



County of Monterey

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DATE: November 6, 2025

TO: Legislative Committee

FROM: Nicole Hollingsworth, Legislative Program Manager

SUBJECT: **2026 Legislative and Grant Program Development**

RECOMMENDATION

Receive report and provide direction on legislative and funding priorities to be included in the 2026 Legislative Platform and 2026 Strategic Grant Services Program Work Plan.

IDENTIFICATION OF LEGISLATIVE AND FUNDING PRIORITIES

Over the last few weeks, staff and the County's state and federal legislative and funding advocates have met with Board Members and County departments to identify legislative and funding priorities to recommend for 2026. Please note we are in the second year of the two-year legislative cycle, and as such, much of the program from 2025 will carry over into 2026. This includes issues/projects that are in need of: 1) State legislative advocacy; 2) State Budget funding; 3) Federal legislative advocacy; 4) Federal Community Project Funding (CPF); and 5) Projects to include in the 2026 Strategic Grant Services Program Work Plan.

A chart listing these priorities is included below, but in summary:

1. State Legislative Advocacy: Continue to support legislation related to the operation of battery storage facilities and groundwater management.
2. State Budget: It is currently unknown if the County will be able to submit State Budget requests, and if so, these requests are likely to be very limited. Staff recommends giving priority to funding requests for the San Lucas Clean Drinking Water Project, and, if a second request is allowed, to a dam safety project. Staff will also work with Departments on applications for Proposition 4—Climate Resiliency Bond. New to the state priority list for 2026 is the Scenic Road Protective Structure Project.
3. Federal Legislative Advocacy: Continue to advocate for restoration of cuts to vital county services such as healthcare, social services, immigration, education, etc.
4. Federal CPF: Due to recent changes in the Administration and Senate, it is uncertain whether the County will be invited to submit CPF requests in 2026, and if so, those opportunities are likely to be more limited than in past years. However, staff recommends that the County be prepared to pursue these potential funding opportunities if/when they become available. The County of Monterey was unsuccessful in receiving any CPF funding in 2025, therefore, many of the applications will carryover to 2026. 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 in the table below, and ranked, in advance of the invitation for submission.

5. 2026 Strategic Grant Services Program Work Plan. The chart below identifies the top grant opportunities the program will focus on in its Work Plan in 2025-26.
6. Annual Legislative Workshop: As a reminder, the legislative and funding issues identified in this list under the categories of State Legislative Advocacy, State Budget Requests, Federal Legislative Advocacy and Federal CPF Request, and approved by the Board, will be presented to the County's state and federal legislative delegation at the Board's annual Legislative Workshop (February 13, 2026).

Recommended 2026 legislative and funding priorities:

Project/Issue	State Legislative Advocacy	State Budget Request	Federal Legislative Advocacy	Federal CPF Request	2025-26 Grant Work Plan
San Lucas Clean Drinking Water	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	X		X		
Immigration			X		
Skate and Bike Park				7	X
Salinas Regional Soccer Complex				4	X
NEW Parks Funding for Castroville, Chualar and/or San Ardo (Prop 4)					X
NEW Scenic Road Protective Structure Project (SRPS)		3	X		X
Nacimiento Lake Drive Repaving Project				6	
Reclamation Ditch Restoration				3	
Water Sustainability and Drought Related Projects					X
Road, Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure Improvements					X
Porter-Vallejo & Mansion Historical Restoration Project				5	X
Carmel Lagoon Adaptive Management					X
Salinas River Operations Habitat Conservation Plan					X
Broadway Family Connection Project					X

DESCRIPTIONS ON NEWLY PROPOSED ITEMS:

Scenic Road Protective Structure Project ~\$1.5M

This is a coastal flood protection project for the Carmel Lagoon area, designed to protect Scenic Road from wave erosion and “northerly breach” of the lagoon. The project would also reduce the risk of flooding in nearby neighborhoods. The structure will be built at the toe of the sand slope along the road. The County has approved the project’s environmental review and is now seeking funding for the design, permitting, and construction phases.

New Parks Funding for Castroville, Chualar, and San Ardo (Via Prop 4)

Outdoor education and environmental stewardship are more important today than ever as our younger generations move to a more “online and connected” school and home environment. California Proposition 4, the Climate Resiliency Bond, provides \$700,000 for park creation and outdoor access. As such, the County has identified opportunities to create parks in Chualar and San Ardo (which currently lack any county parks), as well as an opportunity to add a pool to park services in Castroville.

Added Late Last Year: Porter-Vallejo Library and Mansion Historical Restoration Project - \$3,500,000

This project is a vital and valuable resource for the Pajaro community. The Porter-Vallejo Mansion is a 3-story historic building and the home to the Pajaro Library, located on the first floor. The Historic Mansion is located at 29 Bishop Street in Pajaro, California, and it holds a National Register of Historic Places designation. In March 2023, the area was devastated by floods, causing water damage throughout the structure. In the aftermath, residents identified this project as one of the top priorities for their community. This project will focus on remodeling the interior of the mansion’s second and third floors. This will involve structural modifications to accommodate a lift, ensuring access to all levels, along with ADA upgrades and the addition of restrooms throughout the building. Enhancements will also include the construction of an exterior egress stair, two tensile shade structures, and a reading circle in the mansion’s South yard. The updated second and third floors will expand the library’s programming capacity by incorporating a lactation room, accessible restroom, meeting room, staff offices, and comfortable seating areas for patrons.

Items removed from priority list from 2025:

- Parks Outdoor Education & Environmental Stewardship Project: this project did not receive support from our federal delegation in 2025, and as such, staff will work with the Chief of Parks on other funding sources. Revisit CPF in 2027 with possible matching funding.
- Parks Outdoor Accessible and Inclusive Fitness Project: this project did not receive support from our federal delegation in 2025, and as such, staff will work with the Chief of Parks on other funding sources. Revisit CPF in 2027 with possible matching funding.

NEXT STEPS

December 8, 2024, Legislative Committee - Recommend 2026 Legislative Platform, State Budget requests, Federal CPF requests, 2025-26 Strategic Grant Services Program to the Board of Supervisors for adoption.

January 2026, Board of Supervisors - Adopt 2026 Legislative Platform and 2025-26 Strategic Grant Services Program. In the event the County is able to make submissions, authorize work on identified State Budget requests and Federal CPF requests, and approve the 2026 Legislative Workshop agenda.

February 13, 2026, Board of Supervisors - Annual Legislative Workshop - Special meeting of the Board of Supervisors with the County’s state and federal elected representatives to present the County’s legislative and funding priorities for 2026.