



TO: Monterey County Legislative Committee **DATE:** April 8, 2019

FROM: Jennifer Capitolo, Senior Policy Advisor, Nossaman LLP
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RE: Strategic Grant Services Program: Grants Update

Program Efforts

- **San Lucas Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Application:** Nossaman facilitated a meeting with the State Water Board and Resource Management Agency to discuss the application status and next steps. During the meeting, there was some confusion expressed by Water Board staff with regards to what the application proposal entailed. County staff described the complete scope that was included in the proposal and reminded Water Board of discussions the County had with Water Board staff (that have since been promoted) regarding the development and refinement of the proposed scope of work that we submitted. County staff emphasized that Water Board staff had directed us to submit for all pre-planning activities, not just feasibility study, to ensure funding could be available and to prevent future contractual delays such as we've experienced since August 2016.

The Water Board technical team iterated a few concerns regarding a 7-mile pipeline with regards to water stagnation. Staff received the concerns and agreed to verify with our consultant team that said concerns will be addressed in the design/analysis of the alternatives.

County staff emphasized that the San Lucas community is a growth-area in the County General Plan, and while we understand the Water Board has expressed funding caps as to how much they could pay for a project in San Lucas, we advocated the position that locally it is important that their remains opportunity to consider alternatives in addition to treated groundwater.

The Water Board could not offer any timeline for refining scope of work and ultimately approving a grant for the project. However, County staff reiterated that Water Board should reach out with any questions or requests for additional information, and that the County will expedite our responses.

- **Proposition 47 Grant:** The County's Behavioral Health Department submitted a grant application for funding to create prevention programming and a diversion program utilizing an interconnected system of healing. The project would provide all services necessary to help individuals struggling with mental illness and/or substance use disorders who are involved in the criminal justice system engage and remain in recovery services and to reduce recidivism rates. The County requested \$6 million for this project, and the application was due on March 18. Grants are planned to begin on August 15, 2019.

- **Proposition 68 Cultural, Community and Natural Resources Grant Program:** The County requested \$1.2M funding to address the Laguna Seca public health issue and provide a permanent solution by providing safe, clean water to the entire facility. The California Natural Resources Agency received over 200 proposals, requesting over \$400 million. The Agency plans on notifying applicants by April 19, 2019 regarding the status of proposals, specifically whether it was selected to move to the next level of the competitive process, which would be an onsite visit.
- **Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program:** Nossaman has participated in three meetings with several County departments, including the Sheriff's Department, to discuss an application for the JAG funding program. We are currently waiting for information from the Sheriff's office about what needs they have that could be funded through the JAG program. Nossaman will be supporting the County departments in crafting competitive language for the request and reviewing the application to ensure it has all necessary documents and information. Applications are due April 25.
- **Salinas Valley Promise Program Funding Research:** As you know, the Hartnell College Foundation made a presentation on the Salinas Valley Promise Scholarship Program to the Board of Supervisors. They have requested funding from the Board for this program. The Board asked Nossaman to research any potential grant funding opportunities that would help the program, thereby reducing the amount of County contribution they need. We also reached out to the Program director and found out that they already do extensive work on grants and said our research would be most helpful in looking at workforce or economic development grants that partner with community colleges or k-12.

Nossaman is actively involved in advocacy for community colleges, and while there are no grant programs for promise programs, the State is investing in this effort. The State funds the statewide College Promise Program, allowing full-time, first-time students to attend community college tuition free. The Governor's January budget proposes a second year free. Colleges are finding creative ways to offer Promise Programs that go above and beyond free tuition. These programs mostly are funded at a local level. Student basic needs, housing, food, books, transportation, childcare, are all priorities for the legislature this year. Assemblymembers' Medina and McCarty are planning to introduce a bill related to this issue, and Senator Leyva has introduced a bill focused on expanding financial aid opportunities. The College should evaluate these bills and how they could benefit their local promise program.

- **Greenfield/Monterey County Courthouse Letter:** Supervisors' Alejo and Lopez met with Resource Management Agency and confirmed that the Monterey Courthouse Building is not seismically "unsafe." RMA staff will make a presentation on the Monterey Courthouse to clarify the current status of the building and clear up any potential misinformation. Nossaman is working with RMA to draft a letter to the County's legislative delegation that explains there are no serious or seismic issues with our existing courthouse in Monterey. The goal is to ensure funding from the California Judicial Council is not compromised by inaccurate information.
- **Receive Grant Track:** See attached.