



TO: Monterey County Legislative Committee **DATE:** November 6, 2019

FROM: Jennifer Capitolo, Senior Policy Advisor, Nossaman LLP
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RE: Legislative Program: State Advocacy Updates

The Governor finalized his actions on all bills on October 13, 2019, the signing deadline. In the 2019 legislative session, 2,625 bills were introduced, 792 in the Senate and 1,833 in the Assembly. Of those bills, 1,042 (39.7%) were sent to the Governor. He signed 870 (83.5%) into law and he vetoed 172 (16.5%). The legislature is on recess until early January.

1. Implementation of SB 200 (Monning) Safe Affordable Drinking Water Fund

Nossaman arranged a meeting for County staff with the State Water Resources Control Board to discuss the role for the County of Monterey in the State's newly created administrator program, which is funded through SB 200. Representatives from the Office of Environmental Health participated on the call and we discussed opportunities to assist communities in Monterey that lack access to safe drinking water. Office of Environmental Health is planning to follow up with the State Water Board regarding the plan for serving these communities in Monterey County. The expenditure plan will be available from the State Water Board in December and if the County decides to move forward, it can expect to finalize an agreement in early 2020.

2. State Budget: Funding for Interlake Tunnel

Nossaman scheduled a meeting for the County of Monterey to talk with the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) about the funding allocated through the State Budget. CDFW is developing an agreement. Nossaman continues to follow up with CDFW regarding the status of the agreement.

3. Emerging Legislative Issue: Take Permits

The Resource Management Agency (RMA) has asked Nossaman to research legislative solutions to the requirement to issue take permits for projects involving pre- and post-storm maintenance activities (e.g.: ditch clearing). In a single year, RMA may need to secure multiple permits for these maintenance activities. The permits are needed to protect the endangered species while completing the maintenance. The failure to complete the maintenance will destroy the habitat for the endangered species. The goal is to streamline permitting and reduce fees for multiple pre-and post-storm maintenance activities to allow for timely response while protecting the environment. RMA believes this is an issue for other counties as well

and requested that Nossaman reach out to CSAC. We have contacted CSAC staff and we will be in touch regarding the status of that outreach.

4. Emerging Legislative Issue: Enforceable Speed Zones

The Resource Management Agency (RMA) asked Nossaman to research opportunities for legislation related to Enforceable Speed Zones. RMA express the need to modify current laws that establish speed zones for safety purposes. RMA wants to give the Board of Supervisors more leverage to reduce speeds to increase safety for motorist and pedestrians. Nossaman reached out to CSAC and they said this issue comes up frequently. The Senate Transportation Committee has a policy not to hear such bills. There is a legislative working group on this topic pursuant to AB 2362 (Friedman). The report is due January 1, 2020. Both Committees will want to see the results from that study before entertaining any legislative proposals. CSAC encouraged us to reach out to Assemblywoman Friedman's office regarding the status of the report. We will follow up on that recommendation.

5. State Bill/Issue Track: Attached.