



NOSSAMAN LLP | Memorandum

TO: Monterey County Legislative Committee

FROM: Ashley S. Walker, Senior Policy Advisor
Kasha Hunt, Policy Advisor

DATE: October 13, 2025

RE: Strategic Grant Services Program: Grants Update – **AGENDA ITEM #**

Grant Report - Summary of Recent Program Efforts:

- a. **San Lucas Drinking Water Project:** The SWRCB has made progress with the project and has determined that alternative 4 will be the best path forward. Nossaman will continue to evaluate Proposition 4 grant funding opportunities for the San Lucas Drinking Water Project.
- b. **Proposition 4 - Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024:** During the last days of session, the legislature did allocate funds for Proposition 4 in the current fiscal year. In SB 105 they appropriated \$3.3 billion from the bond, providing funding for conservancies throughout the state, water quality programs, continued development of the California water plan, wildfire mitigation initiatives, biodiversity conservation programs, and various local assistance grants among other things. We attended a webinar with the California Natural Resources Agency and learned that funding agencies will be working to guidelines and subsequent solicitations in the next few months. We will be monitoring and advising the County on all relevant opportunities. See below for detailed allocation amounts:

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE):

- Training & Resiliency Centers: \$10 million was allocated for training center infrastructure for wildfire resiliency, including a center for the Karuk Tribe (Budget Act of 2024 amendment)
- Regional & Local Fire Prevention: Multiple new 2025 items allocate large sums for wildfire resilience:
 - \$30 million for regional fire prevention and forest health projects
 - \$80 million for local fire prevention grants, workforce development, and programs like the Future Fire Academy and Forestry Recruitment
 - \$80.9 million for the Forest Health Program
 - \$30 million for fuel reduction, defensible space, reforestation, and structure hardening, with \$20 million directed to Southern California counties
 - \$13.8 million each for the Wildfire Conservancy and the California Fire Foundation for firefighter health, vegetation mitigation, equipment, and safety
 - \$23.2 million for wildfire detection technologies, including satellites, cameras, and autonomous aircraft studies

Natural Resources Agency:

- Wildfire Risk Evaluation: \$5 million dedicated to a wildfire risk study
- Urban Greening & Climate Programs: \$89.1 million for grants including:
 - \$46.1 million for competitive urban greening projects.
 - \$9.2 million for Tribal Nature-Based Solutions.

- Funds for Clear Lake watershed protection and other science/climate exhibits
- Ocean Protection Council: Over \$54 million for resilience, kelp forest restoration, sustainable fisheries, sea level rise mitigation, and invasive species control

Department of Conservation:

- Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program: \$32 million to reduce groundwater use, repurpose agricultural land, improve drought resilience, and support Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation
- Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program: \$10 million to build capacity for forest health, fire resilience, and carbon sequestration
- Vegetation Waste Projects: \$10 million for infrastructure that reuses wildfire mitigation waste in non-combustion projects, reducing GHGs and improving local air quality
- Farmland & Rangeland Resilience: \$6.8 million for farmland conservation, soil health, carbon removal, and biodiversity protection

Department of Water Resources:

- Groundwater & Drought Resilience:
 - \$30 million for groundwater storage, recharge, instream flows, and technical assistance for small farmers and tribes
 - \$276.8 million for levee and dam safety improvements to increase resilience
 - \$117.9 million for Flood Control Subventions, including projects benefiting disadvantaged communities
 - \$7.7 million to improve water data management and stream gage reactivation
- Salton Sea: \$147.6 million for the 10-Year Salton Sea Management Program, addressing air quality, public health, and habitat
- Subsidence Repair: \$2 million for conveyance repair and sewer line resiliency

Wildlife Conservation Board:

- Conservation & Habitat: \$235 million for fish, wildlife, and biodiversity programs, including easements, floodplain restoration, and migratory bird programs
- Connectivity & Corridors: \$20 million for wildlife crossings and habitat connectivity
- Stream Flow Enhancement: \$20 million for streamflow improvement
- Southern California Watershed: \$20 million for Ballona Creek watershed adaptation
- Recreation & Access: \$5 million for parks, trails, and desert habitat protection

State Water Resources Control Board:

- Drinking Water & Clean Water:
 - \$180.5 million for clean, safe, reliable drinking water projects
 - \$10.6 million for tribal water infrastructure
 - \$150 million for water recycling and reuse projects
 - \$46 million for cross-border water quality problems in CA-Mexico rivers/coasts
 - \$331,000 for water data management

c. **Grant Track:** See attached.