



TO: Legislative Committee

DATE: February 8, 2016

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

RE: Strategic Grant Services Program: Grants Update

Background:

On September 1, 2014, Nossaman began working with the 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. In June 2015, the Board of Supervisors approved the continuation of the contract with Nossaman and increased the amount of priority projects to be worked on from 10-12 to 12-15 in the 2015-16 fiscal year. For all other projects, 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 Currently Working on:

We would like to update the Legislative Committee on the priority projects Nossaman has been working with the County on:

- ***Water Resources Agency Projects:*** Nossaman continues to assist in any way we can with resolving the White Bass issue and tracking funding opportunities for the Interlake Tunnel Project. Nossaman alerted the County of the draft IRWMP guidelines and will be attending the guideline workshop in Sacramento on February 22nd. Nossaman will assist the Water Resources Agency in navigating this grant process and submitting an application for funding the Interlake Tunnel Project.

- ***Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program:***
Nossaman worked with the County to submit an application for the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin Assessment and Modeling project in the amount of \$250,000. The County requested the maximum award. The project will result in a comprehensive water resources assessment of Zone 2C of the Salinas River Groundwater Basin. The primary objective of this project is to evaluate if immediate steps are required to address current groundwater supply conditions due to the continuing drought conditions in the Central Coast. The Department of Water Resources announced they have recommended the County for funding. Nossaman coordinated Assemblymember Alejo submitting a comment letter supporting staff's recommendations. The County submitted a comment letter thanking staff for their recommendation. The comment period will close today, February 8th and staff will be compiling and considering all comments before finalizing the awards.
- ***Moss Landing Trail:*** Nossaman took a tour of the trail with the Resource Management Agency and Public Works staff to discuss the funding needs for this trail project. Nossaman believes the best fit is the Active Transportation Program. Nossaman will assist the County in submitting strategic public comments during the draft guideline process if necessary. Nossaman will assist the County in taking a larger role when answering narrative questions in the next round of funding. Nossaman will continue to research other grant funding opportunities for this project.
- ***Sustainability:*** Nossaman met with the County's new Sustainability Manager to discuss potential grant needs. Nossaman is aware of the need for energy efficiency upgrades to the County's new office building, and for several park sites. Nossaman set up a meeting with the California Energy Commission to discuss their technical assistance for energy efficiency audits and to discuss their low interest financing program.
- ***Violence Prevention:*** At the request of Supervisor Armenta, Nossaman will be meeting with the Sheriff's Department, Probation, and the District Attorney's office to discuss a holistic approach to grant funding for violence prevention. Nossaman has held meetings with each of these Departments individually for several different needs; however, a holistic approach may assist in securing grant funding that is more effective in addressing violence prevention.

Pending Grant Applications:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Congressional Earmark for the Lower Carmel River and Lagoon Floodplain Restoration and Enhancement Project.

Near-Term Future Funding Opportunities:

Looking ahead for the next few months, Nossaman views the following funding programs as potential opportunities that need to be vetted with the County. Some of these opportunities include potential projects that have been identified.

- Integrated Regional Water Management Program
 - Interlake Tunnel Project
- Active Transportation Program
 - Moss Landing Scenic Trail Project'
 - Las Lomas
 - Health Department – Safe Routes to Schools Project
- Proposition 1 Ocean Protection Council Program
 - Carmel Lagoon and Scenic Road Protective Structure
- Proposition 1 Coastal Conservancy Program
 - Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project.
- Proposition 1 Department of Fish and Wildlife Program
 - Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project.
- Water-Energy Grant Program
 - No projects identified yet.