



NOSSAMAN^{LLP} | Memorandum

TO: Monterey County Legislative Committee

FROM: Ashley S. Walker, Senior Policy Advisor

DATE: August 10, 2020

RE: Strategic Grant Services Program: Grants Update

Summary of Recent Program Efforts

- A. WaterSMART Grants:** Nossaman coordinated a meeting with the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) and WRA to discuss the WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant program. Through that discussion, it was recommended by BoR that we meet with the Program Manager for the WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Program as that may be a better fit for the Interlake Tunnel project. The program requires a 50/50 cost share, and requires projects to be completed within 3 years of the grant award. Applicants can request up to \$1.5 million. We coordinated a meeting with BoR to discuss the Drought program, and concluded that WRA was not in a place to apply yet, given the timing of the construction of the project and when the application was due (Aug 5). We will continue to keep in touch with BoR about the next round of funds and hopefully be in a better position to apply.
- B. Deep Water Aquifer Project:** Nossaman and the IGLA office held a meeting with the Water Resources Agency (WRA) to discuss the need for a deep aquifer investigation. We understand from WRA that a detailed scope of work has not yet been prepared for this project, but they have prepared an initial outline of objectives and tools provided below:

Objectives:

- Identify the geographic extent and hydrologic properties of the Deep Aquifers
- Determine water balance
- Evaluate quality of water resources
- Provide a thorough understanding of the Deep Aquifers that can be used to inform resource management strategies (policy)

Tools:

- Existing data from wells and studies
- Geophysics
 - Airborne, seismic and borehole
- Aquifer test (to include new monitoring wells)
- Water Chemistry analysis
- Modeling (physical and chemical transport)

The initial estimate of costs are \$1.2-\$1.5 million and would take around 8-12 months to complete. We will continue to research funding opportunities to assist with the costs of this projects.

- C. Interlake Tunnel Project / Fish Screens – California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Funding Status:** Nossaman received notice from CDFW that the opportunity to draw down the \$17 million State budget funds allocated to the Interlake Tunnel project, specifically for the costs of the fish screens, was still possible. We set up a call with CDFW, County Counsel, and WRA to discuss what needs to be in place for the County to receive this funding. Over the next several months, we will be working with CDFW on a draft funding contract. There is not any legislative advocacy necessary at this point. CDFW seemed to still need additional information on the details of the contract, but stated they need to add some conditions related to CEQA and the Prop. 218 vote. They also stated we would need to get a contract in place by the end of the current fiscal year, and that it could take up to a year to do so. CDFW will be sending us a draft agreement to work on, and we will have a follow up meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss the contract. Additionally, we provided CDFW with an updated summary of the project, including the current project timeline, and financing details.
- D. Grant Track:** See attached.