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MEMORANDUM

TO Legislative Committee

FROM Katlyn Koegel and Maria Tripplaar

DATE October 7, 2025

RE Federal Legislative Update

This memo provides a Federal Legislative Update for items appearing on the agenda for the October 13, 2025, Legislative Committee Meeting.

a. Federal Government Update

i. *Congressional Overview*

Congress returned from recess in early September with the 2025 fiscal year set to expire on September 30, 2025. To keep the government open, Congress needed to come to an agreement, either through a series of appropriation bills or a continuing resolution, by midnight on September 30th. It did not reach an agreement, and consequently, the federal government shut down on October 1st. As of the time of writing this report, it is unclear how and when lawmakers will reach a resolution. Speaker Johnson cancelled votes for the week of October 6, meaning the House is out of session until October 14, 2025. This puts pressure on the Senate to approve a measure to reopen the government. Some commentators believe the government will remain shutdown until, at least, October 15th. This day will be a pressure point for lawmakers as the day when active-duty military and other federal employees will miss their first paycheck.

For the County of Monterey, this shutdown means further delays in processing obligated FEMA funds and EPA grant applications. It also means the County will need to fill the gap for programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which do not have access to new funding during a federal government shutdown. Other programs, like Medicaid, will continue payments as scheduled, although the review of new applications—a discretionary task—will remain paused until federal employees return to work. It is too early to know what the exact impact of the federal government shutdown will be on the County of

Monterey, but it is certain that the length of the shutdown will correlate to the gap the County needs to fill.

ii. Executive Order Updates

The White House signed an order on September 19, 2025, establishing “The Gold Card” which will allow foreign aliens to establish eligibility for an immigrant visa by making an unrestricted gift to the Department of Commerce. The requisite gift amount is \$1 million for an individual donating on his or her own behalf, and \$2 million for a corporation donating on behalf of an individual. “Gold Card petitions” will also receive expedited adjudication.

Other notable Executive Orders in September included those “Designating Antifa as a Domestic Terrorist Organization” allowing federal resources to “investigate, disrupt, and dismantle any and all illegal operations; “Assuring the Security of the State of Qatar” pledging United States action in response to any armed attack on the State of Qatar; and “Saving TikTok While Protecting National Security,” which approves a plan for TikTok’s “qualified divestiture” and results in the application no longer being controlled by a foreign adversary in threat of U.S. national security.

b. Appropriations Update, including Community Project Funding Requests

i. Status of FY 26 Funding

As discussed above, it is unclear how Congress will resolve the current lapse in appropriations. Right now, lawmakers have myriad options to fund the government and still allocate funds for Community Project Funding (CPF) requests. While there is not any consensus of the terms of a CR nor the potential length for a CR, in the event one is agreed to, we cannot rule out the possibility of a full year CR. In the case of a full year CR, as in fiscal year 2025, there would be no CPFs for fiscal year 2026. At this point in time, we do not expect this to be the case, but we will continue to monitor and provide updates on this chart as the earmark process progresses through Congress.

FY26 Project Submitted	Description	Submissions	Funding Requested	Submitted to House/ Senate Committee	Draft Funding Level
San Lucas Clean Drinking Water (PWFP)	Partial funding request for a project to permanently address water quality problems in San Lucas, which have occurred since 2006 and caused its residents to live under bottled water orders.	Sen. Padilla	\$3,668,000		
		Sen. Schiff	\$3,668,000	\$3,668,000	
		Rep. Lofgren	\$3,668,000	\$3,668,000	\$1,092,000
Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and	Partial funding request for the Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams Reservoirs Safety Projects (sometimes referred to as the Low-Level	Sen. Padilla	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	
		Sen. Schiff	\$6,000,000		

Reservoirs Safety Project (MCWRA)	Outlet Works Rehabilitation Project) to ensure the safe operation of the dams during the state mandated replacement of the San Antonio Dam spillway.	Rep Lofgren	\$6,000,000		
Skate Park and BMX Pump Track (PWFP)	Partial funding request for development of a bike and skate park in Salinas. The site, and its connection to multi-use trails, offers unique regional recreation options for the tri-county area. This project is in partnership with the Salinas Regional Soccer Authority.	Sen. Padilla Sen. Schiff Rep. Lofgren	\$3,000,000 \$3,000,000 \$3,000,000		
Salinas Regional Soccer Complex (PWFP)	Partial funding request for the next phase expansion of the Salinas Regional Soccer Complex, envisioned to become the most significant sports complex between Los Angeles and San Francisco, with the potential to serve 18,000 children/ youth weekly (plus their families). This project is in partnership with the Salinas Regional Soccer Authority.	Sen. Padilla Sen. Schiff Rep. Lofgren	\$2,500,000 \$2,500,000 \$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$500,000
County Parks Outdoor Education and Environmental Stewardship Project (PWFP)	Funding request to construct outdoor education facilities at Toro and San Lorenzo Parks.	Sen. Padilla Sen. Schiff Rep. Lofgren Rep. Panetta	\$635,500 \$635,500 \$635,500 \$635,500		
County Parks Outdoor Accessible and Inclusive Fitness Project (PWFP)	Funding request to construct outdoor inclusive physical fitness facilities at Toro and San Lorenzo Parks to further support public health and wellbeing.	Sen. Padilla Sen. Schiff Rep. Lofgren Rep. Panetta	\$509,600 \$509,600 \$509,600 \$509,600		
Nacimiento Lake Drive Repaving Project (MCWRA)	Funding request to repave a degraded two mile segment of Nacimiento Lake Drive, directly over the Nacimiento Dam crest. The road serves emergency responders, residents, and recreational visitors.	Sen. Padilla Sen. Schiff Rep. Panetta	\$2,100,000 \$2,100,000 \$2,100,000		
Homeless Encampment Resolution – Reclamation Ditch Restoration (MCWRA)	Funding request to rehabilitate 6.8 acres within the existing Salinas Reclamation Channel (Reclamation Ditch No. 1665) system and maintain lands to support public use and enjoyment and improve the riparian zone and waterway.	Sen. Padilla Sen. Schiff Rep. Lofgren	\$500,000 \$500,000 \$500,000		
Porter-Vallejo Library and Mansion Historical	This project would undertake critical infrastructure and building improvements, adding safety and egress features and enabling more of the structure to be used	Rep. Lofgren	\$3,500,000		

Restoration Project	by the public and as a hub for County services, including a public library.				
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ii. San Lucas Drinking Water CPF

The Department of Public Works, Facilities and Parks (PWFP) reached out to us in early September regarding the FY24 CPF award for the San Lucas Drinking Water Project. The County received \$959,752 for the project and PWFP is currently working on a grant application to secure the allocated funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We helped PWFP interpret the EPA Form 6600-06—a certification that the County will not use Federally appropriated funds to pay its lobbyists for influencing or obtaining the awarded funds—and the Form-LLL which discloses lobbyist activity related to the award. The federal government shut down may delay the processing of this application, but PWFP should soon be able to access the FY 24 appropriations for the San Lucas Drinking Water project.

c. Federal Advocacy

i. FEMA Reimbursements – 2023 Winter Storms

Following up on last month’s report, we reached out to the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) to determine what amount of FEMA funds the County has received and what amount remains outstanding. The chart below reflects the information provided by DEM:

	Event	Best Cost Available	Best Available Federal Share Cost	Obligated Federal Share	State Advance
4434	2019 Winter Storms	\$95,762	\$77,251	\$347,453	
4482	COVID-19	\$19,305,298	\$19,275,539	\$13,213,886	
4558	2020 Wildfires	\$1,820,703	\$1,737,358	\$1,737,358	
4683	2023 January Winter Storms	\$21,239,703	\$18,284,243	\$4,668,103	\$12,139,456
4699	2023 March Winter Storms	\$23,745,445	\$17,809,084	\$8,982,182	\$10,860,544
4769	2024 February Winter Storms	\$4,566,819	\$3,425,114	\$337,548	
	Grand Total	\$70,773,730	\$60,608,589	\$29,286,530	\$23,000,000

Best Cost Available: The amount that has been submitted and validated as eligible funding from FEMA. This number does not include denied costs, costs removed by the County, and costs submitted to other assistance programs. This number does not reflect the actual cost of the County’s response but does represent the cost of responding that is likely to be reimbursed specifically by FEMA.

Best Available Federal Share Cost: This number is the reimbursement percentage. Generally, projects are only eligible for reimbursement at a 75% rate, but some projects may be reimbursed at higher levels up to 100%.

Obligated Federal Share: This number reflects the funds that the County has received from FEMA. The January & March 2023 winter storms are an exception, however, since the County received an advance of FEMA funds directly from the State: “**State Advance**”. Here, Cal OES will receive obligated funds to pay-off the State Advance, until the balance is \$0. Obligations over the state advance amount will be released to the County.

As highlighted in our last update, FEMA authorized two grant awards to the County: 2023 winter storms public assistance for alternative procedures for debris removal operations in the amount of \$1.2 million; and 2023 winter storms emergency protective measures in the amount of \$2.9 million. DEM noted these obligated funds likely correlate to: Project 747876, Right of Way debris removal for the community of Pajaro, and Project 748698 the March 2023 Emergency Operations Center, respectively. In both cases, the obligated funds reflect, generally, what the County actually paid.

Finally, DEM anticipates that obligations for the January 2023, March 2023, and February 2024 Storms are likely in the near future. Of the 23 projects which are not yet obligated, 10 are pending final review, 9 are pending award, 1 is pending final validation, and 2 and pending large project review.

d. Legislation

Since the last legislative committee meeting, the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors took support positions on three bills: H.R. 4889, H.R. 5449, and S. 2885.

H.R. 4889 entitled “To prohibit States from carrying out more than one Congressional redistricting after a decennial census and apportionment” was introduced by Representative Kiley in the House and would prevent states from conducting redistricting efforts between censuses.

H.R. 5449 and S. 2885, the Redistricting Reform Act of 2025, was introduced by Representative Lofgren in the House, and Senator Padilla in the Senate; Representative Panetta and Senator Schiff are original co-sponsors, respectively. These bills would prevent States from redrawing federal Congressional districts until after the next apportionment of Representatives, establish individual rights of action, and establish independent redistricting commissions.

i. H.R. 4358 Anti-Rigging Act of 2025 – Recommend Support

The Anti-Rigging Act of 2025 seeks to prohibit states from carrying out more than one Congressional redistricting after a decennial census and apportionment. It would allow for

exceptions if a court required a state to conduct redistricting to comply with the Constitution or to enforce the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Representative Veasey introduced this legislation in the House. There is not yet an identical companion bill in the Senate.

***ii. H.R. 4504 and S. 2349 Incorporating National Support for
Unprecedented Risks and Emergencies (INSURE) Act –
Recommend Support***

The INSURE act is a re-introduction of a 2024 bill which the County of Monterey previously supported. This bill would create a catastrophic property loss reinsurance program, which provides reinsurance to qualifying insurance companies and alleviates the cost and availability issues currently challenging insurers nationwide. In 2024, the County supported the bill but suggested several changes including: (1) stronger language supporting low-income residents who typically can only afford to live in areas with higher risk and struggle the most to recover from a disaster; (2) language about reducing documentation and proof burdens to streamline insurance claims for properties damaged and destroyed under Gubernatorial Declarations; and (3) language addressing the discrepancy between the cost to rebuild or replace based on current market values for time and materials verses the building replacement value provided by the insurance companies. We recommend a support position on this bill, while also advocating for the same amendments as listed above.

Senator Schiff introduced this legislation in the House and Representative Kamlager-Dove introduced the companion bill in the House.

e. Federal Bill/Issues Track

Attachment(s):

Federal Bill/Issues Track