



**TO:** Monterey County Legislative Committee      **DATE:** March 17, 2017

**FROM:** Jennifer Capitolo, Senior Policy Advisor, Nossaman LLP  
Ashley Walker, Policy Advisor, Nossaman LLP

**RE:** Update on the White Bass Legislation for the Interlake Tunnel Project

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On Thursday, March 16, Senator Canella introduced SB 193 to add language to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Act to exempt the movement of white bass between Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio through the interlake tunnel from Sections 6400 and 6400.5 of the Fish and Game Code, which otherwise prohibits the transport or possession of live white bass. Nossaman is working very closely with the Water Resources Agency on this legislative proposal and we have facilitated the following actions in support of this legislation.

- Nossaman provided legislative language to Tyler Munzing and Baltazar Cornejo in Senator Cannella's office.
- Nossaman facilitated a meeting with staff from the Office of the Legislative Counsel and Jesse Avila, from the County of Monterey, regarding recommended changes to the legislative language.
- Once the language was revised, Nossaman sought approval from County Counsel and WRA, and then notified Senator Canella's staff to move forward. (See attached.)
- Nossaman, with information from WRA, drafted a Legislative Fact Sheet. (See attached.)
- Regarding co-sponsors, Nossaman has reached out to the Monterey County Legislative Delegation and let the office know that Sup. Alejo or Sup. Adams will be calling to inform them of the bill and request co-sponsorship.
- Nossaman facilitated a meeting with Julie Oltmann, Legislative Representative, Office of Legislative Affairs, California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Julie recommended that we meet with the Fisheries Branch as soon as possible to ensure the project is moving forward on the permitting track and that the legislation doesn't derail any efforts with that process.
- Nossaman drafted a letter of support for Leadership Group members to consider submitting in support of the bill. (See attached.)
- Nossaman facilitated a meeting with Caroline Godkin, Deputy Secretary for Legislation, California Natural Resources Agency. Caroline agreed to speak with Secretary Laird on our behalf regarding the legislative effort and the Fish and Game Commission.
- Nossaman spoke with the lobbyist for Cal Trout, who will schedule a call to talk with the representatives from Cal Trout about the proposed legislation.

Next Steps:

- The bill is likely to be referred to Senate Natural Resources and Water which meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Due to the Legislature's Spring Recess (April 6-17), it is likely that the bill will be heard on April 25<sup>th</sup> or May 9. It is possible that the bill could be double referred and also go to Senate Governance and Finance which meets on Wednesdays.
- Nossaman and the County developed a list of environmental entities and other organizations we should reach out to regarding the proposed legislation. Rob will provide Jennifer input to assist in the prioritization of scheduling.
  - California Trout
  - Trout Unlimited
  - Carmel River Steelhead Association
  - Friends of the River
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - Audubon California
  - Sierra Club
  - Natural Resources Defense Council
  - Planning and Conservation League
  - Big Sur Land Trust
  - Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
  - California Fish and Game Commission
  - Fisheries Branch, Department of Fish and Wildlife