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## MEMORANDUM

TO Legislative Committee  
FROM Maria C. Tripplaar  
DATE August 6, 2024  
RE Federal Legislative Update

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This memo provides a Federal Legislative Update on the items appearing on the agenda for the August 12, 2024, Legislative Committee meeting.

### 1. Congressional Update

Both the House and Senate are in recess for the month of August, with both the House and Senate expected to return to DC on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Notably, given that this is an election year, both chambers will be in recess again for the month of October and until the week after the election in November. Once they return on November 12, 2024, both chambers are only scheduled for eight legislative weeks before the end of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress (which will conclude on January 3, 2025). There is a great deal of work to be done this year, including funding the federal government for FY25, with current funding authorization for FY24 set to expire at midnight on September 30, 2024.

### 2. Budget Update

The House Committee on Appropriations has approved all 12 of the annual appropriations bills for FY25, and the full House has passed five of the 12 so far (Defense, Homeland Security, Interior-Environment, Milcon-VA, and State-Foreign Operations). The House was expected to vote on four of the remaining bills during the last week of July, however those plans fell apart due to internal Republican challenges, and House leadership send members home for the August recess early. None of the five bills that have passed the Republican-led House so far are expected to pass in the Democrat-controlled Senate. The Senate Committee on Appropriations has approved all but one of the 12 bills (Homeland Security), but has not yet started floor consideration of any of the bill. Congress is expected to begin working towards a stop-gap funding mechanism called a continuing resolution or CR in September to

avoid a government shutdown in October. My working assumption is that Congress will pass a CR that funds the government until after the election, and then we will see if Congress is able to successfully complete the appropriations process or if one or more additional CR(s) will be needed.

3. Federal Budget Requests/ FY25 Community Project Funding Requests

The County submitted a total of nine projects for consideration by the federal delegation for Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed spending – also called earmarks – for FY25. **At this time, only the \$1,105,800 earmark requested by Rep. Lofgren for the Pajaro County Sanitation District (PCSD) Sewer System Improvements project is expected to continue moving forward.** At this stage, the PCSD project was successfully included in the Interior-Environment bill that passed the House, and currently awaits Senate consideration. I will continue to monitor all developments closely, including independent Senate consideration or any conference negotiations. Given that only PCSD will continue in the process, I will not include the below table in future reports.

The remaining projects were either not forwarded to the Appropriations Committees or accepted by the respective committee for a variety of reasons. For example, some electeds have a preference for projects that will result in a tangible project that can be seen after the federal funding is utilized, or that can be realized within a year. Other electeds prefer projects can be completed with a single infusion of federal funding from the earmarks process, and many of our projects have either previously received funding through a federal earmark or may require multiple bites at the apple. Additionally, some projects were unfortunately eliminated from consideration due to a newer rule that disqualified parks projects from receiving funding through an earmark. However, in my outreach to the federal delegation, I have been repeatedly assured that our Congressional delegation remains committed to working with the County to identify alternate sources of funding. I am also continuing to coordinate with the County’s Senators so that we may better understand why the Senate Appropriations Committee declined to advance the eight projects that were requested by Senator Padilla and/or Senator Butler. I will be happy to answer any questions or provide additional details at the Legislative Committee so that we can best position the County looking ahead to FY26.

FY25 Project Submitted	Description	Funding Requested:	Senate Submissions to Committee:	House Submission to Committee:
<b>Broadway Family Connection (Seaside)</b>	Funding to aid in the development of the Broadway Family Connection Project to replace the current aging Social Services building with a community service hub that will co-locate social services, a family justice center, County public	\$4 million	Sen. Padilla	Rep. Panetta

	library, WIC programing, and community spaces for public events and programs.			
<b>Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement (CRFREE) Project</b>	Funding would close the \$1 million funding gap, and lead to the project being fully funded and shovel ready when FEMA funding and FY24 CDS funding becomes available. The CRFREE Project is a multi-benefit, green infrastructure project that will recreate hydrological connectivity, restore habitat, and reduce flood hazards in the Carmel River Watershed.	\$1 million	Sen. Butler Sen. Padilla	Rep. Panetta
<b>Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP) - Supplemental Well Rehabilitation/Replacement</b>	Funding would be used for the planning, design, and implementation of supplemental well rehabilitation or replacement. CSIP supplements groundwater supplies and protects water quality through prevention of seawater intrusion.	\$3 million	Sen. Butler Sen. Padilla	Rep. Lofgren
<b>Family Justice Center (FJC) – Seaside location</b>	Funding to aid in the establishment of a Family Justice Center in Seaside to co-locate service providers for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, human trafficking, and their families.	\$4 million	Sen. Butler Sen. Padilla	Rep. Panetta
<b>Former Ft. Ord – Blight Removal</b>	Funding for the demolition of remnant military structures on the former Fort Ord U.S. Army base that are in a state of disuse and collapse and presenting a visual nuisance and health and safety hazard.	\$650,000	Sen. Butler Sen. Padilla	Rep. Panetta
<b>Pajaro County Sanitation District (PCSD) Sewer System Improvements</b>	Funding to replace and repair sanitary system sewer pipes in the Pajaro County Sanitation District (PCSD). The County has been repairing and replacing manholes and pump stations, but funding is needed to make repairs to the sewer pipes.	\$2 million	Sen. Butler Sen. Padilla	Rep. Lofgren  <i>*Passed House in the amount of \$1,105,800</i>
<b>Salinas Regional Soccer Complex</b>	Funding to enhance the facility's functionality, accessibility, and overall experience. The project to involve the addition of lighting, bathroom facilities, stadium seating, scoreboard, and the essential underground infrastructure that	\$4,751,120	N/A	Rep. Lofgren

	will collectively create a modern, inclusive, and dynamic environment that caters to players, spectators, and the broader community.			
<b>San Lucas Clean Drinking Water</b>	Funding to aid in a long-term solution (construction of a new pipeline to connect to an adjacent community water system) to address ongoing water quality problems for the small, disadvantaged farming community of San Lucas.	\$2 million	Sen. Butler Sen. Padilla	Rep. Lofgren
<b>Skate and Bike Park Safe Access Project</b>	Funding to construct a new regional Bike and Skate Park providing a unique recreational opportunity to low-income disadvantaged youth in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties. In partnership with the City of Salinas and the Salinas Regional Soccer Authority, the project includes the expansion of the Salinas Regional Soccer Complex and multi-use trails.	\$3 million	Sen. Butler Sen. Padilla	Rep. Lofgren

4. FEMA Update

On January 29, 2024, and May 8, 2024, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sent letters to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) regarding documentation and project submission guidance for the Presidentially declared 2023 California Flooding Events (FEMA-4683-DR-CA and FEMA-4699-DR-CA). On May 30<sup>th</sup>, the County requested an additional 90 days to submit all required documentation to FEMA. Subsequently, on June 3, 2024, Reps. Panetta and Lofgren wrote to FEMA in support of Monterey County's request for a 90-day extension regarding the documentation and project submission guidance deadline for the Presidentially declared 2023 California Flooding Events (FEMA-4683-DR-CA and FEMA-4699-DR-CA). County staff believes that the June 7, 2024 deadline has arbitrarily been set by FEMA, without regard to the applicant's circumstances. An oral update regarding the outcome of the request for an extension from FEMA, as well as any subsequent action, will be provided at the meeting.

5. Federal Bill/Issues Track

**Attachment(s):**

Federal Bill/Issues Track