

Monterey County Federal Issues/Bill Track
114th Congress (2015-16)

ISSUE/BILL	SUMMARY & STATUS	ACTION(S)
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
Immigration Reform	On November 20, 2014, President Obama announced his Immigration Accountability Executive Action that will provide deportation relief to nearly 5 million undocumented immigrants currently in the U.S. The executive action has been challenged in court by over two dozen states and a federal district court injunction currently bars the implementation of the policy.	1/11/16 report to Leg Com; 3/17/15 letter to Rep. Farr; 2/24/15 met with Rep. Farr; 2/23/15 met with Sen. Feinstein staff; 2/23/15 met with Rep. McCarthy staff
Visa Waiver Program	Legislation is expected to be introduced in Congress to increase security protocols in the Visa Waiver Program.	2/23/15 letter to Sen. Feinstein; 1/11/16 report to Leg Com; 12/14/15 report to Leg Com; 2/23/15 meeting w/Feinstein staff
Oil and Gas Fracking	The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a final rule on March 20, 2015, to regulate hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas development on federal land. The rule includes provisions governing well construction, wastewater disposal and disclosure of the chemical ingredients of fracking fluids. BLM's Hollister Field Office is developing an Environmental Impact Statement for a Resource Management Plan amendment that will address oil and gas development on public lands in the County.	5/4/15 report to Leg Com;
Federal marijuana policy: HR1940, S 2237, HR 538/S 683 HR 667, HR 262, HR1013, HR 1014 HR 1855/S 987 HR 2076/S 1726 HR3124	Legislation has been introduced in Congress to decriminalize marijuana possession, cultivation, and use, primarily for medical purposes.	8/26/16 report to Leg Com; 5/16/16 report to Leg Com; 1/11/16 report to Leg Com; 6/8/15 report to Leg Com;
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act implementation	The U.S. Department of Labor has issued a proposed rule that establishes new standards for local workforce investment boards and one-stop operators.	10/5/15 report to Leg Com; 5/4/15 report to Leg Com;

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Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) H.R. 5540	The President's FY2017 budget request for the Department of Defense (DOD) calls for Congress to authorize an additional round of base closings in 2017. The House and Senate versions of the FY2017 National Defense Authorization Act reject the President's request and do not authorize a new BRAC round.	8/17/16 support letter to Rep. Farr (H.R.5540); 7/7/16 report to Leg Com; 3/14/16 report to Leg Com; 5/4/15 report to Leg Com;
Clear Creek National Recreation Area and Conservation Act H.R. 1838	Directs BLM to reopen the Clear Creek Management Area for off-road vehicle use and establishes the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness Area.	7/7/16 report to Leg Com;
Central Coast Heritage Protection Act S.1423/H.R.1865	Protects 245,665 acres of new and expanded wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument, strengthens protections for wild and scenic rivers, and designates a new national recreational trail.	6/8/15 report to Leg Com;
ADMINISTRATION		
Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT)	Through the Department of the Interior, the PILT program provides compensation to counties with tax-exempt federal land within their boundaries.	7/7/16 report to Leg Com; 3/14/16 report to Leg Com; 1/11/16 report to Leg Com; 11/9/15 report to Leg Com;
Municipal Bond Interest exemption	The President's FY2016 budget recommends capping the tax-exemption of municipal bonds at 28%. A House draft tax reform proposal from 2014 would impose a 10% tax on otherwise tax-exempt municipal bond interest for taxpayers in the newly proposed 35% tax bracket. -- Rep. Farr signed a letter on March 27, 2015, to House leadership in support of municipal bonds.	5/4/15 report to Leg Com;
Sales Tax Collection on Internet Sales S.698 (Enzi) H.R.2775 (Chaffetz)	Legislation has been introduced to counter a 1992 Supreme Court decision and allow states to collect sales taxes from online retailers with more than \$1 million in annual sales. Online retailers are now required to collect state sales tax only for states where the retailer has a physical presence, such as a store or distribution center. The legislation would allow states to collect sales taxes from online retailers once they simplify their sales tax procedures and provide retailers with software that automates the collection process.	3/14/16 report to Leg Com; 2/8/16 report to Leg Com; 1/11/16 report to Leg Com; 7/10/15 report to Leg Com; Monitoring Congressional activity

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Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program	PACE is a local government financing program that allows a property owner to apply for funds to pay for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements that will reduce their energy costs. The residential PACE program is tied up in the Federal court system over challenges to a 2010 directive by the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) regarding the impact of PACE programs on Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae loans. A regulation on PACE is pending at FHFA, hinging on final court decisions. The timing for reintroduction of a PACE-type bill in Congress is uncertain.	Monitoring judicial process and Congressional activity
Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)	Legislative proposals may be introduced to preempt state and local taxing authority over online travel companies.	Monitoring Congressional activity
Voting Rights Act	The Supreme Court struck down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act in <i>Shelby County v. Holder</i> . Section 4 contains the coverage formula that determines which jurisdictions are subject to the federal preclearance requirement in Section 5. Congress must enact legislation to create a new coverage formula in order for Section 5 to have any effect.	Monitoring Congressional and DOJ activity
Budget Resolution	Congress is expected to consider an FY2017 Budget Resolution that establishes spending and revenue targets for various committees in the House and Senate.	Reports to Leg Com: 5/16/16, 3/14/16, 2/8/16, 11/9/15, 10/5/15, 5/4/15.
FY2016 Appropriations FY2017 Appropriations	With a 2 year budget agreement in place, Congress will consider 12 spending bills to fund the federal government for FY2017.	Reports to Leg Com: 8/26/16; 7/7/16; 5/16/16, 3/14/16, 2/8/16, 1/11/16, 12/14/15, 11/9/15, 10/5/15, 7/10/15, 6/8/15, 5/4/15.
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	Provides grants to counties for rehabilitation of affordable housing and rental assistance to low-income people.	11/12/15 letters of support to Rep. Farr and Sen. Feinstein
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		
Medicare Payments to Physicians ("Doc Fix")	Bipartisan legislation to change how Medicare pays doctors was signed into law on April 16, 2015.	5/4/15 report to Leg Com;
CA Medicaid Sec. 1115 Waiver Renewal	The State of California sought to renew federal funding for its Medi-Cal program.	5/8/15 support letter sent to CMS

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Mental health services in the criminal justice system S.993/H.R.1854	Legislation has been introduced to address mental health issues in the criminal justice system. The legislation would provide grants to states and local governments to support mental health courts and other collaborative programs between the criminal justice system and mental health systems.	Monitoring Congressional activity;
Medicaid inmate waiver proposal	NACo proposal to HHS to develop a Medicaid Section 1115 waiver to provide federal support for inmate health services in local jails.	4/12/16 signatory to NACo letter to HHS
Medicaid DSH Payments	<p>Natividad Medical Center (NMC) receives Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments through the Medicaid and Medicare programs to provide care to uninsured patients.</p> <p>The Doc Fix law delayed by one year a scheduled reduction in DSH payments to public hospitals.</p>	11/9/15 report to Leg Com; 5/4/15 report to Leg Com;
Right Start Child Care and Education Act S. 446	Legislation to expand tax credits for child and dependent care programs.	3/18/15 support letter to Sen. Boxer
Bringing Postpartum Depression Out of the Shadow Act S. 2311	Legislation to authorize federal grants for state and local programs that treat postpartum depression.	5/19/2016 support letters to Sen. Boxer and Feinstein
Early Childhood Development Programs	<p>The federal government funds many state/local programs that promote the physical health, social and emotional well-being, and educational opportunities of young children. Programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) ● Child Care and Development Block Grant ● Social Services Block Grant ● Head Start (including Early Head Start) ● Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) ● HUD Homeless Assistance 	Monitoring Congressional activity;
INFRASTRUCTURE		

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Laguna Seca Turn 6 Erosion Control Project	The County is working with BLM to develop a mitigation plan to prevent further erosion of land in the Fort Ord National Monument.	7/7/16 report to Leg Com; 3/11/16 call with local BLM; 2/10/16 meeting with BLM in Fort Ord office; 2/23/16 meeting with BLM in DC; 2/24/16 meeting with Rep. Farr
Interlake Tunnel	The County is developing a water storage project to improve water supply, water quality, and environmental resources in the Salinas River valley.	2/22/16 meetings with Sen. Feinstein and Boxer staff; 2/24/16 meeting with Rep. Farr; 2/18/16 letter to Sen. Feinstein
Nacimiento-Fergusson Road	The County is working with the U.S. Forest Service to identify federal funds for the repair and maintenance of Nacimiento-Fergusson Road in the Los Padres National Forest.	2/24/16 meeting with Rep. Farr; 8/26/16 report to Leg Com; 7/7/16 report to Leg Com;
Carmel Lagoon	The County is developing a comprehensive strategy to address flooding in the Carmel Lagoon and improve species habitat in the Lower Carmel River.	Letter to Rep. Farr on 3/17/15; Monitoring federal grant opportunities
Salinas River Channel Clearing	Monterey County Water Resources Agency is leading an effort to develop a consensus-based Comprehensive Salinas River Stream Management Program. Federal funding and permits from a variety of federal agencies will be needed to implement the project successfully.	Monitoring federal grant opportunities
"Waters of the U.S." rule	EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have published a final rule that seeks to define which wetlands and streams fall under the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act.	8/26/16 report to Leg Com; 7/7/16 report to Leg Com; 11/9/15 report to Leg Com; 10/5/15 report to Leg Com
Water Resources Development Act S. 2848	Authorizes water infrastructure programs for the Army Corps of Engineers, including projects related to harbors, locks, dams, flood protection, and environmental restoration.	7/7/16 report to Leg Com;

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Surface Transportation Act Reauthorization H.R.22 (Shuster)	Congress is developing legislation to reauthorize the federal surface transportation programs due to expire on November 20, 2015.	12/14/15 report to Leg Com; 11/9/15 report to Leg Com; 7/10/15 report to Leg Com; 6/8/15 report to Leg Com; 5/4/15 report to Leg Com;
California Drought H.R.2898 (Valadao) S.2533(Feinstein)	Legislation has been introduced in the Senate and House to address the California drought.	3/29/16 support letter to Sen. Feinstein; Reports to Leg Com: 5/16/16, 3/14/16, 2/8/16, 1/11/16, 12/14/15, 11/9/15, 10/5/15, 7/10/15, 6/8/15. Monitoring Congressional activity;
PUBLIC SAFETY		
State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)	SCAAP is a grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that partially reimburses state and local governments for the cost of incarcerating undocumented immigrants convicted of crimes. DOJ proposed to eliminate the program in its FY2016 budget request. Rep. Farr signed a letter on March 25, 2015, to House Appropriations Committee leaders in support of SCAAP funding.	5/16/16 report to Leg Com; 3/14/16 report to Leg Com; 1/11/16 report to Leg Com; 12/14/15 report to Leg Com; 7/10/15 report to Leg Com; 6/8/15 report to Leg Com; 5/4/15 report to Leg Com;
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act S.1169	Legislation has been introduced to reauthorize the JJDPA. Counties that operate juvenile detention centers, house justice-involved children in jails, or those that provide social services to justice-involved children must adhere to requirements in the JJDPA in order to receive federal funding.	6/8/15 report to Leg Com;
National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention	Monterey County/City of Salinas participates in the forum through the U.S. Department of Justice.	3/16/15 letters to Rep. Farr and Sen. Feinstein and Boxer