



County of Monterey

Item No.4

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAPL 26-039

June 03, 2026

Introduced: 5/27/2026

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Consider recommending that the Board of Directors recommend to the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency approve grazing lease forms and a public bid notice for Agency grazing lands located around San Antonio and Nacimiento Reservoirs; and direct the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to advertise for bids

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors recommend that the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency:

- a. Approve proposed grazing lease forms and a public bid notice for grazing lands located around San Antonio and Nacimiento Reservoirs; and
- c. Direct the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to advertise for bids.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA or Agency) manages grazing leases on Agency-owned lands surrounding Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs. The Grazing Lease Program supports responsible livestock grazing while promoting watershed protection, vegetation management, wildfire fuel reduction, infrastructure stewardship, and long-term land management objectives. The program encompasses approximately 16,400 acres of Agency-owned rangelands associated with the Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoir systems. These lands include a mix of open grazing areas, rolling rangelands, oak woodlands, road and utility access corridors, and areas containing Agency infrastructure.

The current grazing leases are set to expire on October 31, 2026. Therefore, Agency staff are seeking the authority to begin and conduct the grazing lease bid process utilizing the following documents and forms. Attachment 1 includes the Grazing Lease, which establishes operational standards, stewardship requirements, monitoring expectations, and lease compliance procedures. Attachment 2 includes the Bidder's Pre-qualification Forms that established the approved bidder's list. Attachment 3 is the resolution to be included in the required public noticing for advertising the grazing leases available for bidding. Attachment 4 includes the maps of the lease areas at Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs. There will be a minimum lease fee bid requirement that will be included in the final bidding documents.

The bidding schedule is still being refined. It is estimated that the bid packet will be released in late June/early July for a minimum of three (3) weeks and results will be certified by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors in August. This will support the new leases being effective on November 1, 2026.

The leasing program is statutorily and categorically exempt from CEQA (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15301 (existing facility (including leases)) and 15261 (ongoing project).)

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

County Counsel has reviewed and commented on the grazing lease forms.

FINANCING:

Revenue from the Grazing Lease Program is included in the FY26-27 Recommended Budget and includes current lease rates. In addition, new lease administration fees are proposed to defray certain costs of contract compliance monitoring and enforcement.

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Attachments:

1. DRAFT Grazing Lease
2. DRAFT Pre-Qualification Bidder Form
3. DRAFT Public Notice
4. DRAFT Lease Area Maps: Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs