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## MEMORANDUM

TO Legislative Committee

FROM Katlyn Koegel and Maria Tripplaar

DATE December 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 December 8, 2025, Legislative Committee Meeting.

a. Federal Government Update

i. *Congressional Overview*

Congress reached an agreement to re-open the federal government in mid-November. Federal legislators agreed to a “cromnibus”—a combination of a clean continuing resolution (the “cr-”) which funds the government through late January 2026, and three federal appropriations bills covering several agencies which fund the government for the full fiscal year (the “-omnibus”). The full-year bills included funding for: (1) the Department of Agriculture; (2) the Food and Drug Administration; (3) the Department of Defense military construction and family housing activities; (4) the Department of Veterans Affairs; and (5) Congress and agencies that support congress.

With the government re-open, Rep. Adelita Grijalva was sworn in as a new Democrat in the House, which paved a way for a vote on the Epstein files. The final vote to release the files passed 427-1 in the House and passed by unanimous consent in the Senate. President Trump signed the bill into law on November 19, 2025.

As candidate filing deadlines approach across the country, mid-term races are beginning to heat up. Unexpectedly, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene announced that she will resign from Congress in 2026, a move which will result in a special election in Georgia. This comes as the Supreme Court has temporarily allowed Texas to move forward with its re-drawn congressional map, which is likely to secure five new seats for the GOP. The map remains

subject to judicial scrutiny on the merits. Similar challenges are likely to stall the Proposition 50 map in California. Both parties are facing tough battles to keep or win the legislative majority in the 2026 midterms.

## *ii. Executive Order Updates*

On November 13, 2025, President Trump signed an order “Fostering the Future for American Children and Families” which empowers the Secretary of Health and Human Services to modernize the Child Welfare System. This includes efforts to improve the collection, publication, utility, and transparency of State-level child-welfare data, including annually published scorecards to evaluate State-level achievements and outcomes. It also requires the Secretary to develop a plan to launch an online platform to help individuals in the foster care system assess their current needs and access programs and services for which they are eligible.

Other Executive Orders further modified existing tariff rates to reflect the on-going negotiations with China. An executive order signed November 4, 2025, recognized China’s efforts to end the flow of fentanyl to the United States by reducing a 20 percent ad valorem rate to 10 percent. Another order, also recognizing ongoing negotiations with China, suspended heightened reciprocal tariffs on Chinese imports until November 10, 2026.

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

As stated above, Congress passed a clean Continuing Resolution which will fund the government through the end of January 2026 along with three full-fiscal-year appropriations bills. While this is a good start, Congress must pass the remaining appropriations bills in December and January, before the Continuing Resolution expires. Currently, we are hopeful that Congress will pass the additional appropriations bills which include federal earmarks. We will continue to monitor and provide updates on the County of Monterey’s earmarks requests, and the chart below, as the process progresses.

<b>FY26 Project Submitted</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Submissions</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Submitted to House/ Senate Committee</b>	<b>Draft Funding Level</b>
<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	<b>\$3,668,000</b>	
		Rep. Lofgren	\$3,668,000	\$3,668,000	<b>\$1,092,000</b>
<b>Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs Safety Project (MCWRA)</b>	Partial funding request for the Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams Reservoirs Safety Projects (sometimes referred to as the Low-Level Outlet Works Rehabilitation Project) to ensure the safe operation of the dams during the state mandated replacement of the San Antonio Dam spillway.	Sen. Padilla	\$6,000,000	<b>\$6,000,000</b>	
		Sen. Schiff	<del>\$6,000,000</del>		
		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	\$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

In anticipation of the legislative workshop early next year, we circulated a “Save the Date” to all the Congressional offices.

On November 24, 2025, Rep. Lofgren met in-County with Randy Ishii, Nicole Hollingsworth and the team at Public Works, Facilities and Parks (PWFP). PWFP presented updates on projects which Rep. Lofgren has supported in the past and informed her on other on-going priorities. Rep. Lofgren took particular interest in the Nacimiento-Fergusen Road and Jolon Road improvement projects. We will follow up with her office to explore potential funding solutions for these projects.

Rep. Lofgren also confirmed that the FY26 CPF requests are still in-play but that she does not know what to anticipate in the appropriations process moving forward.

**Attachment(s):**

Federal Bill/Issues Track