

County of Monterey



COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE INTERGOVERNMENTAL & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS DIVISION

Date: December 2, 2024

To: Legislative Committee

From: Annette D'Adamo, Legislative Program Manager

Re: 2025 Legislative and Grant Program Development

RECOMMENDATION

Receive reports, provide direction, and recommend adoption by the Board of Supervisors of the: 2025 Legislative Platform, 2025 Strategic Grant Services Program, State Budget Request, Federal Community Project Funding Requests, and 2025 Legislative Workshop Agenda.

BACKGROUND

At the last Legislative Committee meeting on November 15, 2024, the Committee provided direction on legislative and funding priorities to be included in the 2025 Legislative Platform and 2025 Strategic Grant Services Program Work Plan. The Committee also provided direction on the County's State Budget request(s) and federal Community Project Funding request(s) for 2025 – in the event they are solicited. The Committee also provided direction on priority legislative and funding items to be included on the agenda for the 2025 Legislative Workshop (February 7, 2025).

2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Working with County departments and the County's legislative and funding advocates (Ashley Walker and Kasha Hunt with Nossaman LLP and Maria Tripplaar with Ballard Spahr LLP), extensive changes were made to the Legislative Platform document. The changes were made to bring the document up to date, expand on areas where additional legislative advocacy is needed, and attempt to better organize the document for ease of reading.

Legislative Policy Priorities:

There are five legislative policy priorities included in the platform.

1. NEW - Protecting Monterey County Values – aimed at protecting the values that define our community, fundamental freedoms and rights, immigrants, public health, data privacy, etc.
2. San Lucas Clean Drinking Water Project
3. Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs Safety Projects
4. FEMA Reimbursements
5. Monterey County Veterans Home/Community Living Center

A 6th priority related to Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) reporting related to farmworker housing was deleted after a meeting with Housing and Community Development determined that no legislative fix was needed.

Legislative Platform Changes:

Extensive changes have been made throughout the Legislative Platform to update the document and attempt to make it more reader friendly by calling out more headings and shortening descriptions where possible. What follows is a description of some major changes:

- The 2025 legislative priorities for CSAC, RCRC and NACo are not yet available so were not included. If available before this item goes to the Board for approval in January they will be added or referenced.
- Under “Agriculture” a new section was added on the Williamson Act.
- Under “Immigration” the language was greatly expanded related to anticipated areas where advocacy may be needed.
- Under “Libraries” new sections were added for the Universal Service Fund (USF)/E-Rate, California Library Services Act (CSLA) funding, Implementation of SB 321, and homework assistance.
- Under “Military Installations” information was added regarding local institutions and their economic impacts.
- Under “Civil Rights & Civic Engagement” a new section was added on marriage equality.
- Under “Government Efficiency & Privacy” new sections were added on artificial intelligence (AI) and disinformation.
- Under “Homelessness” a new section was added for permanent Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funding.
- Under “FEMA Disaster Assistance Cost Recovery” as of this writing updated information on dollars owed to the County was not available. Those updates will be made in time to include this information when it goes to the Board for approval in January.

With the Committee’s recommendation, the Legislative Platform will go to the Board of Supervisors for approval on January 28, 2025. A clean (**EXHIBIT A**) and a redline (**EXHIBIT B**) version of the 2025 Legislative Platform are attached to this report.

DIRECTION ON POTENTIAL STATE BUDGET REQUEST(S)

At the November 15, 2024, Legislative Committee meeting, the Committee provided direction on recommended projects to submit if the County is allowed to submit State Budget requests in 2025. Due to the projected State Budget deficit it’s currently unknown if the County will be able to submit State Budget requests, and if so, these requests are likely to be very limited. The projects recommended, in order of priority, were:

1. **San Lucas Clean Drinking Water Project - \$TBD**

This project would secure funding for a long-term project that provides a reliable source of safe, clean drinking water to the small, disadvantaged community of San Lucas.

2. **Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs Safety Projects - \$TBD**

This project would provide flood management, water supply, groundwater recharge, fish habitat, recreation, and other benefits relating to the Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs, in compliance with federal and state “Safety of Dams” mandates. The exact scope of the discrete project is still being determined by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency as well as the related federal funding request amount.

With the Committee’s recommendation, the potential State Budget requests will go to the Board of Supervisors for approval on January 28, 2025.

DIRECTION ON POTENTIAL FEDERAL COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST(S)

At the November 15, 2024, Legislative Committee meeting, the Committee provided direction on recommended projects to submit if the County is allowed to submit Federal Community Project Funding (CPF) requests in 2025. Due to recent changes in the Administration, House and Senate, it is uncertain whether the County will be invited to submit CPF requests in 2025, and if so, those opportunities are likely to be more limited than in past years. The County should be prepared to pursue these opportunities if/when they become available. Frequently the County is given very little notice to prepare CPF requests for submission, so staff seeks the Legislative Committee's recommendation and Board's approval to work on and submit the projects identified, and ranked, in advance of the invitation for submission.

The projects recommended, in order of priority, were:

1. San Lucas Clean Drinking Water Project - \$TBD

This project would secure funding for a long-term project that provides a reliable source of safe, clean drinking water to the small, disadvantaged community of San Lucas.

- The project is located in Congressional District 18

2. Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs Safety Projects - \$TBD

This project would provide flood management, water supply, groundwater recharge, fish habitat, recreation, and other benefits relating to the Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs, in compliance with federal and state "Safety of Dams" mandates. The exact scope of the discrete project is still being determined by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency as well as the related federal funding request amount.

- The projects are located in Congressional District 18

3. Salinas Skate Park and BMX Pump Track - \$500,000

The project would construct a new 22,250 square foot regional Bike and Skate Park serving Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties. Located in densely populated East Salinas, the site will be linked by several multi-use trails connecting the project to some of the most under-served neighborhoods and schools. The construction of the track will benefit the surrounding recreational features at the campus (Veterans Memorial Park, Carr Lake, Natividad Creek Park, and the Twin Creeks Golf Course/ First Tee, and the Salinas Soccer Complex).

- The project is located in Congressional District 18.

4. Salinas Regional Soccer Complex - \$TBD

This multi-phased project would continue the significant expansion of the Salinas Regional Soccer Complex, which is committed to fostering positive youth development and promoting health and wellness, and will provide equitable access to safe, family-friendly outdoor facilities and programming. The specific elements of this project for which federal funding would be requested is currently being finalized but may include stadium seating for 2,500; bathroom facilities; scoreboard; and, the remaining required underground infrastructure, including all utilities.

- The project is located in Congressional District 18.

5. County Parks Outdoor Education and Environmental Stewardship Project - \$200,000

This project would provide a location and facility for schools, special programs and homeschool groups to engage with nature and provide a connection to our natural environments. This project would include a rehabilitation component of the Toro Regional Park Environmental Center which has been closed for over a decade, but which once provided environmental, cultural and nature-oriented education opportunities for our community.

- The project is located in Congressional District 19.

6. County Parks Outdoor Accessible and Inclusive Fitness Project - \$200,000

This project would aid the public in accessing outdoor fitness opportunities but also provide facilities for our underserved populations. This project would seek to provide outdoor fitness opportunities at Toro and San Lorenzo Parks and would include an accessible trail loop coupled with outdoor gym equipment and interpretive signage detailing healthy life topics such as diet, fitness, and mental health.

- The project is located in Congressional Districts 18 and 19.

7. Nacimiento Lake Drive Repaving Project - \$2.1 million

This project proposes to repave approximately 2 miles of Nacimiento Lake Drive. Nacimiento Lake Drive is the only land access route to Nacimiento Lake Resort for emergency responders and recreational users and serves as the primary route to and from Paso Robles for local residents.

- The project is located in Congressional District 19 and regularly serves constituents from Congressional Districts 18 and 24.

8. Homeless Encampment Resolution – Reclamation Ditch Restoration \$500,000

This project would fund restoration efforts of the “Reclamation Ditch,” which is a series of channels and water management infrastructure. The primary objective of the Reclamation Ditch is to protect life and property and to reduce the suffering that could be caused by storm events. In addition, it receives irrigation return water from adjacent farmlands and provides drainage service to an area of approximately 168 square miles.

- The Reclamation Ditch is located in Congressional Districts 18 and 19.

With the Committee’s recommendation, the potential Community Project Funding (CPF) requests will go to the Board of Supervisors for approval on January 28, 2025.

2025 STRATEGIC GRANT SERVICES PROGRAM

At the November 15, 2024, meeting of the Legislative Committee, the Committee provided direction on projects to include in the 2025 Strategic Grant Services Program Work Plan. The Work Plan identifies a small number of projects and potential funding areas that the County’s grant funding specialists (Ashley Walker and Kasha Hunt with Nossaman LLP) with work with the County to develop in 2025. The Work Plan maintains flexibility so that efforts can shift when new grant funding opportunities arise.

Work Plan: The Work Plan projects recommended were:

- San Lucas Clean Drinking Water Project
- Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs Safety Projects
- County Park Facilities – including but not limited to the Skate and Bike Park, Salinas Regional Soccer Complex, Outdoor Education and Environmental Stewardship Project, Outdoor Accessible and Inclusive Fitness Project.
- Water Sustainability and Drought Related Projects
- Road, Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Improvements – including the new addition of the Nacimiento Lake Drive Repaving Project
- Carmel Lagoon Adaptive Management
- Salinas River Operations Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)
- Broadway Family Connection Project

Grant Needs Inventory: The program also includes a Grant Needs Inventory, a list of unfunded County projects which need funding. The inventory includes all unfunded projects in the [Capital Improvement Program \(CIP\) Online Database](#) and a list of other projects that have not been added to that database.

The inventory guides the research of staff and grant consultants in identifying funding opportunities for departments. This list is continually updated.

With the Committee's recommendation, the Strategic Grant Services Program will go to the Board of Supervisors for approval on January 28, 2025. The complete 2025 Strategic Grant Services Program is attached to this report. **(EXHIBIT C)**

RECOMMENDED 2025 LEGISLATIVE AND FUNDING PRIORITIES

For easy reference, this chart provides an overall snapshot of 2025 legislative and funding priorities.

Project/Issue	State Legislative Advocacy	State Budget Request	Federal Legislative Advocacy	Federal CPF Request	Grant Work Plan
NEW - Monterey County Values	X		X		
San Lucas Water Supply Project	X	1	X	1	X
Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams/Reservoirs Safety Projects	X	2	X	2	X
FEMA Reimbursements	X		X		
Monterey County Veterans Home/Community Living Center	X		X		
Skate and Bike Park				3	X
Salinas Regional Soccer Complex				4	X
County Parks Facilities					
NEW - Parks Outdoor Education & Environmental Stewardship Project				5	X
County Parks Facilities					
NEW - Parks Outdoor Accessible & Inclusive Fitness Project				6	X
Road Infrastructure Improvements					
NEW - Nacimiento Lake Drive Repaving Project				7	X
NEW - Homeless Encampment Resolution – Reclamation Ditch Restoration				8	X
Water Sustainability and Drought Related Projects					X
Road, Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure Improvements					X
County Parks Facilities/Habitat Management					X
Carmel Lagoon Adaptive Management					X
Salinas River Operations Habitat Conservation Plan					X
Broadway Family Connection Project					X

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP

Background: For the past six (6) years the Board of Supervisors has hosted an annual Legislative Workshop with the County's state and federal legislative representatives. The Legislative Workshop is a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the County's state and federal legislative delegation to discuss the County's priority issues for 2025.

Legislative Workshop – Friday, February 7, 2025: The 2025 Legislative Workshop is scheduled on Friday, February 7, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. In the past, the meeting has been conducted both in person at the Board of Supervisors' Chambers (Monterey County Government Center, 168 W. Alisal St., Salinas, CA) and via Zoom.

Participants: Legislative Workshop participants will include the Board of Supervisors, appropriate County department heads to make the County presentations, and the elected officials and/or their staff representatives. A "save the date" email was sent to U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator-Elect Adam Schiff, Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, Senator John Laird, Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, and Assemblymember Dawn Addis in November.

County Priority Presentations: Staff will work with County departments to develop workshop presentations on County priority issues. Staff and the County's state and federal legislative and funding advocates recommend that the County focus on a limited number of topics due to time constraints – with the recommended County presentations aligning with the County's 2025 Policy Priorities as outlined in the 2025 Legislative Platform:

1. Protecting Monterey County Values
2. San Lucas Water Supply Project
3. Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs Safety Projects
4. FEMA Reimbursements
5. Monterey County Veterans Home/Community Living Center

Agenda: In the past the Legislative Workshop has followed the following format:

Welcome and Introductions (Board Chair)

1. Review of Agenda and Objectives (Legislative Committee Chair)
2. State of the County (County Administrative Officer)
3. County of Monterey 2025 Policy Priorities (County Staff)
4. Remarks by State and Federal Legislators (3 minutes each)
5. Remarks by County of Monterey Board of Supervisors (3 minutes each)
6. Roundtable Discussion
7. Public Comment on Agenda Items
8. Board Direction to Staff

Adjournment

With the Committee's recommendation, the Legislative Workshop Agenda will go to the Board of Supervisors for approval on January 28, 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

- Exhibit A – 2025 Legislative Platform – DRAFT clean
- Exhibit B – 2025 Legislative Platform – DRAFT redline
- Exhibit C – 2025 Strategic Grant Services Program