



2026 Legislative Program

2026 Strategic Grant Services Program

COUNTY OF MONTEREY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JANUARY 27, 2026

Recommended Actions

- a. Consider recommendations from the Legislative Committee to adopt the 2026 Legislative Program, approve the 2026 Legislative Workshop Agenda, authorize the development and submission of potential State Budget and Federal Appropriation requests, and approve the 2026 Strategic Grant Services Program.
- b. Receive an annual report from Ballard Spahr LLP, on federal legislative advocacy;
- c. Receive an annual report from Nossaman LLP, on state legislative advocacy;
- d. Receive an annual report from Nossaman LLP, on grant activities; and
- e. Provide direction to staff.

Legislative Program

- Monterey County has a long standing and successful Legislative Program which ensures that County interests in State and Federal legislative, budgetary, and other policy decision-making are well represented, and to keep County leaders apprised on evolving state and federal initiatives impacting the County and its residents.
- The Legislative Program is a 2-year program which aligns with the 2-year cycles of the State and Federal legislatures (*We are in year 2 of the cycle*)
- The Legislative program is developed under the direction of the Board's Legislative Committee in collaboration with Board Members and County Departments.
- Once adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the Legislative Program provides authority to advocate in support or defense of issues, enabling actions to be taken quickly to protect or defend the County's interests in Sacramento and Washington D.C.

Monterey County 2026 Policy Priorities

Protecting Monterey County Values

The County of Monterey has a long tradition of providing a welcoming, safe, and sustainable community for its residents. People are entitled to live their life as they see fit and access public benefits and resources free of fear, hate or retribution. The County is resolute in its commitment to preserving the values that define this community including fundamental civil rights, reproductive freedom, protection of immigrants, and more. The County will rigorously advocate to protect and preserve:

- ***Immigrants:*** Oppose efforts that unfairly target documented and undocumented immigrants including but not limited to separation of migrant families at border crossings, large-scale deportations, efforts to limit or eliminate Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).
- ***Data Privacy:*** Support effort to protect data privacy for individuals who have provided personal information to any private or governmental institution and ensure that such data is only used for the purpose for which it was originally provided.
- ***Public Health:*** Oppose efforts that diminish public health initiatives such as access to preventative healthcare services and vaccines.
- ***Reproductive Freedom:*** Support efforts to defend and protect reproductive freedom, including the right to access safe, legal abortion services. Support legislation to codify the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*.
- ***Marriage Equality:*** Support and defend marriage equality as a constitutional right.
- ***Climate Change:*** Support efforts to continue to combat the very real climate change impacts experienced in the County and throughout California (e.g., wildfires, winter storms).
- ***Disaster Assistance:*** Oppose cuts to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A well-funded FEMA is critical to partner with local communities to prepare for and recover from natural disasters, and to provide opportunities for federal funding/grants to supplement county services.
- ***Freedom of Thought and Expression:*** Support efforts to preserve access to freedom of thought and expression, as available through a variety of institutions, such as libraries and museums.
- ***Combating Disinformation:*** Foster access to reliable and factual content from trusted news outlets, social media channels, and other information sources. Promote media literacy, equipping individuals to independently fact-check and analyze potentially deceptive or misleading data.
- ***Education:*** Oppose any efforts to limit or abolish the U.S. Department of Education.
- ***Military Personnel and Veterans:*** Support the rights of veterans and members of the military, including women who seek to serve in combat roles, LGBTQ and transgender populations.
- ***Defense institutions:*** Support efforts to enhance, grow, and protect national security assets in the Monterey Bay Area and oppose Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and similar Department of Defense proposals, which would diminish local missions and negatively impact the economy.

Monterey County 2026 Policy Project Priorities

San Lucas Clean Drinking Water

Support legislation and budget proposals that create new or expands existing sources of funding for a long-term project that provides a reliable source of clean drinking water to the small, disadvantaged community of San Lucas.

Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs Safety Projects

Secure funding for a set of projects for Nacimiento and San Antonio Dam and Reservoir facilities to fulfill Federal and State regulatory requirements and provide flood protection and a sustainable water supply. Support legislation and budget proposals that protect existing and create new sources of funding for these projects.

Monterey County 2026 Policy Priorities

County “Safety” Projects

For the upcoming year, the CAO recommends prioritizing various projects and issues that directly impact public safety. This includes projects such as improvements to Nacimiento Lake Drive, Reclamation Ditch Restoration, Scenic Road Protective Structure Project, projects subject to FEMA funding, etc. All these projects are outlined in the Legislative Platform.

Mitigate Impacts of H.R. 1 to Healthcare Systems

The implementation of H.R. 1 requires significant changes to critical healthcare safety net programs such as Medi-Cal and CalFresh. It also reduces federal contributions for program administration and emergency services. Without additional resources, Monterey County could be forced to drastically cut and eliminate programs and services, impacting the entire healthcare system and social services safety nets.

Strategic Collaboration 2026 Policy Priorities



California State Association of Counties



Rural County Representatives of California



National Association of Counties

2026 Legislative Workshop

March 6, 2026
10:30 am-12:00 pm

Government Center
Board Chambers –
and via Zoom

Objective:

*Discuss legislative, budgetary
and other issues of mutual
concern with the County's
state and federal legislative
delegation.*

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions by Board Chair

- Review of Agenda and Objectives by Legislative Committee Chair
- State of the County by CAO
- Monterey County 2026 Policy Priorities
- Remarks by State and Federal Legislators on their 2026 Priorities
- Remarks by Monterey County Board of Supervisors Regarding 2026 Priorities
- Roundtable Discussion
- Public Comment on Agenda Items
- Board Direction to Staff

Adjournment



State Budget/Federal Funding Recommended Projects

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	X	2	X	2	X
Dams/Reservoirs Safety Projects					
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

2026 Strategic Grant Services Program

- The Strategic Grant Services Program works with County departments to identify grant opportunities and provide strategic expertise to craft competitive grant applications.
- Following Board approval, the program operates under the direction of the Legislative Committee and works closely with the Legislative Program to develop funding opportunities.
- The program has a limited workload capacity of 10-15 grants per year, varying depending on their complexity, focusing on funding needs that:
 - Align with Board Strategic Initiatives and Legislative Priorities;
 - Have an available funding source (opportunity & timing);
 - Are able to meet the grant requirements; and
 - Are able to put forth a competitive application.
- Flexible to adjust to changing priorities and opportunities. This is a “living document.”

Strategic Grant Services Program

Developed in a consultation with County departments, identifies priority projects and potential grant programs the County expects to focus on in 2026.

- San Lucas Clean Drinking Water
- Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs Safety Projects
- Carmel Lagoon Adaptive Management
- Water Sustainability and Drought Related Projects
- Road, Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Improvements
- County Park Facilities
- Salinas River Operations Habitat Conservation Plan
- Broadway Family Connection Project

Annual Reports

The annual reports provided by the County's federal and state legislative advocates and grant consultant highlight County activities undertaken in 2025.

The presentations will focus on anticipated major issues or projects for 2026.

Reports will be provided by:

Maria Tripplaar, Ballard Spahr LLP – Federal Legislative Advocate – **EXHIBIT G**

Ashley Walker, Nossaman LLP – State Legislative Advocate and Grant Consultant – **EXHIBITS H & I**



Thank You

Board of Supervisors

Legislative Committee

County Department Heads & Staff

Maria Tripplaar, Ballard Spahr LLP
Katlyn Koegel, Ballard Spahr LLP

Ashley Walker, Nossaman LLP

CAO-IGLA Team