Ballard Spahr

AGENDA ITEM #3E



County of Monterey Federal Bill/Issues Track 2025 (119th Congress, Session 1)

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	Westerman/ Panetta	Environment	Fix Our Forests Act	Support	2/10/25 LC Support 2/18/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
<u>S. 350</u>	Padilla	Environment	Wildfire Emergency Act	Support	4/14/25 LC Support 4/14/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation
<u>S. 984</u>	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	Recommend Oppose	

Other Issues	Brief Summary	Action Taken
FEMA Reimbursement	Related to 2024 Winter Storms	In 2025, I will continue to coordinate outreach to the federal delegation regarding appropriate communication with USACE and FEMA and to facilitate reimbursement of expenses.

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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.	In 2025, I will continue to coordinate outreach to the federal delegation regarding reimbursement of these expenses.
	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 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.	
OMB Memo re Federal Funding	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
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 on to address concerns relating to the FY24 earmark award 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 the County for the CRFREE Project.

Other Issues	Brief Summary	Action Taken
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.
FY26 Community Project Funding Requests	 The county submitted the following projects for consideration to date: San Lucas Clean Drinking Water (Padilla, Schiff) Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs Safety Projects (Padilla, Schiff) Skate Park and BMX Pump Track (Padilla, Schiff) Salinas Regional Soccer Complex (Padilla, Schiff) County Parks Outdoor Education and Environmental Stewardship Project (Padilla, Schiff, Panetta) County Parks Outdoor Accessible and Inclusive Fitness Project (Padilla, Schiff, Panetta) Nacimiento Lake Drive Repaving Project (Padilla, Schiff, Panetta) Homeless Encampment Resolution – Reclamation Ditch Restoration (Padilla, Schiff) Porter-Vallejo Mansion/Pajaro Library (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.
CPF Application by Resource Conservation District of Monterey County	The county submitted a letter of support to Rep. Logfren 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 of support from Board of Supervisors provided in support of application.
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.	4/26/25 Board letter to federal delegation

Other Issues	Brief Summary	Action Taken
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 Board signed on to coalition letter supporting funding.