

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

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Measure	Sponsor(s)	Topic	Title	Position	Notes
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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Winter Storms – Federal Response	<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 PWFP meeting with Reps. Panetta and Lofgren 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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FEMA Denial of Non-Congregate Shelter	<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>
FY24 Community Project Funding Requests	<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