Ballard Spahr LLP

County of Monterey Federal Bill/Issues Track 2026 (119th Congress, Session 2)

Measure	*Sponsor(s)*	*Topic*	*Title*	*Position*	*Notes*
H.R. 32	LaLota	Immigration	No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities	Oppose	1/28/25 BoS Oppose 1/29/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 680	Hayes	Veterans	Caring for Survivors Act	Support	2/10/25 LC Support 2/10/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 338	Costa	Water	Every Drop Counts Act	Support	2/10/25 LC Support 2/18/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 471 S. 1462	Westerman/ Panetta Curtis	Environment	Fix Our Forests Act	Support	2/10/25 LC Support 2/18/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation 6/4/25 Letter to Senator Padilla
S. 350	Padilla	Environment	Wildfire Emergency Act	Support	4/14/25 LC Support 4/14/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
S. 984	Padilla	Agriculture	Fair Access to Agriculture Disaster Programs Act	Support	4/14/25 LC Support 4/14/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 965	Sherman	Veterans	Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act	Support	4/14/25 LC Support 4/14/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 1510	Sylvester	Judiciary/BOP	The Due Process Continuity of Care Act	Support	4/14/25 LC Support 4/14/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 22	Roy	Voting	Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act (SAVE) Act	Oppose	5/12/25 LC Oppose 5/12/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R.2882	Panetta	Environment	Central Coast of California Conservation Act	Support	8/14/25 LC Support 8/15/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 2849 S. 1432	Huffman/Lofgren /Panetta Padilla/Schiff	Environment	West Coast Ocean Protection Act	Support	8/14/25 LC Support 8/15/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation

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H.R. 2586	Tonko	Judiciary/ BOP	The Reentry Act	Support	8/14/25 LC Support 8/15/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 3227	Lofgren	Agriculture	Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2025	Support	8/14/25 LC Support 8/15/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 2308 S. 1246	Moskowitz Tillis/ Padilla	Emergency Response	FEMA Independence Act	Support	8/14/25 LC Support 8/15/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
S. 356	Crapo	Infrastructure/ Education	Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act	Support	8/14/25 LC Support 8/15/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 18	Thompson	Judiciary	Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2025	Support	8/14/25 LC Support 8/15/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 3868	Clyburn	Judiciary	Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2025	Support	8/14/25 LC Support 8/15/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 4696 S. 2468	Lofgren Padilla	Immigration	Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929	Support	8/14/25 LC Support 8/15/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 4669	Graves/ Larsen	Emergency Response	Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act (H.R. 4669)	Support	9/8/25 LC Support 9/9/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 4889	Kiley	Redistricting	To prohibit States from carrying out more than one Congressional redistricting after a decennial census and apportionment.	Support	9/23/25 BoS Support 9/26/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 5449	Lofgren /Panetta	Redistricting	Redistricting Reform Act of 2025	Support	9/23/25 BoS Support 9/26/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
S. 2885	Padilla/Schiff	Redistricting	Redistricting Reform Act of 2025	Support	9/23/25 BoS Support 9/26/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 5555	Panetta / Lofgren	Environment	The Monterey Bay National Heritage Area Study Act	Support	10/10/25 BoS Support 10/10/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 4358	Veasey	Redistricting	Anti-Rigging Act of 2025	Support	10/13/25 LC Support 10/16/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 4504 S. 2349	Kamlager-Dove Schiff	Financial Services	Incorporating National Support for Unprecedented Risks and Emergencies (INSURE) Act	Support	10/13/25 LC Support 10/16/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation

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H.R. 4776	Westerman	Natural Resources, Environment and Public Works	Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act	Oppose unless amended	2/9/2026 LC Oppose unless amended 3/2/2026 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
S.3744	Graham	Immigration	A bill to amend chapter 93 of title 19, United State Code, to prohibit obstruction of immigration laws by official interference	Oppose	2/9/2026 LC Oppose 3/17/2026 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 6644	French Hill	Housing	Housing for the 21st Century Act	Support	2/9/2026 LC Support 3/5/2026 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 1340; S. 3332	Panetta Cornyn / Schiff	Housing	More Homes on the Market Act	Support	3/9/2026 LC Support 3/17/2026 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 6962	Harrigan	Housing	Families First Housing Act of 2026	Support	3/9/2026 LC Support 3/17/2026 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
S. 1323; H.R. 6473	Schiff/ Mullin	Housing	The Facilitating Increased Resilience, Environmental Weatherization and Lowered Liability (FIREWALL) Act	Support	3/9/2026 LC support 3/17/2026 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 7661	M. Miller	Education	The Stop the Sexualization of Children Act	Oppose	4/13/2026 LC Oppose 4/14/2026 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 7567	G. Thompson	Agriculture	The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026	Oppose unless amended	4/27/2026 BOS Oppose unless amended 4/29/26 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
H.R. 8210	T. Walberg	Labor	A Stronger Workforce for America Act of 2026	Watch	5/11/2026 – recommend watch position to LC

Other Issues	*Brief Summary*	*Action Taken*
FEMA Reimbursement	Related to 2024 and 2023 Winter Storms	Continue to coordinate outreach to the federal delegation regarding appropriate communication with USACE and FEMA and to facilitate reimbursement of expenses. March 2025 – coordinated contact with the federal delegation to induce FEMA's response after communication stalled following the agency's request for information regarding the County's procurement methods. 8/19/2025 – Received two grants. $1,201,748.53 for Debris Removal Operations and $2,929,216.18 for emergency protective measures. COMPLETE.
FEMA Reimbursement	Related to COVID-19 Pandemic	4/3/25 – FEMA announced Federal grants for the State of California. This funding included 3,060,968.00 in federal funding to Monterey County for emergency protective measures as a result of FEMA-DR-4482-CA (COVID-19 Pandemic). This funding is being provided under authority of Section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Act. The announcement noted that in response to the pandemic, the County utilized contract services to participate in the Great Plates Delivered Program. The program was designed to support adults 65 years of age or older or adults 60-64 years of age who are at high risk from COVID-19, to receive

Other Issues	*Brief Summary*	*Action Taken*
		healthy and nutritious meals by delivery. All work and costs in this project fell between 11/23/2020 and 7/9/2021. Total project costs are $3,060,968.00 funded at a 100% federal cost share. COMPLETE
Impacts of OMB Federal Funding Pause	BoS letter to federal offices voicing concern regarding the effect of the recent memorandum from OMB that "Federal agencies must temporarily pause all activities related to obligation or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance."	2/14/25 – Letter sent to Congressional delegation opposing OMB action
FY24 Community Project Funding Award for CRFREE	In February 2025 it was brought to my attention that PWFP has not been contacted by FHWA or the State Dept of Transportation with any guidance about how to access funding for the CRFREE project that had been awarded in FY24 community project (earmark) funding.	2/27/25 – Met with Rep. Panetta's staff to address concerns relating to the FY24 earmark awarding for CRFREE, and to obtain additional information about the reimbursement requirements. I will continue to work with the Departments to resolve any issues so that they can draw down any federal funding as expeditiously as possible. 3/13/25 - Caltrans reached out to County staff and requested that the County complete and submit a specific form so that Caltrans can distribute the funds to County for the CRFREE Project. 716/25 – The County received $1 million in grant funds from Caltrans. 9/3/2025 – Randy confirmed that FEMA is still processing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and according to CalOES is operating at about half its normal speed. 2/5/2026 – County staff informed that there

Other Issues	*Brief Summary*	*Action Taken*
		is still a $27million funding gap of expected FEMA funds. We engaged with county staff and Rep. Panetta's office to communicate the necessity of these funds in order to complete the project.
FY24 Community Project Funding Award for San Lucas Clean Drinking Water Project	On May 19th the EPA contacted the County of Monterey Department of Public Works in regard to its FY 24 CPF award. The EPA asked for applications to be submitted by June 15th for priority consideration.	5/23/2025 – We met with Rep. Lofgren's office to address the funding concerns and confirmed that the county has flexibility at this stage in the process—since funds will be used for feasibility and environmental reviews. Rep. Lofgren's office also confirmed the Department of Public Works can work directly with the EPA throughout the project if changes are needed. The County is working directly with EPA. No further action anticipated at this time. 9/16/2025 – PWFP contacted us about EPA Form 6600-06 and Form-LLL in regard to the CPF award. We advised on the content and required signatures for the Forms. COMPLETE.
FY25 Community Project Funding Requests	The county submitted 9 requests for consideration of FY24 earmark funding, however only the Pajaro County Sanitation District (PCSD) Sewer System Improvements project advanced.	March 2025 – Congress enacted a Continuing Resolution for the remainder of FY25 and did not include earmarks. Consequently, no earmarks, including the PCSD project were funded. PWFP has advised that the county can cover the approximately $1 million dollars that was hoped for via earmark funding with other sources. COMPLETE

Other Issues	*Brief Summary*	*Action Taken*
FY26 Community Project Funding Requests	The county submitted the following projects for consideration to date: 1. San Lucas Clean Drinking Water (Padilla, Schiff, Lofgren) 2. Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs Safety Projects (Padilla, Schiff, Lofgren) 3. Skate Park and BMX Pump Track (Padilla, Schiff, Lofgren) 4. Salinas Regional Soccer Complex (Padilla, Schiff, Lofgren) 5. County Parks Outdoor Education and Environmental Stewardship Project (Padilla, Schiff, Panetta, Lofgren) 6. County Parks Outdoor Accessible and Inclusive Fitness Project (Padilla, Schiff, Panetta, Lofgren) 7. Nacimiento Lake Drive Repaving Project (Padilla, Schiff, Panetta) 8. Homeless Encampment Resolution – Reclamation Ditch Restoration (Padilla, Schiff, Lofgren) 9. Porter-Vallejo Library and Mansion Historical Restoration Project (Lofgren)	March 2025 – the county submitted funding requests to Sen. Padilla (8 projects), Sen. Schiff (8 projects), and Rep. Panetta (3 projects) April 2025 – the county submitted funding requests to Rep. Lofgren. May 2025 – received notice that Rep. Lofgren recommended the San Lucas Clean Drinking Water project and the Salinas Soccer Complex project to the Appropriations Committee June 2025 – received notice that Sen. Padilla recommended the Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs Safety Projects to the Appropriations Committee. June 2025 – Received notice that Sen. Schiff recommended the San Lucas Clean Drinking Water project to the Appropriations Committee. June 2025 – Transmitted thank you letter from County of Monterey WRA to Sen. Padilla and federal delegation. July 2025 – Received notice from Rep. Lofgren's office that draft funding levels for House CPFs were released with the San Lucas Clean Drinking Water Project included at $1.092 million and Salinas Regional Soccer Complex included at $500,000. January 2026 – Received notice that the San

Other Issues	*Brief Summary*	*Action Taken*
		Lucas Clean Drinking Water project received $1,092,000 in Community Project Funding for FY 2026. February 2026 – Received notice that the Salinas Regional Soccer Complex project received $500,000 in Community Project Funding for FY 2026.
Digital Equity Act Funding	County of Monterey was a signatory to Monterey Bay Economic Partnership letter to federal delegation urging them to protect the $137.9 million in federal Digital Equity Act funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law	4/21/25 Monterey County signed onto the coalition letter in support COMPLETE
Letter of Support CPF Application by Resource Conservation District of Monterey County	The county submitted a letter of support to Rep. Lofgren for Community Project Funding for the Salinas River Arundo Eradication Program and Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program on behalf of the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County	4/29/25 letter to Rep. Lofgren COMPLETE
Pajaro Sunny Mesa Water Consolidation Project	The EPA cancelled a grant to the Community Water Center (CWC) for the Pajaro Sunny Mesa Water Consolidation Project	5/1/2025 – We contacted the federal delegation in attempt to prevent the cancellation of the grant to the CWC. We continue to monitor the impact on local residents and communicate with the delegation in regard to restoring funding. COMPLETE
Endangered Species Act NPRM	County of Monterey through its Water Resources Agency signed on to a letter supporting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's proposed rule rescinding the regulatory definition of "harm" in the current Endangered Species Act	5/19/2025 – WRA signed on to comment letter. COMPLETE
Jolon Road Safety Improvement Project	The County of Monterey PWPFs preparing an application for submission with the Department of Defense, Defense Community Infrastructure Program.	6/12/2025 – We reached out to the Federal Delegation and requested letters of support for the application. Secured letters from all four Congressional offices. COMPLETE.

Other Issues	*Brief Summary*	*Action Taken*
Budget Reconciliation	The County of Monterey has been monitoring the potential impacts of reconciliation on its budget. The County was particularly concerned about Senate amendments regarding the cost of SNAP.	June 2025 – We reached out Rep. Lofgren's and Rep. Panetta's office via email to advocate against the SNAP cost shifting provisions in the Senate's amended H.R. 1. COMPLETE
Regional Power Grid and new approvals for wind and solar projects on federal lands	The County of Monterey has been monitoring the proposal for a regional power grid and an interior Department directive requiring Sec. Burgum's personal approval for activities related to wind and solar projects on federal lands.	7/21/2025 – The County asked the Ballard Team to monitor the issue and keep them informed of any developments. Continue to monitor
Protecting the Federal Safety Net	BoS letter to federal offices voicing concern for essential safety net programs that serve Monterey County residents. Urged federal delegation to protect federal funding for programs like Medicaid, SNAP, CalFresh, TANF, and CalWORKs.	7/26/25 Letter to federal delegation Continue to monitor
Fiscal Year 2026 Funding for the Migrant Education Program	Funding for the Migrant Education Program (MEP) has been eliminated in the President's draft FY 26 budget.	7/30/2025 – letter sent to congressional delegation expressing support for funding the MEP program and opposing its elimination in the draft budget. Continue to monitor
Funding for the Migrant Education Program and Other Education Categorical Funding	The Administration has withheld appropriated grant money for Education Categorical Funding through the U.S. Department of Education. The funds were released earlier this year after California and 23 other states sued. These funds are also likely to be eliminated in the FY 26 budget.	8/14/25 – sent letter to the congressional delegation in support of all education categorical funding in fiscal year 2026. Continue to monitor
National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program	The Secretary of the Interior and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management began the process to develop a new schedule for offshore oil and gas lease sales on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.	8/14/25 – sent oppose letter to the Federal Delegation and to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in opposition to the proposed program. 12/9/25 – sent comment letter to Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in opposition to

Other Issues	*Brief Summary*	*Action Taken*
		the draft program. 1/20/2026- Attend Rep. Panetta's teletownhall regarding the OSC Oil and Gas leasing program and community coordination in opposition to the program. 1/23/2026 – Sent L. Jacobson in Rep. Panetta's office all formal actions that the County has taken to oppose the OSC Oil and Gas leasing program for compilation in opposition package to the BOEM. Continue to monitor
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program	Chair Lopez was approached by Central Coast Energy Services to send a letter to the Federal Delegation supporting the funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for fiscal year 2026.	8/14/2025 – distributed a support letter to the Federal Delegation on behalf of Supervisor Lopez as District 3 Supervisor. COMPLETE.
CalOES/FEMA HMGP Application for the Scenic Road Protection Structure Project	Janie Bettencourt, PWFP, informed us that the County is submitting an application for the CalOES/FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the Scenic Road Protection Structure Project.	9/10/2025 – contacted Rep. Panetta's office to obtain a support letter for the grant application. COMPLETE.
County-level statistics on OBBBA and tax credits	Seamus McKeon in Rep. Panetta's office asked for the best contact in the Monterey County Health Department who could provide county-level statistics on OBBBA and the tax credits.	10/23/2025 – Contacted N. Hollingsworth and E. Jimenez to find a good contact for Seamus along with relevant statistics.
Water infrastructure Finance and innovation Act Amendments of 2025	Ara Azhderian from WRA asked if the county would be willing to support the WIFI Amendments of 2025 Act in addition to the agency's support as part of the Family Farm Alliance The County signed on to the Family Farm Alliance letter in support of the WIFI Amendments of 2025 Act through the WRA.	12/18/2025 – Draft letter of support from the county. COMPLETE

Other Issues	*Brief Summary*	*Action Taken*
US Department of Homeland Security NPRM to amend definition of public charge	Roderick Franks at the County of Monterey Department of Social Services drafted comments to oppose DHS's NPRM on the definition of public charge. DSS submitted comments.	12/18/2025 – Review and edit draft comments COMPLETE
Water Resources Development Act	Rep. Panetta's office released an information guide and informed the county that it is currently soliciting requests for WRDA 2026.	1/14/2026 – Met with Randy, (PWFP) Ara (WRA), and Nicole re: projects which would be good candidates for WRDA. Determined that Nacimiento-Fergusson Road Repair, SRPS and Dam Safety might all be good projects. 1/15/2026 – Randy's team met with USACE staff who informed PWFP that SRPS is not eligible for WRDA programs since SRPS is in the design phase not the planning phase. 1/16/2026 – Meet with Liz Jacobs and Emilio Contreras w/ WRA regarding WRDA projects. 1/28/2026 – work with WRA to develop Study Request for a Project for flood risk management and ecosystem restoration, Carmel River, California. Submit request to Rep. Panetta team for submission to committee. 2/5/2026 – We submitted the Carmel River WRDA designation form to Rep. Lofgren's office along with a second request for a WRDA designation for the San Lucas Clean Drinking Water Project. 8/24/2026 – Agency staff led a tour of the Nacimiento and San Antonio dams for Liz Jacobson (Rep. Panetta's DC office) and Kara

Other Issues	*Brief Summary*	*Action Taken*
		Woodruff (State Sen. Laird's district director). Discussed including language in WRDA 2026 to authorize a USACE feasibility study for a "Project for flood risk management and ecosystem restoration, Carmel River, California."
SPEED Act	WRA and PWFP wanted to support SPEED permitting reform, but we noticed that both Rep. Panetta and Rep. Lofgren voted against the bill in the house. We engaged the federal delegation to get a better understanding of their positions on the potential legislation.	1/16/2026 – Met with Liz Jacobs and Emilio Contreras w/ WRA regarding SPEED act concerns and Rep. Panetta's current position on the bill. 1/28/2026 – Met with Margaret Arechiga in Sen. Padilla's office regarding the SPEED Act. Specifically, engaged in conversation regarding Sen. Padilla's position on the bill and the County's consideration of an official position. 1/30/2026 – Met with Kathy Mahan in Sen. Schiff's office regarding the SPEED Act. Specifically, engaged in conversation regarding Sen. Schiff's position on the bill and the County's consideration of an official position.
National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled; Braille and Talking Books Library; Free Matter to the Blind or Other Physically Handicapped Persons	The Commission on Disabilities sent a letter to the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors to request that the board requesting that the Supervisors advocate for the following programs: • the *National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled*, operating out of the Library of Congress since 1931 • the *Braille and Talking Books Library* in Sacramento, operated by the California State Library • *Free Matter to the Blind or Other Physically Handicapped Persons* appropriation from Congress to the US Postal Service	1/21/2026 – N. Hollingsworth and Natalie Alfaro, at the county Civil Rights Office, asked us to add these programs to the tracker and await official action from the Supervisors. Continue to monitor.
H.R. 7661 Stop the Sexualization of Children	House Resolution 7661 (H.R. 7661), also known as the "Stop the Sexualization of Children Act" would modify the Elementary and	2/26/2026 – Hillary Theyer, Library Director of Monterey County Free Libraries reached

Other Issues	*Brief Summary*	*Action Taken*
Act	Secondary Education Act of 1965 by prohibiting use of funds under the act "to develop, implement, facilitate, host, or promote any program or activity for, or to provide or promote literature or other materials to, children under the age of 18 that includes sexually oriented material, and for other purposes."	out to inform us of the Stop the Sexualization of Children Act. We've begun to review and research the bill. At this time we will watch its development and determine if we should bring a position to the LC. 4/13/26 – Position proposed to LC. See Bill Track Above. COMPLETE
FY 27 Community Project Funding Requests	The county approved the following projects for application for CPF and CDS ("earmark") requests: 1. San Lucas Clean Drinking Water (Padilla, Schiff, Lofgren) 2. Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs Safety Projects (Padilla, Schiff, Panetta, Lofgren) 3. Nacimiento Lake Drive Repaving Project (Padilla, Schiff, Panetta, Lofgren) 4. Reclamation Ditch Restoration (Padilla, Schiff , Lofgren) 5. Salinas Regional Soccer Complex (Padilla, Schiff, Lofgren) 6. Skate and Bike Park (Padilla, Schiff, Lofgren)	2/24/26 – Meeting with congressional delegation for NACo lobbying day with Chair. Root-Askew and Sup. Alejo. 3/5, 3/11, 3/13 – Submitted earmark applications to the listed Congressional Federal offices. 3/26 – Rep. Lofgren's office informed us she is advancing the San Lucas Clean drinking water project at the $4,000,000 level 4/3 Rep. Panetta's office informed us he would not be advancing either project to the appropriation's committee.
Federal Bureau of Prisons Policy 5260.01 – Management of Inmates with Gender Dysphoria State Department Policy Rule 22 CFR Part 43, RIN	The County's LGBTQ+ Professionals Employee Resource Group identified this policy update by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) which would stop providing gender-affirming medical or social transition care to most transgender inmates. The policy limits transgender individuals' access to surgeries, clothing, or toiletry items that align with their gender identity. It also creates a mechanism for prisons to provide treatment for Gender	4/2 – The Ballard team researched the policy changes and implications for the County. The Team recommended that the County engage with the DA and Sheriff, as well as the Federal Congressional delegation before deciding on a course of formal action.

Other Issues	*Brief Summary*	*Action Taken*
1400-AF76	Dysphoria (GD). Under this policy, the Bureau will not provide hormones to address GD for inmates who were not already receiving them prior to incarceration. For those already on hormone therapy, primary care providers must develop tapering plans, which are subject to review by a Multidisciplinary Review Team. The directive calls for rapid discontinuation of hormones for inmates who recently began treatment and an "appropriately paced" discontinuation for those who have been on long-term therapy. The Department of State Rule amends how individuals petition for entry into the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program (DV), requiring each petitioner to provide information from a valid, unexpired passport and upload scans of both the passport biographic page and signature page as part of their electronic entry form—subject to limited exemptions. The rule also amends regulatory language, including replacing "gender" with "sex" and "age" with "date of birth." The rule aims to improve program integrity and combat fraud in the DV program. This change does not affect states or counties because they are preempted by federal law.	4/13 – The Ballard team will brief the Legislative Committee on the policy changes and suggest next steps.
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant for Scenic Road Protective Structure	Congressman Panetta's office reached out to inquire about additional details in regard to the County/Carmel Point denial of a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant for the Scenic Road Protective Structure.	
H.R. 7567 the Farm Food and National Security Act of 2026	Denise Vienne, Department of Social Services requested an advocacy letter opposing the Farm Bill's Passage, in its current form, due to the impact it would have on the OBBBA funding cuts and other penalties.	4/29.2026 – Responded to request by drafting and circulating signed Oppose unless Amended letter to federal Delegation in advance of the House vote.
H.R. 8210 A Stronger Workforce for America Act of 2026	Sup. Alejo asked us to track H.R. 8210 A Stronger Workforce for America Act of 2026, a bill to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The bill contains proposals to transfer the responsibilities that were	5/1/2026 – the Ballard Team is tracking H.R. 8210. The bill was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means. The Committee on Education and Workforce voted to advance the bill on

Other Issues	*Brief Summary*	*Action Taken*
	under the Dept. of Education into the Dept. of Labor for Adult Education. The bill was introduced on April 6, 2026 by Rep. Tim Walberg.	4/21/2026
Reclassification of state-licensed medical marijuana	The Trump administration, through the acting attorney general, signed an order on April 23, 2026 reclassifying state-licensed medical marijuana as a less-dangerous drug. The order does not legalize marijuana for medical or recreational use under federal law, but it does change the way that the drug is regulated. The order moves marijuana from Schedule I, which is reserved for drugs without a medical use and with high likelihood for abuse, to Schedule III, which is less strict. This move will give licensed medical marijuana operations a tax break and ease barriers around cannabis research.	5/1/2026 – The Ballard Team is tracking the reclassification and the impact it has on California state cannabis operations.
Proposed ICE Immigration Detention Facility in Gilroy, CA	There is a proposed federal detention facility to be constructed near Gilroy in Santa Clara County, for which the US General Services Administration reportedly already secured a lease. The Board of Supervisors vote to take a formal position and join the County of Santa Clara County and other regional leaders who voiced concerns about the project	5/21/2026 – The Ballard Team drafted a letter expressing the county's concerns about the new detention facility and its impact on local communities and local economies. 7/9/2026 – The Ballard Team received a response from the U.S. General Services Administration referring the County of Monterey to the Department of Justice because the placement and development of the facility is the subject of ongoing litigation.
H.R. 1 One Pager	The County reached out to request a one-pager outlining the impacts of H.R. 1 which have already occurred at the County for Board Members during CSAC and for use in speaking with state legislators.	5/21/2026 – The Ballard Team updated the County's H.R. 1 one pager on the impacts of OBBBA on the County with additional information from the County's Departments of Health Services and Social Services.

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Rep. Panetta's Office CPF Audit Request	Rep. Panetta's office reached out for information on the status of past CPFs projects secured for Monterey County. Specifically, his office wanted to know if the County had been reimbursed, if the project was completed and if the scope had changed for the following projects: • FY 23 Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project : $900,000 • FY 23 - Monterey County Family Justice Center- $275,000 • FY 23 - U.S. 101 Lane Widening—"South of Salinas Project"- $1,000,000 • FY 24 - Carmel River FREE - $3,000,000	5/6/2026 – The Ballard Team reached out to County stakeholders for updates on pending CPF secured funding and transmitted updates to Rep. Panetta's office.
NSFLTP Grant Update	In September 2024, PWFP determined that it was prudent for the County to move forward with applying for a federal grant under the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) Program for the Palo Colorado Road Storm Damage Repair Project. Rep. Panetta's staff had encouraged the County to pursue this competitive grant opportunity. According to PWFP, the project is essential for the rehabilitation and improvement of Palo Colorado Road, a crucial access route to the Los Padres National Forest containing several key recreational facilities. At the time of the grant request, Ballard helped facilitate support letters for the grant from then Sen. Padilla, Sen. Butler, and Rep. Panetta.	6/3/2026 – The Ballard team engaged with Rep. Panetta's staff on the NSFLTP grant and the FEMA-obligated disaster relief funds tied to the Palo Colorado work. Rep. Panetta's staff communicated to us that the Trump Administration has been reluctant to post notices of funding opportunity for various programs, including the NSFLTP, but will apply pressure where they can. Rep. Panetta's office is sending an inquiry through its congressional affairs contacts. 6/4/2026 – We received confirmation that the 2024 grant cycle was rescinded and that a 2026 cycle was opening. June/July 2026 – The Ballard team worked with Rep. Panetta's office to obtain more information regarding the current grant cycle, including award amounts, and potential number of grantees. The Ballard Team also procured a support letter from Rep. Panetta.

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		August–September 2026 – Ballard is coordinating with Rep. Panetta's office on the County's new NSFLTP application (approx. $10 million) for the Palo Colorado Road Storm Damage Repair Project under the June 2026 NOFO. Secured letters of support from the federal delegation; the Nossaman team assisted in obtaining letters from state elected officials. The FHWA program office advised it could not state the number of selections in advance and that no webinar is planned this cycle, directing applicants to the program website and Q&A.
ROAD to Housing Act HR 6644	The Ballard team engaged the Congressional delegation on H.R. 6644, the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, a fast-moving bipartisan housing bill that became Public Law 119-101 on July 11, 2026. The law revises federal housing programs to expand the supply of affordable housing, including by increasing FHA multifamily mortgage insurance loan limits, raising the maximum eligible income for HUD's HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and establishing new grant programs to help regional, state, and local entities plan for and support affordable housing.	06/23/2026- The Ballard Team connected with the Congressional delegation to express the counties support for the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act.
FCC E-Rate Proposed Rule Changes	Hillary Theyer raised concerns about Erate which is going through some "proposed rulemaking changes" - including a proposal to determine if the program has outlived its usefulness and should completely sunset. Changes also include changing the discount matrix, including eliminating areas that are not classified as rural, and/or have more than one provider. Erate covers up to 90% of our connectivity charges for some libraries It also covers a large portion of the charge that the State pays to connect libraries and schools to CalREN. Without erate, the library cannot afford the connectivity we have	06/29/2026 – The Ballard Team worked to draft a comment letter addressing the county's concerns and submitted to the FCC, and circulated copies to the Congressional Federal Delegation.

Other Issues	*Brief Summary*	*Action Taken*
	today. Erate discounts have paid for most recabling and upgrades to wireless access points and technology closets we have done to library buildings.	
OMB proposed rule rewriting on 2 CFR Part 200	Nicole Hollingsworth asked us to prepare a Comment Letter on Behalf of the Board following outreach from the National Association of Counties. The letter responded to OMB's proposed rewrite of 2 CFR Part 200, the Uniform Guidance, published May 29, 2026 (Docket OMB-2026-0034), the most significant revision to federal grant administration since 2013	07/10/2026 – The Ballard Team worked to draft a comment letter addressing the county's concerns and submitted to OMB, and circulated copies to the Congressional Federal Delegation. 9/2/2026 – The continuing resolution signed into law (P.L. 119-103) temporarily blocked OMB from finalizing the proposed rule, pausing implementation through December 11, 2026, and requiring OMB to keep reviewing the public comments. Continue to monitor as the December deadline approaches.
FEMA -4301-DR-CA Denial	Randy Ishii received notice FEMA denied the County's second appeal for Palo Colorado Road in a June 29 response. Public Assistance Director Robert M. Pesapane determined that the County's request for a scope-of-work change and review did not constitute extenuating circumstances or unusual project requirements beyond the County's control that would justify an additional time extension, and cited the amount of time that had elapsed. Because the County had not yet begun the repair work, FEMA deobligated all associated funding and denied the appeal.	08/29/2026 - The Ballard team informed the Federal Delegation of the denial and continues to work with Rep. Panetta's office to obtain approval and disbursement of these funds to the County. 8/26/2026 – PWFP and legislative staff met with Rep. Panetta's staff on FEMA Disaster Assistance funds for winter-storm projects. For the Palo Colorado Road project (approx. $17 million total), the roughly $3.3 million in FEMA Disaster Assistance funds from the 2017 winter storms has been de-obligated. Rep. Panetta's office voiced support for

Other Issues	*Brief Summary*	*Action Taken*
		finding ways to address the removal; Ballard continues to advocate in Washington.
Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act (H.R. 3717 / S. 4603)	Companion federal bills targeting the invasive golden mussel, which threatens California waterways and water-conveyance infrastructure. H.R. 3717 (Rep. Harder, June 2025) and S. 4603 (Sens. Schiff and Padilla, May 2026) would amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to create a task force and demonstration program for prevention, monitoring, control, eradication, education, and research, authorizing about $15 million a year through 2030. Both remain in committee.	8/24/2026 – Following the dam tour, MCWRA hosted a round-table with County Parks and Rangers and San Luis Obispo County staff to explain its mussel-prevention program and discuss the legislation. The County's message emphasizes that prevention is more cost-effective than remediation. Continue to monitor.
Timber and Plaskett Fires	Two wildfires burning on federal land in the Los Padres National Forest along the Big Sur coast, with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) as lead agency on both. The fires threaten Highway 1, Big Sur communities, and watersheds tied to existing County priorities, including Palo Colorado Road and the Carmel River corridor.	Rep. Panetta has visited the Incident Command Center, is in daily contact with USFS, and has conveyed the County's priorities of protecting lives and structures. His office is working with the County to secure a declaration of emergency from the Governor and has assisted Big Sur residents with mail delivery and other on-the-ground services. MCWRA is coordinating use of San Antonio Reservoir by firefighting aircraft. Rep. Panetta's office has committed to assisting with disaster preparation once the fires are out. Continue to monitor.
ALERT Monitoring Network / Post-Fire Recovery	MCWRA owns and operates the ALERT flood- and weather-monitoring network in Monterey County, which feeds real-time data to partners including the County Department of Emergency Management, the California Nevada River Forecast Center, and the National Weather Service. Three ALERT stations sit within the Timber/Plaskett fire perimeters and three more are nearby. With a strong El Niño forecast for winter, fresh burn scars raise	8/2026 – MCWRA is proactively seeking replacement equipment for post-fire recovery and recommends early discussion of state and federal support to restore the network before winter, suggesting Rep. Lofgren and state representatives be looped

Other Issues	*Brief Summary*	*Action Taken*
	the risk of debris flows and flooding, and the specialized replacement equipment carries long lead times and high cost.	in. The Agency is also in discussions with the California Geological Survey on better tracking of wildfire-induced debris flows and may develop cost estimates to enhance or replace the existing system, with a view to approaching Rep. Panetta, Rep. Lofgren, and state representatives about emergency or disaster funding. Continue to monitor.