

**Monterey County Board of Supervisors  
Referral Submittal Form**

**Referral No. 2021.28  
Assignment Date: 12/07/21**

**SUBMITTAL - Completed by referring Board office and returned to CAO no later than noon on Thursday prior to Board meeting:**

|                  |   |                   |
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| Date: 11/29/2021 | Submitted By: Luis A. Alejo & Chris Lopez | District #: 1 & 3 |
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**Referral Title: Water Storage Infrastructure & Maintenance State Budget Request**

Referral Purpose: Due to the projected state budget record surplus, this referral requests that Monterey County Water Resources Agency partner with our state legislative delegation to make a \$300 million budget request in the 2022 legislative session for the water storage infrastructure & maintenance projects at Lakes San Antonio and Nacimiento

Brief Referral Description: Last week, the independent Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) predicted that California having an estimated \$31 billion budget surplus for the 2022-23 fiscal year. Governor Gavin Newsom and the California legislature will likely be considering funding one-time infrastructure projects in next year's budget with such an extensive surplus.

Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) owns and operates the Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs. Both are multi-use facilities providing flood control, water supply, groundwater recharge, recreation and other benefits. MCWRA has identified the highest priority capital and maintenance projects that were specified in the Capital Asset Management Program and in the nine-year operations and maintenance list. These projects have not been performed because MCWRA has not had the financial resources to complete them. After the Oroville Dam evacuation in 2017, the California Division of Safety of Dams required a rigorous review of all safety and maintenance of all California dams.

Completion of these projects will now allow MCWRA to fully operate Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams, meet federal and state regulatory compliance, and assure the safety of Monterey County residents and MCWRA staff. The total project costs are approximately \$150 million: specifically Lake Nacimiento (\$76.4M) and Lake San Antonio (\$72.4M).

Seperately, MCWRA has done extensive early planning and design for the Interlake Tunnel Projects between both lakes and for the potential raising of the dam at Lake San Antonio to increase water storage capacity. In 2016, the State of California provided a \$10 million grant for the Interlake Tunnel Project and there is an agreement with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and MCWRA for another \$17 million to install a white bass fish screen during the construction. In August 2020, early water projections for the Interlake Tunnel Project and Raised Spillway was estimated at 54,000 new acre feet of water and another 36,000 acre feet for conservation releases and groundwater recharge.

Monterey County does not receive any imported water from state or federal projects and upwards of 95 percent of the water used comes from local groundwater supplies. Our reservoir operations provide a buffer against drought conditions to Salinas Valley water users. The MCWRA has been able to make releases to provide groundwater recharge, despite very limited minimal inflows in the last 2 years. However, this year operations were curtailed two months earlier than normal. And without significant inflows, there will be little opportunity for operations next season and in future years due to the current severe drought. It is therefore imperative to pursue state funding next year to secure needed state assistance and help ensure a sustainable water supply for the critically important Salinas Valley region for generations to come.

| <b>Classification - Implication</b>          | <b>Mode of Response</b>   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial / Minor | <input type="checkbox"/> Memo <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use Policy     | <b>Requested Response Timeline</b>  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Policy<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Budget Policy<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> 1 month <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8 weeks<br><input type="checkbox"/> Status reports until completed<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Date: _____ |
|--|---|

**ASSIGNMENT – Provided by CAO at Board Meeting. Copied to Board Offices and Department Head(s)  
Completed by CAO’s Office:**

|  |                               |                         |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Department(s):<br>Water Resources Agency | Referral Lead:<br>Brent Buche | Board Date:<br>12/07/21 |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------|

**REASSIGNMENT – Provided by CAO. Copied to Board Offices and Department Head(s). Completed by CAO’s Office:**

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|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Department(s): | Referral Lead: | Original Date: |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|

**ANALYSIS - Completed by Department and copied to Board Offices and CAO:**

Department analysis of resources required/impact on existing department priorities to complete referral:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Analysis Completed By:<br>_____<br><br>Date: _____ | <b>Department’s Recommended Response Timeline</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> By requested date<br><input type="checkbox"/> 2 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> 1 month <input type="checkbox"/> 6 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> 6 months<br><input type="checkbox"/> 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Specific Date: _____ |
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**REFERRAL RESPONSE/COMPLETION - Provided by Department to Board Offices and CAO:**

|                         |                 |                          |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Referral Response Date: | Board Item No.: | Referrals List Deletion: |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|