



TO: Monterey County Legislative Committee **DATE:** September 10, 2018

FROM: Jennifer Capitolo, Senior Policy Advisor, Nossaman LLP
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RE: Strategic Grant Services Program: Grants Update

Background:

The Strategic Grants Services Program (SGSP) focuses on identifying funding for the County's priority funding needs. The program is managed by the County Administrative Office, Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs Division in partnership with Nossaman LLP. Priorities are defined by the Board's Strategic Initiatives, the Board's Legislative Priorities, availability of grant funding, ability to meet grant requirements, and a strategic analysis of the County's ability to submit a competitive grant application. Since Nossaman began working with the County, the SGSP has helped secure over \$24.5 million in grant funding for various Departments.

SGSP Grants and Legislative/Regulatory Advocacy Effort Highlights:

- **Homeless Emergency Aid 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 has participated in several calls with County staff to discuss potential projects. The County intends to apply for funding to construct a temporary homeless shelter. Nossaman participated in the HEAP webinar and provided County staff with notes. Nossaman will assist the County, as necessary, with the application process.
- **2020 Census:** In August, Nossaman worked with County staff to draft a letter to the two key contacts in the State regarding the census. The letter asked that the County of Monterey be included in the development of the plan for distributing the funding allocated through the State Budget. Nossaman continues to follow up with legislative and administrative contacts to ensure the County of Monterey is included in this process. CSAC is hosted a workshop on September 5th regarding Counties' Role in the 2020 Census. County staff attended the workshop and Nossaman arranged a meeting with the Senate and Assembly leadership staff contacts on the Census. Legislative staff was extremely helpful in providing the County with several contacts and resources that will assist in preparing the County's strategy to get a complete count.
- **Carmel Lagoon / CRFREE Projects:** Nossaman met with RMA to discuss the current status of both projects and next steps on applying for grant funding programs. Regarding the Carmel Lagoon project, Nossaman is reviewing the California Natural Resources Agency funding opportunities with staff to identify potential funding for pre-construction costs. Regarding the CRFREE project, RMA is applying for funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program due in early October. Nossaman will provide assistance in reviewing this application.

- **Salinas Soccer Complex Project:** County staff reached out to the City of Salinas offering our assistance on grant applications for the Soccer Complex. We expect the solicitation for Proposition 68 funding to be released early next year, possibly at the end of this year. Nossaman and County staff will plan to reconnect with the City as soon as grant program solicitations are released to again offer our assistance.
- **Carmel Valley Save Open Space:** Nossaman was alerted by Supervisor Adams' office of funding needed to purchase land in Carmel Valley for perpetual public open space. The land is 30 acres and is being sold by a private land owner. Nossaman is working on a memo of potential funding opportunities that could be explored for this project.
- **Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Process:** Due to the current lawsuit between California and the federal government regarding sanctuary cities, the State has yet to receive any JAG funding. The federal government has implemented new special conditions for funding that have made it difficult for the State to receive funding. The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) held a closed session during their Board Meeting on September 5 to discuss this ongoing issue and next steps. The BSCC is planning on releasing a solicitation for applications once this issue is resolved and the State receives its JAG funding. The Sheriff's Office is interested in applying for funding for Body Worn Cameras. Nossaman will continue to monitor this funding solicitation and provided application assistance as needed.