



NOSSAMAN LLP | Memorandum

TO: The Honorable Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
FROM: Nossaman LLP on behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors
DATE: July 21, 2023
RE: **AB 345 (Wilson) Habitat restoration: flood control: advance payments. - SUPPORT**

The County of Monterey is pleased to support measure 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.

We strongly support and often partner 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 pleased to support AB 345. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the County's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

Ashley Walker
Nossaman LLP

CC: Honorable Lori Wilson, California State Assembly
Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Todd Moffitt, Senate Republican Consultant
Hon. Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
Hon. Anna Caballero, 14th Senate District
Hon. John Laird, 17th Senate District
Hon. Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)