## **AGENDA ITEM #3E**

## Ballard Spahr

## 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<br>1/29/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation                                     |
| H.R. 680             | Hayes   | Veterans      | Caring for Survivors Act                               | Support  | 2/10/25 LC Support<br>2/10/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation                                     |
| H.R. 338             | Costa   | Water         | Every Drop Counts Act                                  | Support  | 2/10/25 LC Support<br>2/18/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation                                     |
| H.R. 471<br>S. 1462  | Westerman/<br>Panetta<br>Curtis               | Environment   | Fix Our Forests Act                                    | Support  | 2/10/25 LC Support<br>2/18/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation<br>6/4/25 Letter to Senator Padilla |
| <u>S. 350</u>        | Padilla                                       | Environment   | Wildfire Emergency Act                                 | Support  | 4/14/25 LC Support<br>4/14/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation                                     |
| <u>S. 984</u>        | Padilla                                       | Agriculture   | Fair Access to Agriculture Disaster<br>Programs Act    | Support  | 4/14/25 LC Support<br>4/14/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation                                     |
| H.R. 965             | Sherman                                       | Veterans      | Housing Unhoused Disabled<br>Veterans Act              | Support  | 4/14/25 LC Support<br>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<br>4/14/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation                                     |
| H.R. 22              | Roy   | Voting        | Safeguard American Voter<br>Eligibility Act (SAVE) Act | Oppose   | 5/12/25 LC Oppose<br>5/12/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation                                      |
| H.R.2882             | Panetta                                       | Environment   | Central Coast of California<br>Conservation Act        | Support  | 8/14/25 LC Support<br>8/15/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation                                     |
| H.R. 2849<br>S. 1432 | Huffman/Lofgren<br>/Panetta<br>Padilla/Schiff | Environment   | West Coast Ocean Protection Act                        | Support  | 8/14/25 LC Support<br>8/15/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation                                     |

| Measure              | Sponsor(s)                   | Topic                        | Title  | Position | Notes  |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|----------|--|
| H.R. 2586            | Tonko                        | Judiciary/ BOP               | The Reentry Act  | Support  | 8/14/25 LC Support<br>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<br>8/15/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation  |
| H.R. 2308<br>S. 1246 | Moskowitz<br>Tillis/ Padilla | Emergency<br>Response        | FEMA Independence Act  | Support  | 8/14/25 LC Support<br>8/15/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation  |
| <u>S. 356</u>        | Crapo                        | Infrastructure/<br>Education | Secure Rural Schools<br>Reauthorization Act  | Support  | 8/14/25 LC Support<br>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<br>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<br>8/15/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation  |
| H.R. 4696<br>S. 2468 | Lofgren<br>Padilla           | Immigration                  | Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929   | Support  | 8/14/25 LC Support<br>8/15/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation  |
| H.R. 4669            | Graves/ Larsen               | Emergency<br>Response        | Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act (H.R. 4669)   | Support  | 9/8/25 LC Support<br>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<br>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<br>9/26/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation |
| <u>S. 2885</u>       | Padilla/Schiff               | Redistricting                | Redistricting Reform Act of 2025   | Support  | 9/23/25 BoS Support<br>9/26/25 Letter sent to Congressional delegation |
| H.R. 4358            | Veasey                       | Redistricting                | Anti-Rigging Act of 2025   | Support  | 10/13/25 LC Recommend Support  |
| H.R. 4504<br>S. 2349 | Kamlager-Dove<br>Schiff      | Financial<br>Services        | Incorporating National Support for<br>Unprecedented Risks and<br>Emergencies (INSURE) Act                                  | Support  | 10/13/25 LC Recommend Support  |

| 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.<br>\$1,201,748.53 for Debris Removal<br>Operations and \$2,929,216.18 for<br>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 healthy and nutritious meals by delivery. All work and costs in this project fell between |

| Other Issues                                    | Brief Summary  | Action Taken  |
|---|--|---|
|   |  | 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<br>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   |
| 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 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. |

| Other Issues  | Brief Summary   | Action Taken  |
|---|---|---|
| FY24 Community Project Funding Award for San Lucas Clean Drinking Water Project | On May 19 <sup>th</sup> 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 15 <sup>th</sup> 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. |
| FY25 Community Project<br>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  |
| FY26 Community Project<br>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) | 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   |

| Other Issues   | Brief Summary  | Action Taken   |
|--|--|--|
|  | <ol> <li>Salinas Regional Soccer Complex (Padilla, Schiff, Lofgren)</li> <li>County Parks Outdoor Education and Environmental Stewardship Project (Padilla, Schiff, Panetta, Lofgren)</li> <li>County Parks Outdoor Accessible and Inclusive Fitness Project (Padilla, Schiff, Panetta, Lofgren)</li> <li>Nacimiento Lake Drive Repaving Project (Padilla, Schiff, Panetta)</li> <li>Homeless Encampment Resolution – Reclamation Ditch Restoration (Padilla, Schiff, Lofgren)</li> <li>Porter-Vallejo Library and Mansion Historical Restoration Project (Lofgren)</li> </ol> | 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. |
| 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 to coalition letter in support  COMPLETE   |
| Letter of Support<br>CPF Application by<br>Resource Conservation | The county submitted a letter of support to Rep. Lofgren for Community Project Funding for the Salinas River Arundo Eradication Program and Salinas  | 4/29/25 letter to Rep. Lofgren COMPLETE  |

| Other Issues  | Brief Summary  | Action Taken  |
|---|--|---|
| District of Monterey<br>County  | River Stream Maintenance Program on behalf of the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County  |   |
| Pajaro Sunny Mesa<br>Water Consolidation<br>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<br>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 – Date of letter  COMPLETE  |
| Jolon Road Safety<br>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.  |
| 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<br>new approvals for wind<br>and solar projects on<br>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<br>Team to monitor the issue and keep them<br>informed of any developments.<br>Continue to monitor   |
| Protecting the Federal<br>Safety Net  | BoS letter to federal offices voicing concern for essential safety net programs that serve Monterey County residents. Urged federal delegation to protect  | 7/26/25 Letter to federal delegation  Continue to monitor   |

| Other Issues   | Brief Summary   | Action Taken  |
|--|---|---|
|  | federal funding for programs like Medicaid, SNAP, CalFresh, TANF, and CalWORKs.   |   |
| Fiscal Year 2026 Funding<br>for the Migrant<br>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.  Continue to monitor   |
| Funding for the Migrant<br>Education Program and<br>Other Education<br>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 |
| Nation Outer<br>Continental Shelf Oil<br>and Gas Leasing<br>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 support letter to the Federal Delegation  Continue to monitor  |
| Low-Income Home<br>Energy Assistance<br>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<br>the Federal Delegation on behalf of<br>Supervisor Lopez as District 3 Supervisor.<br>COMPLETE    |
| CalOES/FEMA HMGP<br>Application for the<br>Scenic Road Protection<br>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.                                    |