

## County of Monterey

**Board of Supervisors** 

Luis A. Alejo, District 1 Glenn Church, District 2 Chris M. Lopez, Chair, District 3 Wendy Root Askew, Vice Chair, District 4 Kate Daniels, District 5 Clerk of the Board 168 West Alisal St. 1st Floor Salinas, CA 93901 831 755 5066 cob@co.monterey.ca.us

March 10, 2025

The Honorable Kelly Seyarto California State Senate 1021 O Street, Room 7120 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 74 (Seyarto) Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation: Infrastructure Gap-Fund Program - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Seyarto:

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I am writing to support your measure SB 74. This bill would require the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation to establish the Infrastructure Gap-Fund Program to provide grants to local agencies to develop and construct infrastructure projects.

The bill would authorize the office to provide funding for up to 20% of a project's total cost, subject to specified requirements, including, among other things, that the local agency provides funding that has been raised through local taxes for at least 10% of the infrastructure project's total cost. The bill would require the office to develop guidelines to implement the program that establish the criteria by which grant applications will be evaluated and funded. The bill would make these provisions operative on January 1, 2030.

The County of Monterey has several infrastructure projects underway focused on transportation, public utilities, and community development. Infrastructure projects play a crucial role in the growth and prosperity of our county, which will immediately improve the quality of life of all residents. As the County grows, so does the need for reliable and sustainable infrastructure. However, many local governments struggle to fund essential projects due to financial constraints, making it difficult to meet the demands of our residents and businesses. Senate Bill 74 will help bridge this funding gap by offering grants that support roads, bridges, water systems, and other vital infrastructure, ensuring safer and more efficient communities.

Local infrastructure investment is crucial for economic development, job creation, and public safety. By supporting SB 74, the State of California is committing to strengthening our communities and ensuring local agencies have the necessary resources to complete much-needed projects.

For these reasons, the County of Monterey supports SB 74. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP, at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

**DRAFT** 

Chris M. Lopez, Chair Board of Supervisors



cc: The Honorable John Laird, 17th Senate District
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)