

# MONTEREY COUNTY



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March 13, 2023

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan  
Chair, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
1020 O Street, Room 6320  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 345 (Wilson) Habitat restoration: flood control: advanced payments – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Bauer-Kahan:

The County of Monterey is pleased to support Assembly Bill (AB) 345 by Assemblymember Lori Wilson. The bill will provide the Department of Water Resources (DWR) with discretionary authority to utilize an advanced payment option when funding local projects that restore vital habitat and/or improve flood protection. AB 345 limits any single advanced payment to no more than 25% of the total project cost. Considering the State's interest in these projects, DWR may also reduce or eliminate any retention that would otherwise be withheld under the funding agreement. Funds would not be advanced by DWR until they are needed by the local agency partner.

The County of Monterey strongly supports and often partners in the delivery of flood protection and/or habitat restoration projects in our region. The inability of DWR to provide funds to local agencies like ours until after the local agency has paid project expenses is often a major obstacle to financing the development and delivery of these projects. We believe the discretion offered by AB 345 is critical to accelerating the pace of flood risk reduction and habitat restoration in the State of California.

For these reasons, the County of Monterey strongly supports AB 345. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the County of Monterey's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo, Chair  
Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Lori Wilson, Author  
The Honorable Members, Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee  
Pablo Garza, Chief Consultant, Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee  
Calvin Rusch, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Hon. Anna Caballero, 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Hon. John Laird, 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Hon. Robert Rivas, 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Hon. Dawn Addis, 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Mark Neuburger, Legislative Advocate, California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)