

County of Monterey



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September 20, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
State of California
1020 N Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Re: AB 345 (Wilson) Habitat restoration: flood control: advance payments. – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

The County of Monterey requests your signature on 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 strongly supports AB 345 and respectfully asks for your signature on this important legislation. 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
Hazel Miranda, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
The Honorable Anna Caballero, 14th Senate District
The Honorable John Laird, 17th Senate District
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties
Rural Counties Representatives of California