



Memorandum

TO: Legislative Committee
Board of Supervisors

DATE: May 4, 2015
May 5, 2015

FROM: Jennifer Capitolo, Senior Policy Advisor
Ashley S. Setoudeh, Policy Advisor

RE: Strategic Grant Services Program: Mid-Year Report

Background:

On September 1, 2014, Nossaman began working with County's Intergovernmental & Legislative Affairs Division (IGLA) on a new grant services program strategically aimed at securing funding for the County's top priority projects. IGLA facilitated meetings with Nossaman, members of the Board of Supervisors, and County department heads to identify the funding needs of each department. From these extensive meetings we developed a comprehensive list of funding needs Countywide (attached).

Nossaman's contract with IGLA provides for comprehensive funding advocacy and grant writing services on 10-12 priority projects this fiscal year. For all other funding needs, Nossaman will continually research potential grants and alert the County of those grant opportunities.

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 Program / Legislative Priorities
- Timing of grant opportunities
- Ability to meet grant requirements
- Grant matching fund requirements
- Probability of receiving funding

Priority Projects Worked on to Date:

Since our work began with the County, we have identified several high priority projects that aligned with timely grant programs. Thus far, we have successfully worked on the following projects:

- ***California State Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Compliance:***
All water bond grant programs require compliance with the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program. When Nossaman began working with the County, the County was not CASGEM compliant. Without

compliance, the County was ineligible to compete under all bond funded grant programs. Nossaman facilitated a number of calls and meetings with the Department of Water Resources, the responsible agency for CASGEM compliance, and discussed the challenges facing the County in becoming CASGEM compliance. Nossaman has also had numerous meetings with Assemblymember Alejo and his staff on this issue. In the March 2015, after months of work on this issue, the County gained compliance.

- ***Proposition 84/Proposition 1 - Water Bond Funding:*** Nossaman has been closely monitoring the implementation of Proposition 1, including the storage component, the Integrated Water Management Program funding, and Coastal Conservancy funding. Nossaman reviewed the Coastal Conservancy draft guidelines with the County's Resources Management Agency, and submitted public comments suggesting changes that would benefit County projects. Nossaman alerted the County of the draft guidelines for the Water Recycling Funding Program and asked for feedback from the Water Resources Agency on potential public comments that could benefit the County.
- ***Quagga Zebra Prevention Program:*** In October 2014 we submitted a grant application, and were awarded funding in the amount of \$199,992 through the Quagga Zebra Prevention program administered by the Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW). This grant will fund quagga and zebra mussel prevention programs at Lakes Nacimiento and San Antonio.
- ***Justice Assistance Grant (JAG):*** In November 2014 we submitted an application through the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. Unfortunately the County was not selected for funding. The BSCC has sent us a detailed letter outlining our score in comparison to other Counties. We will be coordinating a feedback session with the BSCC to further improve our application for the next round of available funding. The grant would have allowed the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney's Office, and the Probation Department with hiring new positions focused on prevention, education, and law enforcement related truancy, gang related crimes, and substance abuse.
- ***Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant:*** On January 29, 2015 we submitted an application for funding through the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP). Unfortunately the County was not selected for funding. The request of \$988,000 would have been used for construction of a portion of West Camp Road, development of a trail head parking area, and installation of improvements to trails, including the Jerry Smith Corridor, which would provide northerly access to the Fort Ord National Monument. We will be coordinating a feedback session with the FLAP staff to further improve our application for the next round of available funding. We also will be considering applying for Active Transportation Program funding for this project in June 2015.

- **Local Levee Assistance Program (LLAP):** Nossaman worked with the County to vet two potential projects for funding through the Local Levee Assistance Program (LLAP). One project focused on interior drainage improvements for the CSA-50 Project. The other project focused on the Carmel River Floodplain and Environmental Enhancement (CRFREE) Project. After discussing project readiness, Nossaman determined the CSA-50 project was not far enough along to apply for LLAP funds this year, but would likely be ready next year. Nossaman recommended moving forward with a \$1.2 million application for the CRFREE project. Nossaman worked with the Resources Management Agency (RMA) to begin compiling all necessary documentation, narrative, and coordinated multiple conference calls to discuss project components. In the final weeks approaching the grant submission deadline, the RMA received the 30 percent design drawings and noticed there was a very large increase to the overall project cost based on grading that the RMA originally did not anticipate. Due to this, the RMA and Nossaman decided it was best not to apply for LLAP funds, as the project would still have a large funding gap.
- **Veterans Housing and Homelessness Program (VHHP):** Nossaman alerted the County of the Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program and met with County staff to discuss potential projects. The program provides for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of affordable multifamily supportive housing, affordable transitional housing, affordable rental housing for veterans and their families to allow veterans to access and maintain housing stability. The County has offered technical assistance to the City of Marina who is partnering with a developer to apply.
- **MacArthur Foundation Grant:** This grant supports local jurisdictions that are committed to finding ways to reduce jail incarceration, with a particular focus on addressing disproportionate impacts to low-income and minorities. Nossaman thoroughly reviewed the guidelines and conferred with County staff to discuss the details of the program. Through the discussion, it was decided the County did not have a project competitive enough to submit for funding within this program.

“Priority Projects” to work on for the remainder of this fiscal year:

On February 9, 2015 the Legislative Committee approved our proposed work for the remainder of the fiscal year, with a key note that we view this as a “living document” that will be updated, added to, and changed based on new opportunities and projects that arise. Our list below has since been updated.

- **Proposition 1 - Water Bond Funding:** Nossaman believes there will be many opportunities for the County to access funding now that CASGEM compliance has been attained. We will be monitoring the announcement of funds and alerting the County. The projects we believe may have potential for being funded include:

- o Chualar Wastewater System
 - o CSA-50 Flood Protection Project
 - o Elkhorn Slough Flood Protection Project
 - o Expansion of Recycled Water Project near Salinas Valley
 - o Interlake Tunnel Project
 - o Jerrett Reservoir Project
 - o Pajaro Sanitation Pumping System
 - o PERC Project
 - o Salinas River Management Program
 - o Salinas Valley Water Project Phase II
 - o San Lucas Water Project
- **Potential Funding Opportunities - Interlake Tunnel Project:** Nossaman is in the process of scheduling meetings with Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, and the Infrastructure Bank to determine the feasibility of utilizing their funding sources for the Interlake Tunnel project. These programs include the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and the Infrastructure State Revolving Fund.
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** Prior to Nossaman joining the County's team in pursuing grant funding, the Water Resources Agency submitted \$20 million pre-application for funding through the USDA's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The proposal requested funding for the Interlake Tunnel Project, however the application was unsuccessful. Nossaman gathered feedback from key USDA staff about how the County could improve an application for the next round of funding, expected in May 2015. Nossaman is working on coordinating a meeting with the USDA Salinas office and the Water Resources Agency to discuss the details of the conservation programs and partnerships needed to be successful in this grant program in order to determine if an application will be submitted this year.
- **Active Transportation Program (ATP):** This program funds all recreational trail, bike and pedestrian pathways, safe routes to school, and supporting amenities. There is no maximum grant award amount or limit to the number of grant applications the County can make. Applications are due on June 1, 2015.

We are currently assisting the County with applications for the following projects:

- o \$2+ million - program implementation funding for Via Salinas Valley Pathways to Health through Active Transportation (Health Department)
- o \$5.9 million - Moss Landing Scenic Trail funding to construct a portion of the trail (RMA-Public Works)
- o \$1.3 million - Las Lomas Drive gutter, drainage, sidewalk, and bike path improvements (RMA-Public Works)

- o Evaluating the repackaging of a prior \$1+ million application under a different grant program to fund access and trail improvements to provide northerly access to Fort Ord National Monument.

Grant Research and Notification:

In addition to our work on priority projects, Nossaman offers grant research and notification for all other identified County funding needs. Since we began our work together, we have alerted the County to grant solicitation announcements for funding under the following programs:

- Active Transportation Program
- Community Connect Grant Program
- Emergency Housing and Assistance Program Capital Development Component (EHAP-CD) Conversion
- Flood Emergency Response Grant Program
- Housing Related Parks Program
- Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Local Levee Assistance Program
- Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Grants
- Proposition 1 Coastal Conservancy Grant Program
- Proposition 1 Water Recycling Funding Program
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Programs: Services in Supportive Housing, Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals, and runaway and Homeless Youth Programs
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Continuum of Care Program
- U.S. Department of Justice Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) program
- U.S. Soccer Foundation's Safe Places to Play Grant
- Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program

Attachment: Monterey County – Inventory of Grant Funding Needs (*April 16, 2015*)