



TO: Monterey County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Ashley S. Walker, Senior Policy Advisor

RE: Strategic Grant Services Program: 2021 Annual Report

DATE: January 11, 2022

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 2021

The SGSP has been a very successful partnership between the County and Nossaman. A summary of our accomplishments in 2021 include:

- **Total Grant and Funding Secured since September 2014:** Worked with County Departments to secure a total of **\$48,022,411** for high priority projects.
- **Grant Applications Submitted:** Assisted various county departments with the submission of seven grant applications.
- **Pending Grant Applications:** There are currently nine pending grant applications Nossaman has assisted the County with, totaling **\$24,188,600**.

- **Alerts:** Nossaman alerted various county departments of 34 different funding opportunities that may be of interest to those departments and nonprofit partners on topics such as homelessness, water, climate adaptation, public health, affordable housing, parks, and public safety.
- **Funding Research Requests:** Provided strategic consultation on potential funding opportunities for 15 County projects (detailed below).
- **Grant Application Support Letters:** Coordinated securing grant support letters for seven projects benefiting the County. All of these projects were led by applicants other than the County, and the support letters were on behalf of the Board of Supervisors.
- **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 170 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 2021 focused on 10 priority projects.

III. Strategic Advice Provided on Projects

Nossaman regularly assists with on-going projects in need of funding and provides research on grant 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 2021.

- **2021 Budget Act Funding Opportunities:** The state budget provided several different funding opportunities for the County, and Nossaman initially identified programs likely to benefit the County's projects. Potential state budget funding pots that Nossaman has identified, include those focused on: wildfire resilience, water resilience, climate resilience, sustainable agriculture, and the Cap and Trade expenditure plan.
- **BMX/Skate Park:** Nossaman assisted the County with a Proposition 68 grant application for a BMX/Skate Park in the City of Salinas.
- **CalFIRE Grants:** Nossaman alerted and met with County staff to discuss several CalFIRE grant programs and potential projects, including the Fire Prevention Grant, the Forest Health Grant Program, and the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program.
- **Cannabis:** Nossaman assisted the County with two grant applications related to cannabis, including an application for over \$1.7 million through the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program and an application for \$500,000 through the Cannabis Equity Program.
- **Carmel Lagoon:** Nossaman continued to monitor and research potential funding opportunities for the Carmel Lagoon project, and reviewed an application for funding through the National Coastal Resiliency Fund.
- **CRFREE:** Nossaman met with County staff to discuss the status of the project in terms of outstanding grant applications and funding needs.

- **Drought Funding:** The Department of Water Resources (DWR) released grant guidelines for the \$200 million available through the Small Community Drought Relief Program. The program focuses on emergency and interim needs of small water systems and rural communities impacted by drought conditions. Additionally, DWR released an additional \$100 million in grant funding for urban drought relief projects and \$100 million for multi-benefit drought relief projects. Under the Small Community program, water systems serving small disadvantaged communities are prioritized. Nossaman continues to work with the County to help identify projects.
- **Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP):** The County was awarded a Section 6 \$1 million grant for Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) in April 2020. The WRA requested assistance on the lack of communication regarding the grant award, as the County needed to get information about drawing down these funds in order to continue work on the HCP. Nossaman contacted CDFW's statewide legislative director, as well as the regional manager, requesting an urgent response. CDFW's regional manager responded in a timely manner, and the following week the County was sent a grant agreement to be executed in order to draw down the \$1 million in funding; however the County is still awaiting award. Nossaman continues to work on this with the County.
- **Interlake Tunnel & Fish Screens:** Nossaman and the County successfully lobbied for \$17 million in funding in the 2019-20 State budget, including testifying in hearings, meetings with Member of the Legislature, and meetings with the Administration. Nossaman helped coordinate several meetings with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to discuss drawing down funds and grant agreement details. Nossaman continued to participate in meetings with the County and CDFW on a grant agreement which was completed in June 2021.
- **Lake San Antonio North Shore and South Shore Projects:** Nossaman assisted the County with two Proposition 68 grant applications for a total of \$6 million for projects at the North Shore and South Shore of Lake San Antonio.
- **Old Jail State Budget Request:** Early on in 2020, we worked with the County to prepare a state budget request to present to our Legislative Delegation, and Assemblymember Rivas had planned to assist the County with this effort. The request was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however we plan to move forward with a \$15 million state budget request in 2022.
- **Parks Commission Meeting – Proposition 68:** Nossaman participated in and presented information regarding two Proposition 68 grant programs at the Parks Commission meeting in August. County staff presented several projects proposals for both the Regional Parks Program and the Rural Tourism and Recreation Program. Nossaman provided information on competitiveness and feedback from State Parks staff. The Commission voted on projects to be presented to the Board of Supervisors as applications to be submitted for funding.
- **San Antonio and Nacimiento Dam and Spillway:** Nossaman continued to work with a statewide coalition to advocate for funding in a statewide bond that could be used for projects such as dam and spillway repairs.
- **San Lorenzo Park:** Nossaman assisted the County with submitted an application for funding through the Proposition 68 Statewide Parks Program, and provided feedback on an application for funding through the Proposition 68 Regional Parks Program.

- **San Lucas Water Supply Replacement:** Nossaman participated in several meetings with the County and the State Water Board regarding a safe drinking water supply project for the community of San Lucas. The County provided the State Water Board information on a new project alternative in January 2021. The State Water Board responded with questions and comments. The County and Nossaman met with State Board decision makers to discuss the project proposal and next steps. The project proposal was officially submitted by Mission Ranch in May 2021. Environmental Health provided the State Water Board comments on the proposal in June 2021. On June 25, 2021 the State Water Board requested a project design plan, schedule and amended well water permit by July 31, 2021 from Mission Ranch – the deadline was extended to September 17, 2021. Mission Ranch submitted the requested information which is currently under review by the Water Board.

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 2021 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.
- **California Drinking Water State Revolving Fund:** Assists public water systems in financing the cost of drinking water infrastructure projects needed to achieve or maintain compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements.
- **CalRecycle Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Grant Program:** Lower overall greenhouse gas emissions by establishing new or expanding existing food waste prevention projects California to reduce the amount of food being disposed in landfills.
- **Caltrans Sustainable Communities Planning Grant:** It is envisioned that these planning grants will provide much needed funding to support regional sustainable communities' strategies and ultimately achieve the State's greenhouse gas reductions targets of 40 and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and 2050, respectively.
- **Habitat Conservation Fund:** Eligible projects include: 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.
- **Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant:** This opportunity provides funding for communities to implement mitigation activities to reduce risk to life and property from natural hazards. In CA, natural hazards include wildfire, earthquake, drought, extreme weather, flooding, and other impacts of climate change. HMGP funding can also support the development of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP) and project scoping activities.
- **Housing for the Harvest:** The State offers in-home quarantine support in participating counties for workers who need to self-isolate for up to 14 days. The State coordinates with local

administrators who manage the program. Monterey County is a local administrator and will continue to offer the program and services.

- **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.
- **Project Homekey:** Funding to sustain and rapidly expand housing for persons experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, and who are, thereby, inherently impacted by COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.
- **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.
- **Small Community Drought Relief Program:** Funding to provide immediate relief in response to conditions arising from a drought scenario to address immediate impacts on human health and safety and on fish and wildlife resources and to provide water to persons or communities that lose or are threatened with the loss or contamination of water supplies.
- **Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Grant Program:** Funding for communities, including Tribes, facing the loss or contamination of their water supplies due to the drought; and to address immediate drought impacts on human health and safety, and to protect fish and wildlife resources plus other public benefits, such as ecosystem improvements.