



County of Monterey Federal Bill/Issues Track 2024 (118th Congress, Session 2)

Link to Legislative Advocacy Letters: [Legislative Advocacy Letters](#)

| <i>Measure</i> | <i>Sponsor(s)</i> | <i>Topic</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Position</i> | <i>Notes</i> |
|--|--|----------------|--|-----------------|--|
| H.R. 2891 S. 1323 | Joyce (OH) Merkley | Cannabis | SAFE Banking Act - establishes a safe harbor for financial institutions that provide services to cannabis businesses | Support | 5/15/23 LC Support 5/16/23 Letter sent to congressional delegation |
| H.R. 953 S. 388 | Sherrill Warren | Education | Child Care for Every Community Act | Support | 5/15/23 LC Support 5/16/23 Letter sent to congressional delegation |
| H.R. 433 | Panetta | Environment | California Central Coast Conservation Act- To establish a moratorium on oil and gas leasing on public land on the Central Coast of California | Support | 5/15/23 LC Support 5/16/23 Letter sent to congressional delegation |
| H.R. 470 S. 22 | Huffman/ Panetta Feinstein/ Padilla/ Butler | Environment | West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2023 - To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington | Support | 3/11/24 LC Support 3/11/24 Letters to congressional delegation |
| S. 24 H.R. 516 | Feinstein/ Padilla/ Butler Lieu | Housing | Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act | Support | 3/11/24 LC Support 3/11/24 Letters to congressional delegation |
| H.R. 1065 S. 448 | Barragan Padilla | Infrastructure | Outdoors for All Act | Support | 5/15/23 LC Support 5/16/23 Letter sent to congressional delegation |
| H.R. 715 S. 494 | Fitzpatrick Murphy | Judiciary | Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2023 | Support | 5/15/23 LC Support 5/16/23 Letter sent to congressional delegation |
| H.R. 2403 | Clyburn | Judiciary | Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2023 | Support | 5/15/23 LC Support 5/16/23 Letter sent to congressional delegation. |



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| S. 188 H.R. 3439 | Feinstein Panetta | Public Lands | Wildfire Emergency Act | Support | 5/15/23 LC Support 5/16/23 Letter to congressional delegation. *5/17/23 - Panetta introduced H.R. 3439 |
| H.R. 1083 S. 414 | Hayes Tester | Veterans | Caring for Survivors Act | Support | 5/15/23 LC Support 5/16/23 Letter sent to congressional delegation |
| H.R. 1097 S. 633 | Panetta Padilla | Veterans | Everett Alvarez, Jr. Congressional Gold Medal Act | Support | 3/13/23 Letters to Rep. Panetta & Sen. Padilla |
| H.R. 2400 S. 1165 | Tonko Baldwin | Judiciary/ BOP | The Reentry Act | Support | 9/11/23 LC Support 9/14/23 Letter sent to congressional delegation |
| H.R. 3074 S. 971 | Trone Cassidy | Judiciary/ BOP | The Due Process Continuity of Care Act | Support | 9/11/23 LC Support 9/14/23 Letter sent to congressional delegation |
| H.R. 1511 S. 2606 | Lofgren/ Panetta Padilla/ Feinstein/ Butler | Immigration | Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929 | Support | 9/11/23 LC Support 9/14/23 Letter sent to congressional delegation |
| S. 2202 | Feinstein/ Padilla | Infrastructure | Restore Aging Infrastructure Now (RAIN) Act | Support | 9/11/23 LC Support 9/14/23 Letter sent to congressional delegation |
| H.R. 4127 S. 2704 | Panetta /Lofgren Padilla | Agriculture | Fair Access to Agriculture Disaster Programs Act | Support | 9/11/23 LC Support 9/14/23 Letter sent to congressional delegation |
| H.R. 3372 | Johnson (SD) | Transportation | To amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a safety data collection program for certain 6-axle vehicles, and for other purposes | Oppose | 9/11/23 LC Oppose 9/12/23 Signed coalition letter |



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| S. Res. 400 | Padilla/ Butler | Commemorative | A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Dianne Feinstein, the late Senator for the State of California | Support | 12/11/23 LC Support 12/21/23 Letter sent to congressional delegation |
| S. 3565 H.R. 6929 | Welch Clarke | Infrastructure/ Communication | Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act of 2024 | Support | 1/25/24 LC Support 1/29/24 Letter sent to congressional delegation |
| H.R. 6944 | Schiff/ Lofgren | Financial Services | Incorporating National Support for Unprecedented Risks and Emergencies (INSURE) Act | Support | 3/11/24 LC Support 3/11/24 Letters to Rep. Lofgren & Rep. Panetta |
| S. 3830 | Padilla | Water | Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program | Support | 2/1/24 Letter to Sen. Padilla |
| H.R. 4319 | Lofgren/ Panetta | Agriculture | Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2023 | Support | 5/13/24 LC Support 5/14/24 Letter to Rep. Panetta & Rep. Lofgren |
| S.J. Res. 57 | Schmitt | | A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury relating to "Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds" | Oppose | 5/15/24 Letter to Sen. Padilla and Sen. Butler, and copy sent to NACo |
| H.R. 8340 | Sherman/ Panetta | Veterans | Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act | Support | 6/10/24 LC Support 6/11/24 Letter to congressional delegation |
| S. 4226 | Booker/ Padilla/ Butler | Cannabis | Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act | Support | 6/10/24 LC Support 6/11/24 Letter to congressional delegation |
| H.R. 8575 | Goldman | Medicaid/ Mental Health | Michelle Alyssa Go Act | Support | 9/9/24 LC Support 9/10/24 Letter to congressional delegation |
| S. 4367 H.R. 8812 | Carper Graves (MO) | Water | Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Support for Salinas River provision in House version | Support | 11/15/24 LC Support 11/18/24 Letter to congressional delegation |



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|---|--|---|
| <p>Winter Storms – Federal Response</p> | <p>Since the levee breach on the Pajaro River on March 10, 2023, Pajaro has suffered devastating damages. The subsequent winter storms have compounded the impact on the area, and county officials and representatives have been working around the clock to secure assistance for county residents and businesses. From a federal perspective, Senator Padilla, Senator Feinstein, Congressman Panetta, and Congresswoman Lofgren have all been highly engaged with me, and have rendered assistance in securing a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for nine California counties, including Monterey County. Gov. Gavin Newsom sent the request on March 28, 2023. President Biden signed the declaration on April 3, 2023, and it paved the way for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal aid to local governments and individuals impacted by storms in February and March.</p> | <p>Federal advocacy is currently focused on follow-on issues, such as reimbursement issues relating to relocating the force sewer main and Pajaro levee repairs.</p> <p>10/14/24 – Letter to FEMA</p> <p>10/18/24 – WRA, DEM, and PWFPP meeting with Reps. Panetta and Logred to provide update on pending denial and to request advocacy assistance</p> <p>10/30/24 – Staff from Reps. Panetta and Lofgren met with FEMA on County’s behalf and provided a detailed update (see November federal report)</p> <p>10/31/24 – County staff met with CalOES and FEMA to further discuss reimbursement challenges.</p> <p>12/2/24 - County staff has scheduled a site visit at the levee at 2pm PT, with CalOES, FEMA, and USACE, and in coordination with Reps. Lofgren’s and Panetta’s offices</p> <p>I will continue to coordinate outreach to the federal delegation regarding appropriate communication with USACE and FEMA and to facilitate reimbursement of expenses.</p> |



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| <p>FEMA Denial of Non-Congregate Shelter</p> | <p>Following the Pajaro Levee breach in March, over 500 residents were sheltering at the Santa Cruz Fairgrounds shelter in Watsonville, along with other temporary housing options. Monterey County conducted assessments to review alternatives and determined that initiating NCS was in the best interest of the survivors and taxpayers. Prior to the initiation of non-congregate sheltering, the County had exhausted all local resources to continue congregate sheltering.</p> <p>FEMA provides Public Assistance funding to local government applicants for costs related to emergency sheltering of survivors. The County has received conflicting guidance regarding eligibility to reimbursement of expenses related to NCS pursuant to Public Assistance funding.</p> | <p>Close coordination with Rep. Lofgren’s office regarding conflicting guidance the County has received in relation to the FEMA non-congregate shelter (NCS) for displaced Pajaro residents. Rep. Lofgren’s office will continue to work with the county and advocate on our behalf with FEMA.</p> <p>5/23/24 Teleconference with Rep. Panetta’s office to discuss various FEMA reimbursement issues.</p> <p>Additional federal advocacy is anticipated in the near term</p> |
| <p>FY24 Community Project Funding Requests</p> | <p>In March 2024 the County submitted the following funding requests:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family Justice Center \$500,000 (submitted by Sen. Padilla & Rep. Lofgren) 2. Porter Vallejo Mansion (Pajaro Library) \$500,000 (submitted by Sen. Padilla) 3. Salinas Skate Park & BMX Pump Track \$500,000 – n/a 4. Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP) well rehabilitation/replacement \$3M (submitted by Sen. Padilla) 5. Fort Ord Blight Removal \$650,000 (submitted by Sen. Padilla) 6. Pajaro Park Artificial Turf Replacement \$1M – n/a 7. Pajaro County Sanitation District (PCSD) Sewer System Improvements \$1.5M (submitted by Sen. Padilla) 8. Carmel River FREE Project \$3M (submitted by Sen. Padilla & Rep. Panetta) 9. San Lucas Drinking Water \$2M (submitted by Sen. Feinstein, Sen. Padilla, and Rep. Lofgren) | <p>March 2024 – Funding for four of the projects was included in the FY24 minibus appropriations bill signed into law.</p> <p>\$500,000 Family Justice Center (King City)</p> <p>\$1.5M Pajaro County Sanitation District (PCSD) Sewer System Improvements</p> <p>\$3M Carmel River FREE</p> <p>\$959,752 San Lucas Drinking Water</p> |



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|---|---|---|
| FY25 Community Project Funding Requests | <p>1/23/24 Board of Supervisors authorized submission of the following projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broadway Family Connection 2. Carmel River FREE Project 3. Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP) 4. Family Justice Center – Seaside location 5. Fort Ord Blight Removal 6. Pajaro County Sanitation District (PCSD) Sewer System Improvements 7. San Lucas Drinking Water 8. Salinas Skate Park & BMX Pump Track 9. Salinas Regional Soccer Complex (this additional project was submitted at the request of the Salinas Regional Sports Authority on 5/6/24) | <p>March 2024 – Eight projects submitted to Senate (Padilla and Butler)</p> <p>April/May 2024 – Nine projects submitted to House (Panetta and Lofgren)</p> <p>May/June 2024 – Eight of the County’s nine projects were requested for consideration by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations</p> <p>July 2024 – PCSD included in House-passed Interior-Environment bill. No other projects are expected to continue to move forward in the appropriations process.</p> |
| 2024 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) | On behalf of Public Works, Facilities and Parks (PWFP) advocate that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a feasibility study in the future for Salinas River flood prevention. | 1/16/24 Letter from Rep. Lofgren confirming her commitment to submit a Congressional request for authorization for such a feasibility study in the 2024 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). |
| Palo Colorado Road | Support Public Works, Facilities, and Parks to explore federal funding through the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) Program. | <p>5/9/24 and 5/31/24 Met with Rep. Panetta’s office to discuss this and other highway and road projects.</p> <p>8/9/24 Met with Rep. Panetta’s office to discuss details of grant application</p> |



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| | | requirements including agency sponsor Sen. Padilla has provided a letter of support in favor of the County's grant application, and we have received positive signals from Rep. Panetta's office that he will do the same. |
| Grant application for the Jolon Road Safety Improvement Project | On behalf of Public Works, Facilities and Parks (PWFP) obtain letters of support for their Department of Defense, Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) grant application for the Jolon Road Safety Improvement Project. | 5/8/24 Requested letters of support from Rep. Lofgren and Rep. Panetta. 5/9/24 and 5/31/24 Met with Rep. Panetta's office to discuss this and other highway and road projects. 6/17/24 Support letter from Reps. Panetta and Lofgren |
| Grant application for Davis Road Bridge Replacement and Road Widening Project | On behalf of Public Works, Facilities and Parks (PWFP) obtain letters of support for their U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant application for the Davis Road Bridge Replacement and Road Widening Project. | 1/29/24 Support letter from Rep. Panetta 2/23/24 Support letter from Rep. Lofgren 3/8/24 Support letter from Sen. Padilla |
| Grant application for Davis Road Bridge Replacement and Road Widening Project | On behalf of Public Works, Facilities and Parks (PWFP) obtain letters of support for their Department of Transportation's (DOT) Rural Surface Transportation Grant program (Rural) for the Davis Road Bridge Replacement and Road Widening Project. | 4/23/24 Support letter from Rep. Panetta |
| Grant application for Nacimiento Dam Spillway Plunge Pool | On behalf of Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) obtain support for the Department of Energy (DOE) grant application for the Nacimiento Dam Spillway Plunge Pool Erosion Project. | 2/27/24 Reached out to Sen. Padilla's office regarding support the application and continued regular communication. |



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| Erosion Project | | Support obtained from Sen Padilla’s office with letter pending. |
| Grant for Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement (CRFREE) Project | The County has been awarded a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$29.6M for the CRFREE Project pending completion of environmental analysis. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Historic Property Treatment Plan (HPTP) between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) must be complete before the FEMA award can move forward. Delays jeopardize the project timeline and other funding sources for the project. | Dec. 2023 to present: Coordinate with County Housing & Community Development (HCD), District 5, Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT) and Congressman Panetta’s office. 2/22/24 Letter from Rep. Panetta to USACE and SHPO urging expeditious completion of MOA and HPTP so FEMA can release grant award and project work can commence. |
| Veterans Facilities in Monterey County | The County is exploring options for a veterans nursing home, to include options for establishing a State Veterans Home or VA Community Living Center (CLC). | 4/16/24 & 4/19/24 Outreach to Rep. Panetta’s office regarding options to establish a veterans nursing home, and questions relating to veterans’ community living centers (CLC). 4/29/24 to present: Engagement with VA to request additional information on State Veterans Home and CLC criteria and request a meeting with VA. Continued requests for meeting, with Rep. Panetta’s support. VA has not yet provided a meeting date (most recent follow-up was 8/6/24) |



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| Rescheduling Marijuana from Schedule I to III of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) | The Department of Justice (DOJ) proposes to transfer marijuana from schedule I to schedule III of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), consistent with direction by the Biden Administration and recommendations by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). On 5/21/24, the proposed rule was published in the Federal Register. Comments on this proposal must be submitted by 7/22/24. | 6/10/24 Report to Legislative Committee 6/11/24 Public Comment submitted in response to the Federal Register publication |