



NOSSAMAN LLP

Memorandum

TO: The Honorable Dave Min, Chair
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

FROM: Nossaman LLP on behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors

DATE: May 24, 2024

RE: **AB 1567 (E. Garcia) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Prevention, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat mitigation, Clean Energy and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024 – SUPPORT**

The County of Monterey is pleased to support Assembly Bill (AB) 1567 by Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia. This bill places a \$15.955 billion climate resilience general obligation bond before the voters on the March 5, 2024, Primary Election ballot for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs.

The impacts of climate change that California is already experiencing warrant significant investment in climate resilience and adaptation. The current State Budget deficit of at least \$22.5 billion and the related cuts to natural resource and climate spending are some of the many reasons why we need AB 1567. Funding cuts clearly demonstrate that California needs a climate bond and accompanying disciplined investment plan to address growing challenges in managing natural resources for the benefit of all Californians.

This bill seeks to make California more climate resilient by investing in various adaptation activities throughout the state, ranging from wildfire risk reduction, to drought preparation, to protection against sea-level rise. Specific to Monterey County, this bill includes \$30 million for river, creek, and associated tributary and waterway improvements within the Pajaro River Watershed, to enhance flood protection and public access and to promote water and habitat resilience.

Not only will this measure help create new jobs for Californians, it will create long-term green jobs that help the state reach its climate goals. We must invest in the infrastructure necessary to protect our communities, our environment, and our economy from an evolving climate crisis.

It is for these reasons that the County of Monterey supports AB 1567. Please feel free to contact the County of Monterey's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

Ashley Walker
Nossaman LLP

CC: Hon. Eduardo Garcia, Author, California State Assembly
Members and Consultants, Senate Natural Resources Committee
Hon. Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
Hon. Anna Caballero, 14th Senate District, Author
Hon. John Laird, 17th Senate District

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Hon. Speaker Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)