance the County's success at securing multiple and varied grant awards. 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 2018**

The SGSP has been a very successful partnership between the County and Nossaman. A summary of our accomplishments in 2018 include:

- **Total Grant and Funding Secured since September 2014:** Worked with County Departments to secure a total of **\$23,622,866** for high priority projects.
- **Grant Applications Submitted:** Assisted various County departments with the successful submission of four grant applications.
- **Alerts:** Sent over 20 funding opportunity alerts to County departments and nonprofit partners on topics such as homelessness, water, infrastructure, climate adaptation, affordable housing, parks, and public safety.

- **Strategic Advice:** Provided strategic consultation on funding opportunities for 18 County projects (detailed below).
- **Grant Needs Inventory:** Consulted with all department heads and Supervisors to collect updated information on critical unfunded projects within the County. There is currently a backlog of over 100 County projects which need funding to proceed.
- **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 2019.

### III. Strategic Advice Provided on Projects

Nossaman regularly assists with several on-going projects and provides research on funding 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 2018.

- **CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Program:** The County's Department of Information Technology (IT) coordinated with the Office of Emergency Services and the Department Heads' GIS Committee to prepare a CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Program application to fund the County's Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) mapping project. Nossaman met with IT to provide strategic advice regarding competitiveness of the project and provided two thorough reviews of the application. The application is currently pending review by the State. The grant would allow the County to acquire a LiDAR-based high resolution Digital Elevation Model (DEM), plus a Digital Terrain Model including natural and manmade features (DTM), of the entirety of the County of Monterey.
- **CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant:** Nossaman assisted RMA with a concept proposal application for funding to assist with forest health and management at Jacks Peak County Park. The County submitted a concept proposal in 2017 but was not asked to submit a full application. Nossaman was not previously involved in the application, but reached out to CAL FIRE for feedback on the previous concept proposal. Nossaman provided RMA with the feedback from CAL FIRE and offered assistance with review of the application.
- **California Complete Count Census:** Nossaman met with the Deputy Secretary of Legislation for CalGovOps to discuss how state funding will be allocated for the 2020 Census prior to that information being released. Nossaman continues to monitor philanthropic funding opportunities that may benefit the County's complete count efforts.
- **California Shoreline Erosion Control & Public Beach Restoration Grant:** Nossaman assisted the Resource Management Agency (RMA) with an application for funding all planning and pre-construction costs for the Carmel Lagoon Ecosystem Protective Barrier and Scenic Road Protective Structure. Nossaman coordinated a call with DBW staff to discuss project details. Nossaman alerted the County's legislative delegation about the grant proposal. Given that RMA needed further direction from the Board of Supervisors on the project and funding, as well as the significant 50% matching requirement of the

grant program, RMA decided to not move forward with the State's review of this grant application.

- **CalOES Hazard Mitigation Grant Program:** RMA submitted a Notice of Interest (NOI) for the Hazard Mitigation Program for the CRFREE project. CalOES alerted the County the project is eligible to submit a full application. RMA took the lead in preparing and submitting the full application. Nossaman discussed the grant application with RMA prior to submission to gauge competitiveness. Nossaman reviewed the first draft, along with comments from the Big Sur Land Trust, and the final application.
- **CalOES/FEMA Reimbursement Coordinating for Soberanes Fire:** CalOES reached out to Nossaman regarding outstanding items needed to process the Soberanes Fire reimbursement request. Nossaman coordinated a call with the County's OES Manager, RMA, Cal OES and FEMA to discuss the outstanding items needed. Nossaman sent CalOES all required documents that were requested. The County's OES Manager led the process moving forward.
- **Carmel Valley Airstrip:** Nossaman was alerted by Supervisor Adams' office of funding needed to purchase land in Carmel Valley for perpetual public open space. Nossaman met with Supervisor Adams, County staff, and local community advocates to discuss funding needed to purchase land in Carmel Valley for perpetual public open space. The land is 30 acres and is used by CAL FIRE and PG&E as an airstrip during fire events. The land is being sold by a private owner. Given the short timeframe needed to secure funding, grant programs are not an ideal fit for this project. At the request of Supervisor Adams, Nossaman has instead facilitated conversations with affordable housing developers to see if there might be an interest in purchasing the property for housing purposes. In addition, Nossaman facilitated conversations with PG&E and CAL FIRE, as these entities may have an interest in preserving this open space. Nossaman will continue to facilitate conversations that may assist the project in moving forward.
- **Coastal Conservancy Proposition 1 Funding Project Assessment:** The Coastal Conservancy contacted the County regarding their Proposition 1 Grant solicitation focused on the Central Coast. Nossaman reached out to the Coastal Conservancy to get more information on the types of projects they are looking to fund. Nossaman alerted the Water Resources Agency (WRA) and the RMA of the potential opportunity. WRA and RMA could not identify any projects that fit within the grant priorities. Nossaman solicited feedback from the Coastal Conservancy about two projects RMA suggested and the State provided feedback that they were not a good fit for the program.
- **Greenfield Courthouse:** In addition to the State Legislative and Budget work Nossaman was actively working on this past year, we also closely monitored the process in which the California Judicial Council will be re-evaluating projects to ensure the Greenfield Courthouse project rises to the top of the funding list. Nossaman set up a meeting with the Judicial Council, the County, and the City of Greenfield to update them on the current project status and funding commitment from the City.
- **Homeless Emergency Assistance Program (HEAP):** The HEAP program was established through statute to provide local jurisdictions with flexible block grant funds that can be used to address immediate homelessness challenges. Funding is given to

Continuums of Care (Coc) and Large Cities (LCs). The San Benito/Monterey CoC funding formula estimate is just over \$12.5 million. The solicitation for the first round of funding was released on September 5. Nossaman participated in several calls with County staff to discuss potential projects, including a temporary shelter and a safe parking program. Nossaman participated in the HEAP webinar and provided County staff with notes. Nossaman recently checked in with staff in the County's Department of Social Services and were informed the County is submitting a joint application in coordination with the City of Salinas. Nossaman has offered assistance with the application process, and have been informed our services may be of assistance in the future.

- **Interlake Tunnel:** In addition to the State Legislative and Budget work Nossaman was actively working on this past year, we also participated in bi-weekly conference calls with the WRA and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife regarding funding for the project. Nossaman provided assistance to WRA regarding all follow up items from these calls, including vetting potential funding opportunities that CDFW felt may be a good fit. Nossaman alerted the WRA of all potential sources of funding for the project as they became available, in addition to attempting to create State funding for the project.
- **Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG):** Due to the lawsuit between California and the federal government regarding sanctuary cities, the State was delayed in receiving any JAG funding. The federal government has implemented new special conditions for funding that made it difficult for the State to receive funding. The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) recently announced the release of a solicitation for applications. Nossaman will be participating in a multi department meeting to discuss the funding needs and application strategy. Nossaman will be attending the bidder's conference in January 2019.
- **Old Jail Rehabilitation:** Supervisor Alejo requested Nossaman research potential grant funding sources for the old County jail. Nossaman met with RMA to discuss the status of the RFP for the Old Jail. RMA plans to start the RFP process in February 2019. Once that is complete, we will have a better understanding of what types of funding to research and analyze for the project. Nossaman will continue to communicate with RMA's on their efforts to transform the Old Jail building and what potential funding opportunities may be a good fit. Nossaman identified potential grant programs that need to be further explored with County staff, including:
  - State Budget Request
  - Save America's Treasures
  - NEH Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants
  - Access to Historical Records Grants: Archival Projects
  - Access to Historical Records Grants: Major Initiatives
  - Museums for America
  - Art Works – Museums
  - National Trust for Historic Preservation
- **One California: Immigrant Services Funding:** Supervisor Alejo requested Nossaman research the distribution of these grants to see if there are any geographic inequities in other regions, similar to Monterey County. This funding program was developed by the legislature to provide services for immigrants such as: community education and outreach, naturalization services, affirmative legal services, defensive legal representation and

services, and legal training, legal resources and technical assistance. As pointed out by Supervisor Alejo, the amount of funding being invested in the Central Coast is very minimal in comparison to the rest of the State. Local non-profits believe that the program is not providing funding assistance in Monterey County. Nossaman engaged Senator Monning's office to work on this issue.

- **Salinas Regional Soccer Complex:** County staff reached out to the City of Salinas offering our assistance on grant applications for the Soccer Complex project. Nossaman participated in a meeting with the Assemblymember Anna Caballero, the City of Salinas, the California Endowment, and the County of Monterey to discuss funding opportunities to construct the Salinas Soccer Complex. The City discussed the barriers in applying for the Proposition 68 Statewide Parks Program (SPP), as those projects need to show they are within a ½ mile radius of a disadvantaged community. Proposition 68 funds two other park related grant programs, the Regional Park Program and the Rural Recreation and Tourism Program. We believe the soccer complex is a better fit for the RPP. Upon appropriation of the legislature, those guidelines will be in draft form for public review and input during the first half of 2019.
- **San Antonio Reservoir Spillway:** At the request of the County, Nossaman reviewed current Federal and State funding programs and communicated with Federal and State agencies and departments to determine what existing and potential funding opportunities would be available for dam repairs. Nossaman provided the County a detailed memo outlining all possible federal and state funding opportunities.
- **San Lucas Safe Drinking Water:** Nossaman has coordinated several meetings with RMA and the State Water Resources Control Board to discuss the progress and timeline for review of the County's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund application for San Lucas. The State Water Resources Control Board requested that the County, on behalf of the San Lucas Water District (SLWD), submit a new grant application for the planning phase of this project. In anticipation of the new application, County staff received direction from the State Water Resources Control Board to submit for the full planning stage (bid-ready package) for the project. The application was successfully submitted by RMA. Nossaman is coordinating efforts to ensure a timely review of this application.
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Earmark:** County staff was working on documentation to finalize the grant application that is required to draw down funding, and an issue came up with NEPA requirements. Our project manager at the San Francisco EPA office, who has been working on the project since Nossaman reached out to him a couple years ago, committed to prepare a NEPA Categorical Exclusion determination (CATEX) on behalf of the County which would fulfill the application requirements. Some time had passed when our EPA project manager advised that he didn't have the time to complete the CATEX and he had proactively reached out to an environmental firm contracted with EPA (ERG in Virginia) to assist with the preparation of CATEX. The ERG firm began work on the CATEX about 3 months ago. They anticipate the work to take a total of 6-9 months to complete. All other necessary paperwork to get this grant funded is complete. Based on recent conversations with our EPA project manager, once the CATEX is complete, the funds can be awarded.

#### IV. Upcoming Grant Opportunities in 2019

There are several upcoming grant opportunities we have identified that align with County priorities and projects. Most of these programs are outlined in our 2019 Work Plan. Some 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.
- **Habitat Conservation Fund:** 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.
- **Justice Assistance Grant Program:** (1) Prevention and Education, (2) Law Enforcement, and (3) Courts, Prosecution, and Defense and Indigent Defense.
- **Proposition 68 Regional Parks Program:** Acquisition or development of park space to create, expand, or improve regional parks and regional park facilities.
- **Proposition 68 Statewide Parks Program:** Local park rehabilitation, creation, and improvement grants to local governments to address deficiencies in neighborhoods lacking access to the outdoors.
- **SB 1 Caltrans Sustainable Communities Program:** Encourage local and regional planning that furthers state goals, including, but not limited to, the goals and best practices cited in the Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines adopted by the California Transportation Commission.
- **SB 1 Climate Adaptation Planning Grants:** Support planning actions at local and regional levels that advance climate change efforts on the transportation system.
- **SB 1 Storm Water Grant Program:** Multi-benefit storm water management projects which may include, but shall not be limited to: green infrastructure, rainwater and storm water capture projects and storm water treatment facilities.