
DRAFT

2025 Legislative
Workshop

COUNTY OF MONTEREY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FEBRUARY 7, 2025



Protecting Monterey County Values

The County of Monterey has a long tradition of providing a welcoming, safe, and sustainable community for its residents. People are entitled to live their life as they see fit and access public benefits and resources free of fear, hate or retribution. The County is resolute in its commitment to preserving the values that define this community and will rigorously advocate to protect and preserve:

- **Immigrants:** Oppose efforts that unfairly target documented and undocumented immigrants including but not limited to separation of migrant families at border crossings, large-scale deportations, efforts to limit or eliminate Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).
- **Data Privacy:** Support effort to protect data privacy for individuals who have provided personal information to any private or governmental institution and ensure that such data is only used for the purpose for which it was originally provided.
- **Public Health:** Oppose efforts that diminish public health initiatives such as access to preventative healthcare services and vaccines.



Protecting Monterey County Values ...continued

- **Reproductive Freedom:** Support efforts to defend and protect reproductive freedom, including the right to access safe, legal abortion services. Support legislation to codify the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*.
- **Marriage Equality:** Support and defend marriage equality as a constitutional right.
- **Climate Change:** Support efforts to continue to combat the very real climate change impacts experienced in the County and throughout California (e.g., wildfires, winter storms).
- **Disaster Assistance:** Oppose cuts to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A well-funded FEMA is critical to partner with local communities to prepare for and recover from natural disasters, and to provide opportunities for federal funding/grants to supplement county services.
- **Freedom of Thought and Expression:** Support efforts to preserve access to freedom of thought and expression, as available through a variety of institutions, such as libraries and museums.



Protecting Monterey County Values ...continued

- ***Combating Disinformation:*** Foster access to reliable and factual content from trusted news outlets, social media channels, and other information sources. Promote media literacy, equipping individuals to independently fact-check and analyze potentially deceptive or misleading data.
- ***Education:*** Oppose any efforts to limit or abolish the critical functions and protections provided by the U.S. Department of Education.
- ***Military Personnel and Veterans:*** Support the rights of veterans and members of the military, including women who seek to serve in combat roles, LGBTQ and transgender populations.
- ***Defense institutions:*** Support efforts to enhance, grow, and protect national security assets in the Monterey Bay Area and oppose Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and similar Department of Defense proposals, which would diminish local missions and negatively impact the economy.



San Lucas Clean Drinking Water

Funding for a long-term reliable source of drinking water to meet the community's current/future needs.

San Lucas is a small, disadvantaged farming community located in unincorporated Monterey County approximately eight miles south of King City. The community water system (approximately 100 connections) is owned and operated by the San Lucas County Water District (District). The San Lucas Water Supply Project would address persistent water quality problems which have occurred since 2006. In 2011, a “do not drink” order was issued, and despite establishing an alternative well to serve the community, a second “do not drink” order was issued in 2016. The lack of safe, affordable drinking water for the community has also caused a nearly 20-year delay of a severely needed affordable housing project in San Lucas.

The County and the District are working with the State Water Resources Control Board to identify potential solutions to address the water quality issues. The County has been pursuing a project that would construct a new pipeline to tie into the Cal Water system on the east side of King City and deliver water directly to the District water distribution tank. The pipeline is anticipated to be approximately 7.8 miles long and run along the eastern side of Highway 101 and the railroad line.

The County's Federal FY24 Community Project Funding request for this project received a \$960,000 grant award through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for preliminary design and environmental review. Additional funding is needed for project design, environmental assessment, engineering, and construction work to provide a clean, long-term, reliable source of drinking water to meet the community's current and future needs.

Nacimientos and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs Safety Projects

PLACEHOLDER FOR SLIDES






FEMA Reimbursements

Improve the FEMA Public Assistance Program, provide guidance to clarify expenses eligible for reimbursement, and expedite the grant award process.

- The County is working with Cal OES and FEMA to recover costs of the COVID-19 Pandemic, 2021, 2023 and 2024 Winter Storms, and is concerned that FEMA may reduce disaster reimbursement funding or change how events qualify.
- The County submitted millions of dollars in FEMA Public Assistance grant requests to recover disaster related costs. FEMA takes considerable time to review the applications.
- Process time is slow and creates administrative burdens.
- Requests for Information (RFIs) are numerous, burdensome, and ineffective.
- Interpretation of Public Assistance Policy is inconsistent and contradictory. Clear and consistent guidance and policy interpretation is needed from FEMA, as changes lead to major difficulties in documenting and seeking reimbursement.
- FEMA has continued to issue retroactive guidance or selectively interpreted Public Assistance Policy which contradict or are inconsistent with previously issued guidance and policy interpretation.
- The County received a \$23 million advance from the State; obligated funds for eligible projects will directly reimburse the state before funds are distributed to the County for the 2023 Winter Storms.

FEMA Reimbursements

Improve the FEMA Public Assistance Program, provide guidance to clarify expenses eligible for reimbursement, and expedite the grant award process.

FEMA Public Assistance (2019-2024)		Disaster #	Incident Name	Status	Possible FEMA Eligible Damage Amount	Low End Reimbursement Estimate (Accounting Eligibility Issues/Insurance) *	Maximum Possible Federal Reimbursement	Obligated Federal Share
	\$97 M Eligible Response Expenditures	4434	2019 Winter Storm	Close Out	\$95,762	\$70,429	\$77,250	\$70,429
		4482	2020 COVID-19	In Progress	\$18,179,563	\$7,114,934	\$18,149,804	\$7,114,934
	\$46-80 M Federal Cost Share (Reimbursement)	4558	2020 Wildfires	Close Out	\$1,820,703	\$1,737,358	\$1,737,358	\$1,737,358
		4683	2023 January Winter Storms	In Progress	\$27,999,026	\$18,754,646	\$23,489,059	\$2,036,926
		4699	2023 March Winter Storms	In Progress	\$43,751,190	\$17,341,847	\$32,813,393	\$384,717
	\$11 M Obligated	4769	2024 February Winter Storms	Commencing	\$4,953,995	\$778,336	\$3,715,496	-
Grand Total					\$96,800,239	\$45,797,550	\$79,982,360	\$11,344,364

Monterey County Veterans Home / Community Living Center

Monterey County seeks to sponsor State or Federal legislation that permits the construction of a California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) Veterans Home or a United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Community Living Center (CLC) in Monterey County – preferably on or near the former Fort Ord.

Establishing a Veterans Home or CLC in Monterey County will address the needs of our nation's heroes living in California by significantly reducing wait times, providing close proximity to Veteran health care and several other Veteran services, and reducing the risk of Veterans' homelessness. The scope of the project, location and cost are to be determined in coordination with CalVet and VA.

The Proposal seeks to authorize legislation like SB 1234 (Johannessen) in 2002, that would authorize the State Public Works Board to issue lease-revenue bonds to finance acquisition, design, and construction of an additional Veterans Home in Monterey County. A similar option is to pursue Federal legislative efforts to establish a VA Community Living Center which would generally provide the same skilled nursing and long-term healthcare benefits as a CalVet Veterans Home.



CalVet Veterans Homes

CalVet has eight (8) Veterans Homes that offer affordable long-term care to Veterans who are age 55+, eligible spouses and domestic partners are eligible to apply for admission.

The age requirement is waived for disabled or homeless veterans needing long-term care.

Services range from independent living programs with minimal support to 24/7 skilled nursing and dementia care for veterans with significant clinical needs.

Four (4) of the Veterans Homes offer skilled nursing and dementia care, all of which have 2 to 5+ year waiting lists.

All the Veterans Homes are at a considerable distance from Monterey County with the closest in Fresno and Yountville (both 2.5 hours away) and Ventura (4 hours away).

California Veterans

Second largest Veteran population in U.S. - over 1.5 million

- 17,500 in Monterey County plus thousands of active and reserve military members
- 44,300 in Santa Clara County
- 8,100 in Santa Cruz County
- 14,300 in San Luis Obispo County
- 2,100 in San Benito County
- 86,300 collectively

Accessing VA Compensation and Pension (C&P) Benefits at greater levels than ever before-

- 15.8% in 2011 v. 27.8% in 2019
- California's Total is over \$10.9 billion in FY 23/24

