



TO: Monterey County Legislative Committee

DATE: January 13, 2020

FROM: Ashley Walker, Senior Policy Advisor, Nossaman LLP
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RE: Strategic Grant Services Program: Grants Update

Summary of Recent Program Efforts

- **Proposition 68 Grant Funding Update:** Nossaman has been closely monitoring the release of Proposition 68 funds that could pair well with County projects. There are two funding programs that will be released in early 2020 that may be a good fit for the County – the Regional Park Program, and the Rural Recreation and Tourism Program.

The Regional Park Program we identified as a potential source of funding for the Salinas Regional Soccer Complex, but there could be other projects as well. The grants will fund the creation, expansion, or improvement of regional parks and regional park facilities. The draft guidelines have been released. Nossaman reviewed the guidelines, and they seem favorable to counties and projects focused on new recreational opportunities. Nossaman has sent a summary of the program to RMA for review.

The Rural Recreation and Tourism Program is another program we identified as a potential opportunity for the County, given the focus of the program. The grants will fund the creation of new recreational opportunities in support of economic and health-related goals in rural communities. The project must be located in counties with a population of less than 500,000 people. The draft guidelines have been released. Nossaman reviewed the guidelines, and they seem favorable to the creation of new recreational features, including visitor, interpretive, cultural, and historical structures. This may be a good fit for the Old Jail park project. Nossaman has sent a summary of the program to RMA for review.

- **Cannabis Equity Grant Program:** The purpose of the this program is to advance economic justice for populations and communities impacted by cannabis prohibition and the War on Drugs (WoD) by providing support to local jurisdictions as they promote equity in California and eliminate barriers to enter the newly regulated cannabis industry for equity program applicants and licensees. The County is interested in applying under the “Funding Request Type 1: Assistance for Cannabis Equity Assessment” to create an equity assessment program. GO-Biz released draft grant guidelines for this program in December. Nossaman has reviewed the draft guidelines, and we are not recommending any comments. Nossaman will be participating in a call with the County to discuss strategy and next steps to complete the application. Applications are due February 28, 2020.
- **Receive Grants Matrix:** See attached.