



TO: Board of Supervisors, County of Monterey **DATE:** January 28, 2020

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RE: Strategic Grant Services Program: 2019 Annual Report

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 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 2019

The SGSP has been a very successful partnership between the County and Nossaman. A summary of our accomplishments in 2019 include:

- **Total Grant and Funding Secured since September 2014:** Worked with County Departments to secure a total of **\$46,622,866** for high priority projects.
- **Funding in 2020 Successfully Secured:** Worked with the County on two successful efforts for funding.
 - **\$17 million for the Interlake Tunnel Project:** Nossaman worked with Senator Monning and the entire County's legislative delegation to secure \$17 million in the 2019-20 State Budget to fund the fish screens required by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as a part of the Interlake Tunnel project.

- **\$6 million Proposition 47 Grant:** The Behavioral Health Department submitted a Proposition 47 application to fund mental health services, substance use disorder treatment and diversion programs for people in the criminal justice system. In June 2019, the Board of State and Community Corrections approved the County's \$6 million request. Nossaman and the County's IGLA office assisted in the process by reviewing the grant narrative and provided suggesting edits to strengthen the application.
- **Grant Applications Submitted:** Assisted various County departments with the successful submission of six grant applications.
- **Alerts:** Sent 14 funding opportunity alerts to County departments and nonprofit partners on topics such as homelessness, water, infrastructure, climate adaptation, affordable housing, parks, and public safety.
- **Funding Research Requests:** Provided strategic consultation on potential funding opportunities for 18 County projects (detailed below).
- **Grant Application Support Letters:** Coordinated securing grant support letters for four projects benefiting the County. Three of these projects were led by applicants other than the County, and the support letter was on behalf of the Board of Supervisors. The fourth project was the CRFREE project and letters were secured from Assemblymember Stone and Congressman Panetta.
- **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 2020.

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 2019.

- **Big Sur Cell Service:** Nossaman researched potential USDA funding for the Big Sur area's need for telecommunication and broadband infrastructure.
- **Blight Removal at Fort Ord:** Nossaman researched potential brownfield funding opportunities and provided summaries of funding programs for the County and cities within the County.

- **Carmel Lagoon:** Nossaman was in regular communication with RMA about the development and status of the Carmel Lagoon project. Nossaman researched potential funding opportunities for the project.
- **Chualar School Hydration Stations:** Nossaman researched potential grant funds available to purchase 4 hydration stations for schools in Chualar. The project would provide chilled/filtered drinking water fountains that have the addition of the spout to fill water bottles at the back. The project would serve about 500 kids at each location, plus serve an additional unknown number of people after school hours when the grounds are used for various other activities. Nossaman provided the County with two grant funding opportunities that may be a good fit for the project: The Recyclebank Green Schools Program and the Peace Love Planet's Go Green Grants.
- **Climate Change Mitigation:** Nossaman researched potential funding opportunities for climate change related projects. Nossaman provided detailed summaries of three open or upcoming climate change related programs to the County IGLA office, the Resource Management Agency, and the Water Resources Agency.
- **Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (CRFREE):** RMA submitted an application for funding through the Hazard Mitigation Program for the CRFREE project. 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. The application is currently pending, but likely to be successfully funded for over \$28 million.

In addition, RMA and Big Sur Land Trust proposed the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project for funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's National Coastal Resiliency Program. Nossaman secured support letters from Congressman Panetta and Assemblymember Stone. The application is currently pending.

- **Greenfield Courthouse:** The Judicial Council's Court Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) and the Judicial Council of California voted to approve newly proposed methodology used to rank court facilities projects, along with a new statewide court facilities project list. Nossaman coordinated a meeting between the County, City and Judicial Council staff. Both Supervisor Alejo and Supervisor Lopez submitted public comments during the approval process regarding the two court projects in the County, expressing concerns that the Greenfield Courthouse was lower on the priority list than the Fort Ord Courthouse. Nossaman kept the County up to date on the process as it was happening to ensure the County could be proactive. The methodology and list was presented to the Legislature in December 2019. We anticipate the Legislature will have questions and be engaged in taking a close look at the new list through the budget subcommittee process in 2020.
- **Housing and Homelessness:** Nossaman met with the County's Housing Program Manager on several occasions to discuss hurdles facing the County in addressing affordable housing and homelessness, which is a priority for the Board. Nossaman reviewed and notified the County of several funding opportunities that support the development of affordable housing and/or homelessness projects.

- **Interlake Tunnel & Fish Screens:** As outlined above, Nossaman worked with Senator Monning and the entire County's legislative delegation to secure \$17 million in the 2019-20 State Budget to fund the fish screens required by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as a part of the Interlake Tunnel project.

Additionally, Nossaman was engaged in meetings at the State level regarding WIIN Act funding for the Interlake project. Nossaman informed the County what the steps are that the State level to ensure eligibility for this federal funding program.

- **Laguna Seca Recreational Area:** Laguna Seca is in need of a new water filtration plant to provide potable water by repurposing, refurbishing and replacing existing, non-functioning and outdated water systems. Nossaman assisted the County submit a Proposition 68 Cultural, Community and Natural Resources Grant application to provide safe, clean drinkable water to campers, day guests, event spectators and participants. The application was not successful, however Nossaman continues to monitor funding opportunities for this project.
- **Land Valuation:** Nossaman met with the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County to discuss potential funding sources for a land valuation. The District believes Monterey County would be best suited to have a scaled down version of the Santa Cruz land valuation, and builds upon the "Economic Contributions of Monterey County Agriculture" report. The District offered to be a resource as we move forward with our research, and gave Nossaman some ideas on potential foundation funding sources. The District expressed they have the capacity to carry out the work of completing a land valuation study and would contract with firms who specialize in this area. Nossaman will continue to alert the District of potential funding opportunities that would benefit the County.
- **North County Fire District:** Nossaman worked with the County IGLA office to meet with North County Fire District and discuss the need for funding five firefighter positions. The District had received a previous FEMA grant called "SAFER" that funded these five positions up until earlier this year. The District did not have the funding necessary to keep those positions past the grant period, and therefore had to lay off these positions. The District missed the opportunity to apply for SAFER again this year, because they still had those five positions employed. The SAFER grant is the only funding program for the hiring of firefighters. The District will be eligible to apply in Spring of 2020. The District is likely to be eligible for a financial hardship waiver that will lessen the matching amount required.
- **Old Jail:** The Resource Management Agency (RMA) made a presentation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the rehabilitation and project options for the Old Jail. Nossaman researched and provided information to RMA regarding potential funding for the park project and an incentive program for the rehabilitation of the building. Nossaman also set up a meeting with the State Historic Preservation Office to discuss additional potential funding opportunities. Assemblymember Rivas met with Supervisor Alejo and staff to discuss the project and funding needs, as well as tour the project site. Nossaman informed Senator's Caballero and Monning's offices about the funding needs and status of the project as well.

- **Salinas Soccer Complex:** Nossaman participated in meetings with the County, City of Salinas, and various stakeholders to discuss the funding needs and potential funding opportunities. Nossaman provided the County an outline of potential Proposition 68 funding programs that would fit the project goals. The 2019-20 State Budget included \$5 million for the Salinas Soccer Complex, as requested by Senator Caballero and Assemblymember Rivas. The County took a support position on this funding request, and Nossaman testified in Budget Committee hearings on behalf of the County.
- **Salinas Valley Promise Scholarship Program:** Nossaman researched potential funding opportunities for this program, however no grant funding opportunities were available.
- **San Antonio and Nacimiento Dam and Spillway:** Nossaman participated in several meetings with County staff to discuss the funding needs for the Dam and Spillway. Nossaman reviewed 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 and spillway repairs. Nossaman provided the County a detailed memo outlining all possible federal and state funding opportunities.
- **San Lucas / San Ardo Neighborhood Parks:** Nossaman research funding opportunities for the development of neighborhood parks in the San Lucas and San Ardo communities. Nossaman provided the County with a summary of the Proposition 68 Statewide Parks Program that could be a potential funding source for these projects. The challenge is the funding needed for maintenance of the parks. The County has had internal discussions about options to maintain potential neighborhood parks.
- **San Lucas Safe Drinking Water:** Nossaman 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.

IV. Upcoming Grant Opportunities in 2020

There are several upcoming grant opportunities we have identified that align with County priorities and projects. Some of these programs are outlined in our 2020 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.
- **Cannabis Equity Grant Program:** Advance economic justice for populations and communities impacted by cannabis prohibition and the War on Drugs (WoD) by providing

support to local jurisdictions as they promote equity in California and eliminate barriers to enter the newly regulated cannabis industry for equity program applicants and licensees.

- **Infill Infrastructure Grant:** Promote infill housing development and aid in new construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure that supports higher-density affordable and mixed-income housing in locations designated as infill.
- **Joe Serna Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program:** Provides grants or deferred-payment loans for the construction and rehabilitation of housing for agricultural workers and their families.
- **Local Housing Trust Fund:** Provides matching funds for entities that set aside funding in a trust fund for affordable housing.
- **Proposition 68 Regional Parks Program:** Acquisition or development of park space to create, expand, or improve regional parks and regional park facilities.
- **Proposition 68 Rural Recreation and Tourism Program:** Create new recreation opportunities in support of economic and health-related goals in rural communities.
- **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.
- **Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program:** Development of multifamily rental housing containing permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, and affordable housing for Veterans and their families.