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**MEMORANDUM**

TO Legislative Committee

FROM Katlyn Koegel and Maria Tripplaar

DATE September 2, 2025

RE Federal Legislative Update

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This memo provides a Federal Legislative Update for items appearing on the agenda for the September 8, 2025, Legislative Committee Meeting.

a. Federal Government Update

i. *Congressional Overview / Budget Reconciliation*

Congress returns from recess on September 2, 2025. We expect that Congress' first priority upon return is funding the federal government. Congress will need to fund the government for Fiscal Year 2026, which begins on October 1, 2025. To prevent a government shutdown both houses will need to come to an agreement, either through a series of appropriation bills or a continuing resolution, by September 30, 2025. As of time of writing, Democratic leadership has called on Republican leadership to pull together a stopgap funding measure which would give lawmakers in both houses more time to finish the annual appropriations bills. However, we believe that House Republicans are more interested in exploring a potential "minibus" – that is, enacting a few of the annual appropriations bills, and only using stopgap funding for the remaining unenacted appropriations measures. We will continue to monitor these developments closely in the coming weeks.

Regarding specific "must pass" legislation, the Senate is set to vote on its version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the 2026 defense policy bill, on September 2, 2025. House Republicans have also announced a plan to advance the House version of the NDAA, with the deadline for amendments expiring on August 28<sup>th</sup>. The NDAA provides funding for the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy, along with other defense-related activities.

Congressional action on the “Epstein Files” is expected to continue, with the House Oversight Committee receiving its first set of documents in response to its subpoena to the department of justice which requested records related to convicted sex-offender Jefferey Epstein and his associate, Ghislaine Maxwell. It is likely that some or all of these files will eventually be made public, but the details and method of release are still being negotiated. As of now, the House Oversight Committee will first conduct its own investigation.

Finally, in advance of the 2026 midterms some states are adopting new congressional maps, with both Texas and California taking early initiatives. Texas’s map is expected to pick up 5 Republican seats in the house with California’s proposed map countering with an additional 5 Democratic seats. Other states, such as Ohio, New York, Indiana and Missouri, may soon follow with their own new-map efforts. As of writing, Democrats face an uphill battle to win a majority in the Senate and the razor-thin margin in the House is a toss-up as redistricting efforts unfold.

## ii. *Executive Order Updates*

The White House signed an order on August 5, 2025, Establishing the White House Task Force on the 2028 Summer Olympics. The 2028 games are set to take place in Los Angeles, CA. This Executive Order establishes a task force to ensure “maximum safety, secure borders, and world-class transportation for millions of visitors throughout the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Other Executive Orders focused heavily on the District of Columbia: (1) Declaring a Crime Emergency; (2) Restoring Law and Order; and taking (3) Measures to End Cashless Bail and Enforce the Law. There is early suggestion that some of these measures, such as deployment of the National Guard, may be expanded to other municipal jurisdictions across the United States.

### b. Appropriations Update, including Community Project Funding Requests

As discussed above, it is unclear how Congress will choose to approach the FY 2026 appropriations process upon its return. We will continue to provide updates on this chart as the earmark process progresses through Congress.

FY26 Project Submitted	Description	Submissions	Funding Requested	Submitted to House/ Senate Committee
<b>San Lucas Clean Drinking Water (PWFP)</b>	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	<del>\$3,668,000</del>	
		Sen. Schiff	\$3,668,000	\$3,668,000
		Rep. Lofgren	\$3,668,000	\$3,668,000
<b>Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and</b>	Partial funding request for the Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams Reservoirs Safety Projects (sometimes referred to as the Low-Level Outlet	Sen. Padilla	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
		Sen. Schiff	<del>\$6,000,000</del>	

<b>Reservoirs Safety Project (MCWRA)</b>	Works Rehabilitation Project) to ensure the safe operation of the dams during the state mandated replacement of the San Antonio Dam spillway.	Rep Lofgren	<del>\$6,000,000</del>	
<b>Skate Park and BMX Pump Track (PWFP)</b>	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	<del>\$3,000,000</del> <del>\$3,000,000</del> <del>\$3,000,000</del>	
<b>Salinas Regional Soccer Complex (PWFP)</b>	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	<del>\$2,500,000</del> <del>\$2,500,000</del> \$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
<b>County Parks Outdoor Education and Environmental Stewardship Project (PWFP)</b>	Funding request to construct outdoor education facilities at Toro and San Lorenzo Parks.	Sen. Padilla Sen. Schiff Rep. Lofgren Rep. Panetta	<del>\$635,500</del> <del>\$635,500</del> <del>\$635,500</del> <del>\$635,500</del>	
<b>County Parks Outdoor Accessible and Inclusive Fitness Project (PWFP)</b>	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	<del>\$509,600</del> <del>\$509,600</del> <del>\$509,600</del> <del>\$509,600</del>	
<b>Nacimiento Lake Drive Repaving Project (MCWRA)</b>	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	<del>\$2,100,000</del> <del>\$2,100,000</del> <del>\$2,100,000</del>	
<b>Homeless Encampment Resolution – Reclamation Ditch Restoration (MCWRA)</b>	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	<del>\$500,000</del> <del>\$500,000</del> <del>\$500,000</del>	
<b>Porter-Vallejo Library and Mansion Historical Restoration Project</b>	This project would undertake critical infrastructure and building improvements, adding safety and egress features and enabling more of the structure to be used by the public and as a hub for County services, including a public library.	Rep. Lofgren	<del>\$3,500,000</del>	

c. Federal Advocacy

i. ***FEMA Reimbursements – 2023 Winter Storms***

On August 19, 2025 we received an update from Rep. Panetta’s office that sharing that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had authorized the County of Monterey to receive two grant awards (i.e. FEMA reimbursement funds).

The first award was for \$1,201,748.53 in federal funding for Public Assistance Alternative Procedures for Debris Removal Operations as a result of the 2023 winter storms.

Specifically, this grant is to cover the cost of the County’s debris removal and monitoring operations. The county removed 1,409.5 tons (TN) of construction and demolition debris, 53.12 TN of white goods debris, 636.58 TN of sand, soil, and mud debris from roads and public right of ways. The debris was placed into four roll-off dumpsters at a temporary debris staging and reduction site for sorting and hauling to a final disposal landfill.

The second award was for \$2,929,216.18 in federal funding for emergency protective measures as a result of the 2023 winter storms. This grant is to cover the cost of the County’s efforts to provide emergency sheltering and evacuations, water distribution, restroom trailers, shower trailers, laundry services, cleaning supplies, meals, and critical commodity distribution, safety inspections, and the dissemination of information to the public regarding safety and health precautions.

d. Legislation

i. ***Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act (H.R. 4669) – Recommend Support***

The bipartisan FEMA Act seeks to overhaul the Federal Emergency Management Agency by providing reforms to streamline disaster recovery, increase transparency and efficiency, and make federal assistance more accessible. Specifically, this bill would:

- Simplify and unify survivor applications, reducing duplication and delays;
- Transition from a reimbursement-based model to a grant-based model so counties no longer need to front money for disaster repairs;
- Increase transparency and visibility on the status of approvals, obligations, and disbursements to prevent bottlenecks; and
- Modernize FEMA’s mitigation programs so counties can be proactive in preparing for future disasters.

Rep. Sam Graves and Rep. Rick Larsen introduced this legislation in the House. Rep. Lofgren has specifically requested the County of Monterey’s input on this bill as she considers her position. There is not yet an identical companion in the Senate.

e. Federal Bill/Issues Track

**Attachment(s):**

Federal Bill/Issues Track