



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

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Clerk of the Board
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February 14, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Impacts of Office of Management and Budget Federal Funding Pause

Dear Senator Padilla, Senator Schiff, Congressman Panetta and Congresswoman Lofgren:

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I write to express our concern regarding the effect of the recent memorandum from the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that "Federal agencies **must temporarily pause** all activities related to obligation or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance." The memorandum stated the pause was to go into effect at 5:00p.m., on January 28, 2025, and required each agency to complete a comprehensive analysis "of all of their Federal financial assistance programs to identify programs, projects, and activities that may be implicated by any of the President's executive orders."

The White House rescinded the OMB memorandum on January 29, 2025, but efforts to pause federal funding persist. The County is alarmed by these attempts and respectfully urges you to oppose any such effort. Impounding federal funds is not only patently unconstitutional, but the freeze/impoundment is also a continuing violation of a court [order](#) which the State of California is a party to, and it also jeopardizes the County's ability to provide services to residents. This includes some of our most vulnerable residents who rely on the County for critical programs and services.

County residents have increased access to some programs and services because of federal funds. The funds support County programs combatting housing instability and food insecurity. They help the County provide mental health services and increase access to healthcare. As a result, the sudden pause has a direct and harmful impact on County residents who fundamentally rely on these services and programs. We are working to identify the full effect of the pause, and pivot funding as needed, but inconsistent information from the federal government impedes our efforts.

While we support the decision to rescind the memorandum, the underlying orders remain in effect. Federal departments and agencies continue to implement the executive orders, some of which seek to impound and condition federal funds. Without these funds, the County is unable to offer critical programs, putting residents' health and safety at risk. The County receives about \$231 million in federal funds during the fiscal year—roughly 12% of its \$1.98 billion budget. This means that any disruption in federal funding, even a transitory pause, interrupts County operations and injures residents.



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We respectfully urge you to advocate for the timely release of federal funds and to oppose any federal government actions placing unlawful conditions on the receipt of federal funds. Additionally, we respectfully ask you to advocate for transparent federal funding decisions, which are within the confines of the law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris M. Lopez", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Chris M. Lopez, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable John Laird, 17th Senate District
 The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
 The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
 California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
 Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)