



NOSSAMAN LLP | Memorandum

TO: Monterey County Legislative Committee

FROM: Ashley S. Walker, Senior Policy Advisor

DATE: March 11, 2024

RE: Strategic Grant Services Program: Grants Update

Summary of Recent Program Efforts:

- a. San Lucas Drinking Water Project:** Nossaman has been in discussion with the County's entire Legislative Delegation about a funding solution for this project. There are challenges, as a funding request through the "member request" process in the state budget may not be a viable option this year given the deficit. Additionally, we are evaluating the climate bond for funding programs and project funding opportunities. We continue to maintain communication with the State Board about the long-term project and funding solution.
- b. RAISE Grant Proposal for Davis Road Widening and Bridge Replacement Project:** The U.S. Department of Transportation announced \$1.5 billion in grant funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program for 2024. The program helps communities around the country carry out projects with significant local or regional impact. RAISE discretionary grants help fund complete critical transportation infrastructure projects. The County submitted a grant application for \$24.5 million to construct the Davis Road Bridge Replacement and Road Widening Project (Project). The Project will transform this vital regional route connecting Monterey County's two largest population centers (the City of Salinas and the Monterey Peninsula) into a high quality, efficient, resilient, and safer multi-modal corridor. Nossaman reviewed the application and provided suggestions to strengthen the application. Nossaman also secured letters of support for the application from Speaker Rivas and Senator Caballero. Applications were due on February 28 and awards will be announced prior to June 27, 2024.
- c. Dam Safety and Enhancements Grant Program:** On December 11, 2023, the Department of Water Resources opened the public comment period for the Draft Dam Safety and Enhancements Grant Program Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation and Package (PSP) for repairs, rehabilitation, enhancements, and other dam safety projects at existing state jurisdictional dams and associated facilities. Nossaman shared this draft PSP with the Monterey County Water Resources Agency. The comment period closed on January 29, 2024. The Legislature and Administration are deliberating how to address the state budget deficit, and a proposal being discussed is to remove the new funding opportunity for dam safety projects. Should the funding remain, Nossaman will assist the County in applying for these funds.
- d. Grant Track:** See attached.