



TO: Monterey County Legislative Committee

DATE: January 14, 2019

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

RE: Strategic Grant Services Program: Grants Update

Highlights

CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Program:

The County's Department of Information Technology (IT) coordinated with the Office of Emergency Services and the Department Heads' GIS Committee to prepare a CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Program application to fund the County's Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) mapping project. Nossaman met with IT to provide strategic advice regarding competitiveness of the project. Nossaman provided two reviews of the application along with feedback and suggestions. The application was due on December 19 and awards are going to be made in April 2019.

The grant would allow the County to acquire a LiDAR-based high-resolution Digital Elevation Model (DEM), plus a Digital Terrain Model including natural and manmade features (DTM), of the entirety of the County of Monterey. The mapping achieved through this grant would greatly assist county-wide fire prevention planning and education activities, in addition to providing the County Departments and cooperating agencies with a host of other planning and IT benefits. If awarded funding, the project will provide a wide variety of benefits, including:

- Measure fuel loading.
- Predictive modeling for fire prevention measures.
- Improve mitigation of soil erosion.
- Floodplain determinations.
- Permitting for septic tank placement.
- Telecommunications development.
- Support of several aspects of the permitting process.
- Emergency planning and disaster mitigation.
- Support for multiple public and private engineering projects.
- Support best practices for agricultural industry.

BMX Bike/Skate Park:

Per the request of Supervisor Alejo, Nossaman researched opportunities to fund development of a bike/skate park located at 855 East Alisal Street, Salinas. The cost of the project is estimated to be \$800,000. In discussions with RMA, the park is not a priority project for the City of Salinas given that there is another similar park in close proximity. The City is also working on an evaluation of recreational opportunities and has not yet decided what the best use is for the land at this location. Nossaman will continue to keep in contact with RMA about any potential changes once the City's recreational evaluation is complete.

San Ardo/San Lucas Park Projects:

Per the request of Supervisor Lopez, Nossaman researched opportunities to fund neighborhood parks in San Ardo and San Lucas. We met with RMA to discuss the potential for park development in these communities. We understand that there are land owners willing to donate land for the development of parks. There is also state grant funding available from Proposition 68 to develop a potential park. The issue comes to the maintenance of the park. As you know, neighborhood park maintenance requires more services than the County can offer. The County would need to contract out maintenance of the park. If this is a cost the Board would like to consider, the Board may want to discuss it. Supervisor Lopez is interested in obtaining a cost estimate for the maintenance.

Proposition 68 Program Roll Out:

Nossaman is monitoring the release of several grant programs funding through Proposition 68. There are several different, yet similar programs all being rolled out simultaneously; therefore, we have provided a brief outline of the programs with solicitations open now or in the near future that we are monitoring for the County.

- *Statewide Park Program:* This program funds the creation of new parks and new recreation opportunities in critically underserved communities.
- *Per Capita Program:* Funds are available for local park rehabilitation, creation, and improvement grants to local governments on a per capita basis. Grant recipients are encouraged to utilize awards to rehabilitate existing infrastructure and to address deficiencies in neighborhoods lacking access to the outdoors. Public hearings on the allocations will be held Spring 2019.
- *Regional Park Program:* This program funds the creation, expansion, or improvement of regional parks and regional park facilities.
- *Rural Recreation and Tourism Program:* Competitive grants will create new recreation opportunities in support of economic and health-related goals in rural communities. Projects must be located in non-urbanized counties with populations of less than 500,000 people and low population densities per square mile.
- *Community Access Program:* The Community Access Program will provide funding for activities and transportation that give community residents new access to outdoor recreation areas and programs.
- *Cultural, Community and Natural Resources Grant Program:* This program funds projects that protect, restore, and enhance California's cultural, community and natural resources. Projects must qualify under one of five categories: resources, fossil fuel powerplant conversions, science centers, park, water, and natural resources, and community, culture and education.
- *Ocean Protection Council:* There are two funding programs that will be available. Chapter 9 will fund projects that conserve, protect, and restore marine wildlife and healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems with a focus on the state's system of marine protected areas and sustainable fisheries. Chapter 10 will fund projects that assist coastal communities, including those reliant on commercial fisheries, with adaptation to climate change.

Receive Grant Tracker: See attached.