

County of Monterey

Government Center - Board Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901



Meeting Agenda - Final

Legislative Workshop

Friday, February 7, 2025

10:30 AM

**Join via Zoom at <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/224397747> or in person at the
address listed above**

Board of Supervisors

Chair Supervisor Chris Lopez - District 3

Vice Chair Supervisor Wendy Root Askew - District 4

Supervisor Kate Daniels- District 5

Supervisor Luis A. Alejo - District 1

Supervisor Glenn Church - District 2

Participation in meetings

While the Board chambers remain open, members of the public may participate in Board meetings in 2 ways:

1. You may attend the meeting in person; or,
2. You may observe the live stream of the Board of Supervisors meetings at <https://monterey.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>, <http://www.mgtvonline.com/>, www.youtube.com/c/MontereyCountyTV or <https://www.facebook.com/MontereyCoInfo/>

If you choose not to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting but desire to make general public comment, or comment on a specific item on the agenda, you may do so in 2 ways:

a. submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the Board meeting. Please submit your comment to the Clerk of the Board at cob@co.monterey.ca.us. In an effort to assist the Clerk in identifying the agenda item relating to your public comment please indicate in the Subject Line, the meeting body (i.e. Board of Supervisors Agenda) and item number (i.e. Item No. 10). Your comment will be placed into the record at the Board meeting.

b. you may participate through ZOOM. For ZOOM participation please join by computer audio at: <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/224397747>

OR to participate by phone call any of these numbers below:

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US
+1 301 715 8592 US

Enter this Meeting ID number: 224397747 when prompted. Please note there is no Participant Code, you will just hit # again after the recording prompts you.

You will be placed in the meeting as an attendee; when you are ready to make a public comment if joined by computer audio please Raise your Hand; and by phone please push *9 on your keypad.

PLEASE NOTE: IF ALL BOARD MEMBERS ARE PRESENT IN PERSON, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION BY ZOOM IS FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY AND IS NOT REQUIRED BY LAW. IF THE ZOOM FEED IS LOST FOR ANY REASON, THE MEETING MAY BE PAUSED WHILE A FIX IS ATTEMPTED BUT THE MEETING MAY CONTINUE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRPERSON.

Participación en reuniones

Mientras las cámaras de la Junta permanezcan abiertas, los miembros del público pueden participar en las reuniones de la Junta de 2 maneras:

1. Podrá asistir personalmente a la reunión; o,

2. Puede observar la transmisión en vivo de las reuniones de la Junta de Supervisores en

<https://monterey.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>, <http://www.mgtvonline.com/>,

www.youtube.com/c/MontereyCountyTV o <https://www.facebook.com/MontereyCoInfo/>

Si elige no asistir a la reunión de la Junta de Supervisores pero desea hacer comentarios del público en general o comentar un tema específico de la agenda, puede hacerlo de 2 maneras:

a. envíe su comentario por correo electrónico antes de las 5:00 p.m. el lunes anterior a la reunión de la Junta. Envíe su comentario al Secretario de la Junta a cob@co.monterey.ca.us. En un esfuerzo por ayudar al secretario a identificar el tema de la agenda relacionado con su comentario público, indique en la línea de asunto el cuerpo de la reunión (es decir, la agenda de la Junta de Supervisores) y el número de artículo (es decir, el artículo n.º 10). Su comentario se colocará en el registro en la reunión de la Junta.

b. puedes participar a través de ZOOM. Para participar en ZOOM, únase por audio de computadora en: <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/224397747>

O para participar por teléfono llame a cualquiera de estos números a continuación:

+1 669 900 6833 EE. UU. (San José)

+1 346 248 7799 EE. UU. (Houston)

+1 312 626 6799 EE. UU. (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 EE. UU. (Nueva York)

+1 253 215 8782 EE. UU.

+1 301 715 8592 EE. UU.

Ingrese este número de ID de reunión: 224397747 cuando se le solicite. Tenga en cuenta que no hay un código de participante, simplemente presione # nuevamente después de que la grabación lo solicite.

Se le colocará en la reunión como asistente; cuando esté listo para hacer un comentario público si se une al audio de la computadora, levante la mano; y por teléfono, presione *9 en su teclado.

TENGA EN CUENTA: SI TODOS LOS MIEMBROS DE LA JUNTA ESTÁN PRESENTES EN PERSONA, LA PARTICIPACIÓN DEL PÚBLICO POR ZOOM ES ÚNICAMENTE POR CONVENIENCIA Y NO ES REQUERIDA POR LA LEY. SI LA ALIMENTACIÓN DE ZOOM SE PIERDE POR CUALQUIER MOTIVO, LA REUNIÓN PUEDE PAUSARSE MIENTRAS SE

INTENTA UNA SOLUCIÓN, PERO LA REUNIÓN PUEDE CONTINUAR A DISCRECIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE.

The Board of Supervisors welcomes you to its meetings, which are regularly scheduled each Tuesday. Your interest is encouraged and appreciated. Meetings are held in the Board Chambers located on the first floor of the Monterey County Government Center, 168 W. Alisal St., Salinas, CA 93901.

As a courtesy to others, please turn off all cell phones and pagers prior to entering the Board Chambers.

ALTERNATE AGENDA FORMATS: If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals with a disability requiring a modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the public meeting may make these requests to the Clerk of the Board Office.

CEREMONIAL/APPOINTMENTS/OTHER BOARD MATTERS: These items may include significant financial and administrative actions, and items of special interest, usually approved by majority vote for each program. The regular calendar also includes "Scheduled Items," which are noticed hearings and public hearings.

CONSENT CALENDAR: These matters include routine financial and administrative actions, appear in the supplemental section by program areas, and are usually approved by majority vote.

TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON A MATTER ON THE AGENDA: Walk to the podium and wait for recognition by the Chair. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the specific subject under discussion. Time limitations shall be at the discretion of the Chair, with equal time allocated to opposing sides of an issue insofar as possible. Allocated time may not be reserved or granted to others, except as permitted by the Chair. On matters for which a public hearing is required, please note that a court challenge to the Board's action may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing or in correspondence delivered to the Board at or before the public hearing.

TO ADDRESS THE BOARD DURING PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the public may address comments to the Board concerning each agenda item and may comment when the Chair calls for general public comment for items that are not on the day's agenda. The timing of public comment shall be at the discretion of the Chair.

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION: Documents related to agenda items that are distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting shall be available for public inspection at the Clerk of the Board Office, 168 W. Alisal Street, 1st Floor, Salinas, CA. Documents distributed to the Board at the meeting by County staff will be available at the meeting; documents distributed to the Board by members of the public shall be made available after the meeting.

INTERPRETATION SERVICE POLICY: The Monterey County Board of Supervisors invites and encourages the participation of Monterey County residents at its meetings. If you require the assistance of an interpreter, please contact the Clerk of the Board located in the Monterey County Government Center, 168 W. Alisal St., Salinas - or by phone at (831) 755-5066. The Clerk will make every effort to accommodate requests for interpreter assistance. Requests should be made as soon as possible, and at a minimum 24 hours in advance of any meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

La Cámara de Supervisores del Condado de Monterey invita y apoya la participación de los residentes del Condado de Monterey en sus reuniones. Si usted requiere la asistencia de un interprete, por favor comuníquese con la oficina de la Asistente de la Cámara de Supervisores localizada en el Centro de Gobierno del Condado

de Monterey, (Monterey County Government Center), 168 W. Alisal, Salinas – o por teléfono al (831) 755-5066. La Asistente hará el esfuerzo para acomodar los pedidos de asistencia de un interprete. Los pedidos se deberán hacer lo mas pronto posible, y a lo mínimo 24 horas de anticipo de cualquier reunión de la Cámara de Supervisores.

All documents submitted by the public must have no less than ten (10) copies.

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors must receive all materials for the agenda packet by noon on the Tuesday one week prior to the Tuesday Board meeting.

Any agenda related writings or documents distributed to members of the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors regarding any open session item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the Clerk of the Board's Office located at 168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor, Salinas, California. during normal business hours and in the Board Chambers on the day of the Board Meeting, pursuant to Government Code §54957.5

HELPFUL INFORMATION/INFORMACION UTIL

Sign Up For Alerts on items you may be interested in to keep informed and up to date on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors

To create an Alert please Sign Up and follow the User Guide to create alerts for calendars, meeting details, agenda items and item details at the following link:

<https://monterey.legistar.com/Default.aspx>

If assistance is needed please contact our office at the following email: cob@co.monterey.ca.us

Regístrese para recibir alertas sobre artículos que le pueden interesar para mantenerse informado y actualizado sobre la Junta de Supervisores del Condado de Monterey

Para crear una alerta, regístrese y siga la Guía del usuario para crear alertas para calendarios, detalles de reuniones, elementos de agenda y detalles de elementos en el siguiente enlace:

<https://monterey.legistar.com/Default.aspx>

Si necesita ayuda, comuníquese con nuestra oficina al siguiente correo electrónico: cob@co.monterey.ca.us

NOTE: All agenda titles related to numbered agenda items are live web links. Click on the title to be directed to the corresponding Board Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the public may address comments to the Board concerning each agenda item. The timing of public comment shall be at the discretion of the Chair.

10:30 A.M. - Call to Order

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions and Corrections by Clerk

The Clerk of the Board will announce agenda corrections and proposed additions, which may be acted on by the Board as provided in Sections 54954.2 of the California Government Code.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of Agenda and Objectives
3. State of the County
4. Monterey County 2025 Policy Priorities
 - a. San Lucas Clean Drinking Water
 - b. Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs Safety Projects
 - c. Monterey County Veterans Home/Community Living Center
 - d. Protecting Monterey County Values
 - e. FEMA Reimbursements
 - f. Lithium-Ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities

Attachments: [Item No. 4 Presentation](#)
 [2025 Legislative Workshop - Fact Sheets - FINAL revised](#)

5. Remarks by State and Federal Legislators on their 2025 Priorities
 - a. U.S. Senator Alex Padilla
 - b. U.S. Senator Adam Schiff
 - c. Congressman Jimmy Panetta
 - d. Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren
 - e. Senator John Laird
 - f. Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
 - g. Assemblymember Dawn Addis

6. Remarks by Monterey County Board of Supervisors Regarding 2025 Priorities
 - a. Supervisor Luis Alejo - *District 1*
 - b. Supervisor Glenn Church - *District 2*
 - c. Supervisor Chris Lopez - *District 3*
 - d. Supervisor Wendy Root Askew - *District 4*
 - e. Supervisor Kate Daniels - *District 5*
7. Roundtable Discussion
8. Public Comment on Agenda Items
9. Board Direction to Staff

Adjournment



County of Monterey

Item No.1

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: 25-076

February 07, 2025

Introduced: 1/29/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: General Agenda Item

Welcome and Introductions



County of Monterey

Item No.2

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: 25-077

February 07, 2025

Introduced: 1/29/2025

Version: 1

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Matter Type: General Agenda Item

Review of Agenda and Objectives



County of Monterey

Item No.3

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: 25-083

February 07, 2025

Introduced: 1/29/2025

Version: 1

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Matter Type: General Agenda Item

State of the County



County of Monterey

Item No.4

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: 25-078

February 07, 2025

Introduced: 1/29/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: General Agenda Item

Monterey County 2025 Policy Priorities

- a. San Lucas Clean Drinking Water
- b. Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs Safety Projects
- c. Monterey County Veterans Home/Community Living Center
- d. Protecting Monterey County Values
- e. FEMA Reimbursements
- f. Lithium-Ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities

2025 Legislative Workshop

COUNTY OF MONTEREY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FEBRUARY 7, 2025





San Lucas Clean Drinking Water

San Lucas is a small, disadvantaged farming community in unincorporated Monterey County eight miles south of King City. The community water system (~100 connections) is owned and operated by San Lucas County Water District (District). This project would address persistent water quality problems which have occurred since 2006. In 2011, a “do not drink” order was issued, and despite establishing an alternative well to serve the community, a second “do not drink” order was issued in 2016. The lack of safe, affordable drinking water for the community has also caused a nearly 20-year delay of a severely needed affordable housing project in San Lucas.

The County and the District are working with the State Water Resources Control Board to identify potential solutions to address the water quality issues. The County has been pursuing a project that would construct a new pipeline (~8 miles) to tie into the Cal Water system in King City and deliver water directly to the District water distribution tank.

The County’s Federal FY24 Community Project Funding request for this project received a \$960,000 grant award through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for preliminary design and environmental review. Additional funding is needed for project design, environmental assessment, engineering, and construction work to provide a clean, long-term, reliable source of drinking water to meet the community’s current and future needs.



Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams and Reservoirs Safety Projects

A set of subprojects for Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoir and Dam facilities to fulfill Federal and State regulatory requirements and provide flood protection and a sustainable water supply.

~ Current cost estimate \$192.5 million

Provides flood control, drought resiliency, groundwater recharge, environmental, and other benefits

- Over 418,000 acres supporting the County's \$11.7B agricultural industry
- Over 250,000 residents utilizing groundwater as the primary drinking water supply
- Reservoir operations provide a buffer against drought conditions to Salinas Valley water users

Fully operational facilities are critical for implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans

- MCWRA currently has self-imposed risk reduction measures in place reducing water storage at San Antonio Reservoir
- Without these projects these operational restrictions could become mandatory and more severe



San Antonio Dam Spillway

In September 2023, the Agency let a contract to conduct a feasibility study of the replacement of the San Antonio Dam spillway. The study was completed in the fall of 2024 and sent to the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) for review and approval. DSOD approval was received in December 2024 along with an extension to meet the mandate to December 2031.

The Agency is now shifting to design and permitting and estimates these costs to be about \$3 million over a ~3-year timeframe. The Agency currently plans to utilize a portion of the \$17 million in 2023-24 State Budget funding to support this work.

San Antonio Dam Low-Level Outlet Works

The Agency continues to pursue an additional \$8.6 million over the next three (3) fiscal years to modernize the San Antonio Dam Low-Level Outlet Works. This project entails seven (7) sub-tasks laid out in an order of successive steps to ensure safety and efficiency. To achieve this goal, the Agency is seeking \$1.8 million in funding in fiscal year 2025-26, \$5.6 million in fiscal year 2026-27, and \$1.2 million in fiscal year 2027-28. The Agency has applied for a grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Dam Safety Program's Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) program.



Nacimiento Plunge Pool Rehabilitation

In November 2023, the Agency let another contract to begin the design of the Nacimiento Plunge Pool Rehabilitation, and more specifically removal of the Plunge Pool rock outcropping. This geotechnical survey work was completed in the Fall of 2024 and will provide the basis for future design and permitting steps, as well as updated cost estimates, to complete the Rehabilitation.

The Agency currently estimates full design and permitting costs to be \$1.1 million over a 2-to-3-year timeframe and the construction cost to be about \$17 million. The Agency currently plans to utilize portions of the \$6 million in 2022-23 State Budget funding and the \$17 million in 2023-24 State Budget funding to support this work. The Agency applied for an additional \$5 million of funding assistance from the United States Department of Energy for the Safety of Dams Project at Nacimiento for this effort but was rejected. The Agency will continue to pursue state and federal funding sources to augment local resources. The Rehabilitation Project is expected to be complete by 2028.

Monterey County Veterans Home / Community Living Center

Monterey County seeks to sponsor State or Federal legislation that permits the construction of a California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) Veterans Home or a United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Community Living Center (CLC) in Monterey County – preferably on or near the former Fort Ord.

Establishing a Veterans Home or CLC in Monterey County will address the needs of our nation's heroes living in California by significantly reducing wait times, providing close proximity to Veteran health care and several other Veteran services, and reducing the risk of Veterans' homelessness. The scope of the project, location and cost are to be determined in coordination with CalVet and VA.

The Proposal seeks to authorize legislation like SB 1234 (Johannessen) in 2002, that would authorize the State Public Works Board to issue lease-revenue bonds to finance acquisition, design, and construction of an additional Veterans Home in Monterey County. A similar option is to pursue Federal legislative efforts to establish a VA Community Living Center which would generally provide the same skilled nursing and long-term healthcare benefits as a CalVet Veterans Home.



CalVet Veterans Homes

CalVet has eight (8) Veterans Homes that offer affordable long-term care to Veterans who are age 55+, eligible spouses and domestic partners are eligible to apply for admission.

The age requirement is waived for disabled or homeless veterans needing long-term care.

Services range from independent living programs with minimal support to 24/7 skilled nursing and dementia care for veterans with significant clinical needs.

Four (4) of the Veterans Homes offer skilled nursing and dementia care, all of which have 2 to 5+ year waiting lists.

All the Veterans Homes are at a considerable distance from Monterey County with the closest in Fresno and Yountville (both 2.5 hours away) and Ventura (4 hours away).

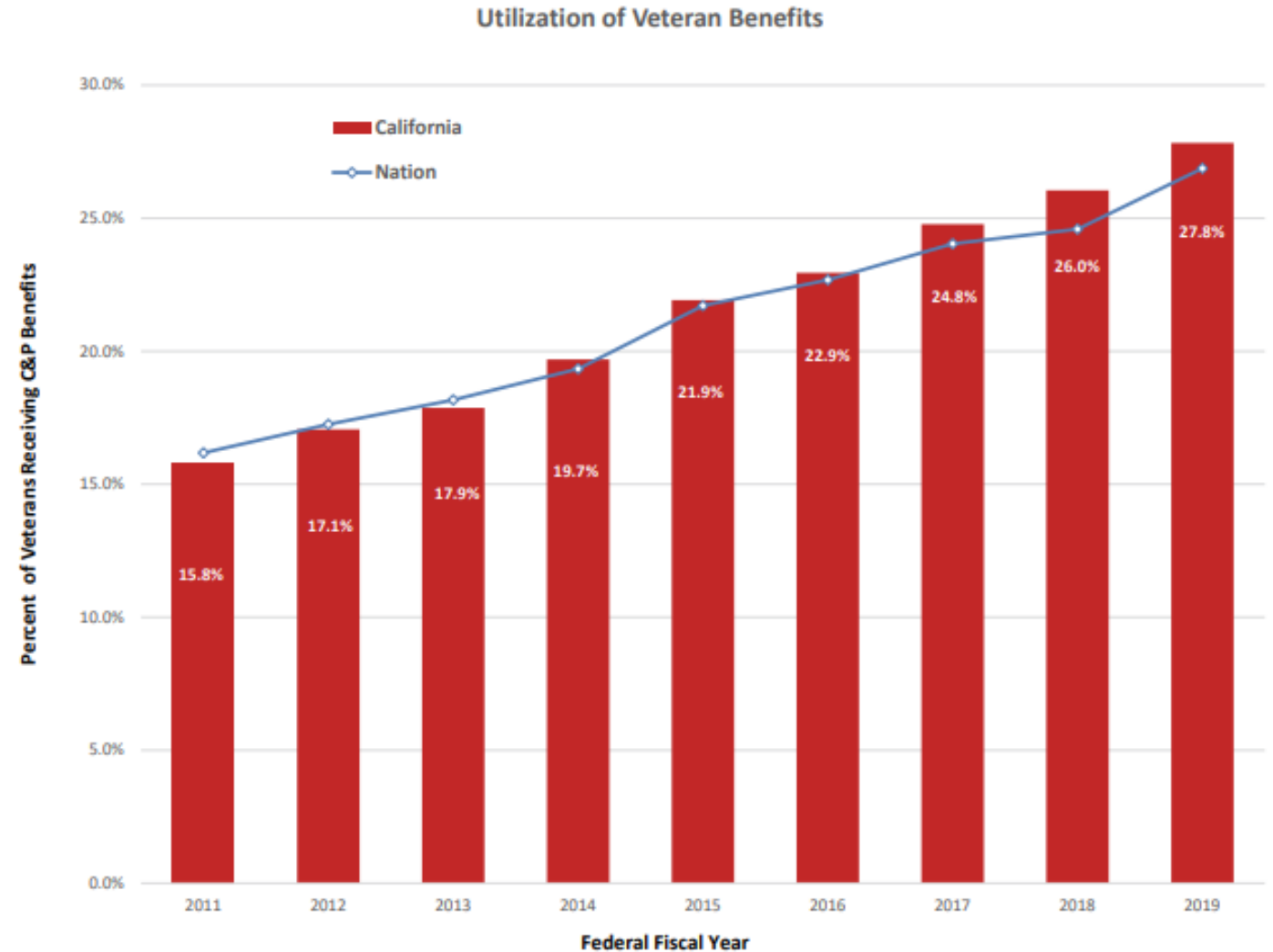
California Veterans

Second largest Veteran population in the U.S. - over 1.5 million

- 17,500 in Monterey County plus thousands of active and reserve military members
- 44,300 in Santa Clara County
- 8,100 in Santa Cruz County
- 14,300 in San Luis Obispo County
- 2,100 in San Benito County
- 86,300 collectively

Accessing VA Compensation and Pension (C&P) Benefits at greater levels than ever before-

- 15.8% in 2011 v. 27.8% in 2019
- California's total is over \$10.9 billion in FY 23/24



Immigration

Protecting Monterey County Values

The County of Monterey has a long tradition of providing a welcoming, safe, and sustainable community for its residents. People are entitled to live their life as they see fit and access public benefits and resources free of fear, hate or retribution. The County is resolute in its commitment to preserving the values that define this community and will rigorously advocate to protect and preserve:

- ***Immigrants:*** Oppose efforts that unfairly target documented and undocumented immigrants including but not limited to separation of migrant families at border crossings, large-scale deportations, efforts to limit or eliminate Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).
- ***Data Privacy:*** Support effort to protect data privacy for individuals who have provided personal information to any private or governmental institution and ensure that such data is only used for the purpose for which it was originally provided.
- ***Public Health:*** Oppose efforts that diminish public health initiatives such as access to preventative healthcare services and vaccines.





Protecting Monterey County Values – continued...

- ***Reproductive Freedom:*** Support efforts to defend and protect reproductive freedom, including the right to access safe, legal abortion services. Support legislation to codify the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*.
- ***Marriage Equality:*** Support and defend marriage equality as a constitutional right.
- ***Climate Change:*** Support efforts to continue to combat the very real climate change impacts experienced in the County and throughout California (e.g., wildfires, winter storms).
- ***Disaster Assistance:*** Oppose cuts to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A well-funded FEMA is critical to partner with local communities to prepare for and recover from natural disasters, and to provide opportunities for federal funding/grants to supplement county services.
- ***Freedom of Thought and Expression:*** Support efforts to preserve access to freedom of thought and expression, as available through a variety of institutions, such as libraries and museums.



Protecting Monterey County Values – continued...

- ***Combating Disinformation:*** Foster access to reliable and factual content from trusted news outlets, social media channels, and other information sources. Promote media literacy, equipping individuals to independently fact-check and analyze potentially deceptive or misleading data.
- ***Education:*** Oppose any efforts to limit or abolish the critical functions and protections provided by the U.S. Department of Education.
- ***Military Personnel and Veterans:*** Support the rights of veterans and members of the military, including women who seek to serve in combat roles, LGBTQ and transgender populations.
- ***Defense institutions:*** Support efforts to enhance, grow, and protect national security assets in the Monterey Bay Area and oppose Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and similar Department of Defense proposals, which would diminish local missions and negatively impact the economy.



FEMA Reimbursements

Improve the FEMA Public Assistance Program, provide guidance to clarify expenses eligible for reimbursement, and expedite the grant award process.

- The County is working with Cal OES and FEMA to recover costs of the COVID-19 Pandemic, 2021, 2023 and 2024 Winter Storms, and is concerned that FEMA may reduce disaster reimbursement funding or change how events qualify.
- The County submitted millions of dollars in FEMA Public Assistance grant requests to recover disaster related costs. FEMA takes considerable time to review the applications.
- Process time is slow and creates administrative burdens.
- Requests for Information (RFIs) are numerous, burdensome, and ineffective.
- Interpretation of Public Assistance Policy is inconsistent and contradictory. Clear and consistent guidance and policy interpretation is needed from FEMA, as changes lead to major difficulties in documenting and seeking reimbursement.
- FEMA has continued to issue retroactive guidance or selectively interpreted Public Assistance Policy which contradict or are inconsistent with previously issued guidance and policy interpretation.
- The County received a \$23 million advance from the State; obligated funds for eligible projects will directly reimburse the state before funds are distributed to the County for the 2023 Winter Storms.

FEMA Reimbursements

Improve the FEMA Public Assistance Program, provide guidance to clarify expenses eligible for reimbursement, and expedite the grant award process.

FEMA Public Assistance (2019-2024)



\$97 M

Eligible Response
Expenditures



\$46-80 M

Federal Cost Share
(Reimbursement)



\$11 M

Obligated

Disaster #	Incident Name	Status	Possible FEMA Eligible Damage Amount	Low End Reimbursement Estimate (Accounting Eligibility Issues/Insurance) *	Maximum Possible Federal Reimbursement	Obligated Federal Share
4434	2019 Winter Storm	Close Out	\$95,762	\$70,429	\$77,250	\$70,429
4482	2020 COVID-19	In Progress	\$18,179,563	\$7,114,934	\$18,149,804	\$7,114,934
4558	2020 Wildfires	Close Out	\$1,820,703	\$1,737,358	\$1,737,358	\$1,737,358
4683	2023 January Winter Storms	In Progress	\$27,999,026	\$18,754,646	\$23,489,059	\$2,036,926
4699	2023 March Winter Storms	In Progress	\$43,751,190	\$17,341,847	\$32,813,393	\$384,717
4769	2024 February Winter Storms	Commencing	\$4,953,995	\$778,336	\$3,715,496	-
Grand Total			\$96,800,239	\$45,797,550	\$79,982,360	\$11,344,364



Lithium-Ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities.

The Moss Landing Lithium-Ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) began operating in December 2020 and houses large quantities of lithium-ion battery packs managed by Vistra Energy and PG&E.

Several incidents at the site have resulted in emergency response from the local fire protection district, regional HAZMAT team, Environmental Health, law enforcement, U.S. EPA and others. One incident resulted a shelter-in-place order issued to the surrounding community due to potentially hazardous air quality. A second incident, in January 2025, resulted in the mandatory evacuation of 1,500 people. Both incidents resulted in the closure of State Route 1, which lasted several days for the second incident.

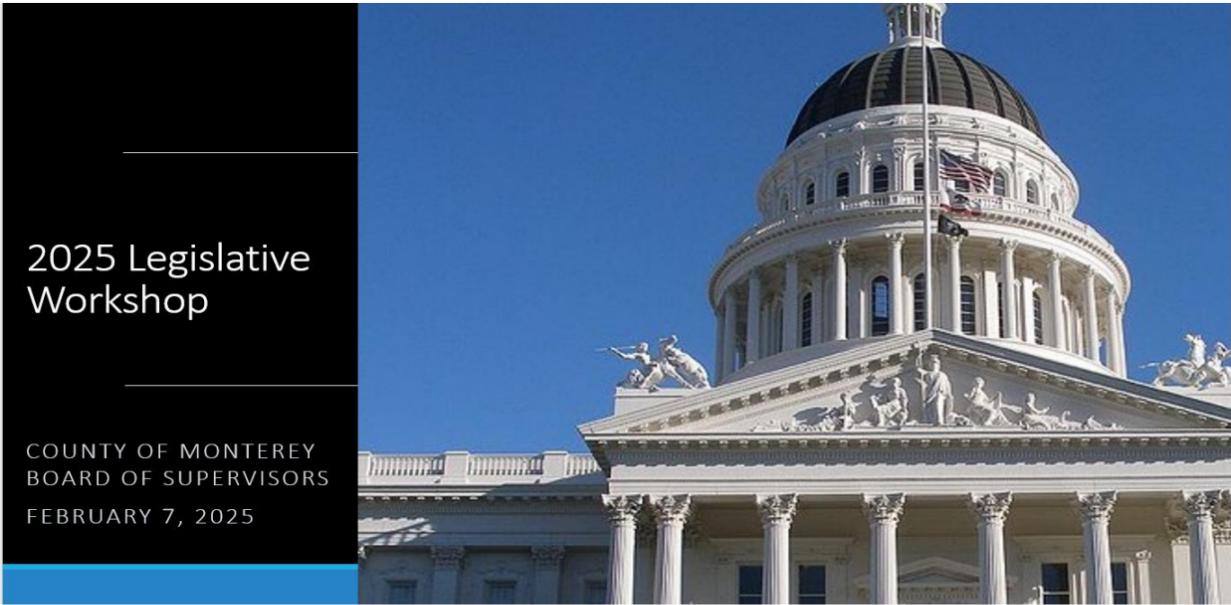
Utility scale battery usage at the residential level, as well as commercial level, will continue to increase as the focus on renewable energy source demands intensifies.



Lithium-Ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities ... continued

Key Objectives

- The County was instrumental in the development of SB 38 (Laird, 2023) – and supports legislative and regulatory efforts to further strengthen emergency response planning and enhance disaster response mitigation.
- The County is reviewing AB 303 (Addis).
- The County seeks legislative and regulatory changes to support periodic evaluation of existing facilities with current safety and fire codes to align with technology changes. The County supports more robust engagement with local fire departments on existing or planned BESS facilities.
- The County is dedicated to supporting policies and funding for local emergency response and preparedness resulting from BESS hazardous threats to the surrounding community.
- Support new environmental health, public health, and fire/safety regulations for BESS as they develop.



2025 Legislative
Workshop

COUNTY OF MONTEREY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FEBRUARY 7, 2025

County of Monterey Board of Supervisors Legislative Workshop February 7, 2025

Fact Sheets

San Lucas Clean Drinking Water

Clean drinking water pipeline for the severely disadvantaged community of San Lucas



San Lucas is a small, disadvantaged farming community located in unincorporated Monterey County approximately eight miles from King City. The community water system (approximately 100 connections) is owned and operated by the San Lucas County Water District. The San Lucas Clean Drinking Water Project would address ongoing water quality problems at the existing District water sources which have occurred since 2006. In 2011, a “do not drink” order was issued, and despite establishing an alternative well to serve the community, a second “do not drink” order was issued in 2016. The lack of safe, affordable drinking water for the community has also caused a nearly 20-year delay of a severely needed affordable housing project in San Lucas.

The County and the District are working with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to identify potential solutions to address the water quality issues. SWRCB is providing the District with Technical Assistance to identify a project that will provide safe drinking water to the community. The County is supportive of the project that SWRCB has identified as an alternative, that would construct a new pipeline to tie into the Cal Water system on the east side of King City and deliver water directly to the District water distribution tank. The pipeline is anticipated to be approximately 7.8 miles long and run along the eastern side of Highway 101 and the railroad line. The pipeline project will have the lowest impact on the community’s water rates long-term, compared to the other project alternatives identified.



Nick Rahaim/courtesy Monterey County Weekly

While there has been a responsible party identified for the nitrate water quality issues, other water quality issues also need to be addressed. The responsible party will be partially financially liable for the treatment of nitrates, however, should the pipeline move forward. The County’s Federal FY24 Community Project Funding request for this project received a \$960,000 grant award through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for preliminary design and environmental review. Additional funding is needed for project design, environmental assessment, engineering, and construction work to provide a clean, long-term, reliable source of drinking water to meet the community’s current and future needs.

Request

Support legislation and budget proposals that create new or expands existing sources of funding for a long-term project that provides a reliable source of clean drinking water to the small, disadvantaged community of San Lucas.

Contact

Randy Ishii, MS, PE, TE, PTOE

Director, Monterey County Department of Public Works, Facilities and Parks

1441 Schilling Place | Salinas, CA 93901

(831) 755-4800 | IshiiR@CountyofMonterey.gov

Nacimiento & San Antonio Dams & Reservoirs Safety Projects

A set of subprojects for Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoir and Dam facilities to fulfill Federal and State regulatory requirements and provide flood protection and a sustainable water supply. Current cost estimate \$192.5 million.

Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs supply water to Monterey County's fertile Salinas Valley for all the valley's beneficial uses. The reservoirs, built in 1957 and 1967 respectively, were put in place by the people of the Salinas Valley to provide flood control; store and release water for aquifer recharge; and combat seawater intrusion in the valley. The facilities provide water to the Salinas Valley agricultural economy, as well as valley residents; a large number who work in the agricultural industry or in the tourism-related businesses on the Monterey Peninsula. Without these reservoirs, life, culture, and the economies of Monterey County would suffer greatly.

The water released from these reservoirs utilizes the natural Salinas River channel for approximately 100 miles of conveyance through the Salinas Valley. The releases percolate into the ground for groundwater aquifer recharge and are seasonally diverted about 90 miles downstream to augment recycled water supplies used for irrigating crops in northern Monterey County.

Aging infrastructure is a national phenomenon. The problems in California and other states indicate there is a significant need to protect, maintain, enhance, and renew existing infrastructure, which is far more cost effective if done early and consistently. At Nacimiento, the condition of the spillway and plunge pool limits the volume of releases from the high-level outlets. This limitation can adversely affect the dam's storage and flood control potential. San Antonio is currently operated under self-imposed, risk reduction measures that limit the amount of water that can be stored pending the California Department of Safety of Dams mandated replacement of the spillway following the 2017 Oroville Dam spillway failure.

This is a multi-benefit Project. It provides flood control, drought resiliency, and groundwater recharge to drinking water supply aquifers for over 250,000 residents, including disadvantaged communities that support our hospitality and \$11.7 billion agricultural industry. In addition, having both facilities fully operational is crucial to implementation of several Groundwater Sustainability Plans. Monterey County does not receive any imported water from State or Federal water projects. Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) is the lead agency for the Project. In 2023, the Agency received just over \$6 million in the 2022-23 State



Nacimiento Dam and Reservoir



San Antonio Reservoir



San Antonio Dam and Spillway

Budget and executed a funding agreement in 2024 for an additional \$17 million in the 2023-24 State Budget to advance these projects. While appreciative of these investments, a large financial obligation remains to achieve project completion.

San Antonio Dam Spillway: In September 2023, the Agency let a contract to conduct a feasibility study of the replacement of the San Antonio Dam spillway. The study was completed in the fall of 2024 and forwarded to the California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams for review. In December, the DSOD approved the Agency's proposed alternative for spillway replacement and extended the deadline for executing the mandated project to December 31, 2031.

The Agency currently estimates design and permitting costs for the spillway replacement to be about \$3 million over a 2-to-3-year timeframe. The Agency currently plans to utilize a portion of the \$17 million in 2023-24 State Budget funding to support this work. The Agency will continue to pursue state and federal funding opportunities, as well as develop a funding strategy for the local cost share, during the design and permitting phase with the aim of commencing construction in 2028.

Nacimiento Plunge Pool Rehabilitation: Also, in November 2023, the Agency let another contract to begin the design of the Nacimiento Plunge Pool Rehabilitation, and more specifically removal of the Plunge Pool rock outcropping. This geotechnical work was completed in the Fall of 2024 and will provide the basis for future design and permitting steps, as well as updated cost estimates, to complete the Rehabilitation.

The Agency currently estimates full design and permitting costs to be \$1.1 million over a 2-to-3-year timeframe and the construction cost to be about \$17 million. The Agency currently plans to utilize a portion of the \$6 million in 2022-23 State Budget funding and the \$17 million in 2023-24 State Budget funding to support this work. The Agency applied for an additional \$5 million of funding assistance from the United States Department of Energy for the Safety of Dams Project at Nacimiento for this project but was rejected. The Agency will continue to pursue state and federal funding sources to augment local resources. The Rehabilitation Project is expected to be complete by 2028.

San Antonio Dam Low-Level Outlet Works: The Agency must secure an additional \$8.6 million over the next three (3) fiscal years to modernize the San Antonio Dam Low-Level Outlet Works. This project entails seven (7) sub-tasks laid out in an order of successive steps to ensure safety and efficiency. To achieve this goal, the Agency is seeking \$1.8 million in funding in FY 2025-26, \$5.6 million in FY 2026-27, and \$1.2 million in FY 2027-28. The Agency has applied for a grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Dam Safety Program's Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) program.

Request

Secure funding for a set of projects for Nacimiento and San Antonio Dam and Reservoir facilities to fulfill Federal and State regulatory requirements and provide flood protection and a sustainable water supply. Support legislation and budget proposals that protect existing and create new sources of funding for these projects. Tremendous momentum has been achieved to advance these critical dam safety projects over the past few years. The Agency seeks continued assistance and support in securing funding to complete the full suite of dam safety projects, and specifically \$8.6 million over the next three (3) fiscal years to complete the San Antonio Dam Low-Level Outlet Works project.

Contact

Ara Azhderian, General Manager

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Monterey County Veterans Home/ Community Living Center



Establish a Veterans Home/Community Living Center in Monterey County to serve the areas' aged and disabled veteran community and honor their service to our Nation.

Monterey County seeks to sponsor state or federal legislation that permits the construction of a California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) Veterans Home or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Community Living Center (CLC) in Monterey County – preferably on or near the former Fort Ord. Establishing a Veterans Home or CLC in Monterey County will address the needs of our nation's heroes living in California by significantly reducing wait times, providing close proximity to veteran health care and several other veteran services, and reducing the risk of veterans' homelessness. The scope of the project, location and cost are to be determined in coordination with CalVet and VA.

The Proposal seeks to authorize legislation like SB 1234 (Johannessen) in 2002, that would authorize the State Public Works Board to issue lease-revenue bonds to finance acquisition, design, and construction of an additional Veterans Home in Monterey County. A similar option is to pursue Federal legislation to establish a VA Community Living Center which would generally provide the same skilled nursing and long-term healthcare benefits as a CalVet Veterans Home.



✦ CalVet has eight (8) Veterans Homes that offer affordable long-term care to veterans who are age 55+, eligible spouses and domestic partners are eligible to apply for admission.

✦ The age requirement is waived for disabled or homeless veterans needing long-term care.

✦ Services range from independent living programs with minimal support to 24/7 skilled nursing and dementia care for veterans with significant clinical needs.

✦ Four (4) of the Veterans Homes offer skilled nursing and dementia care, all of which have 2 to 5+ year waiting lists.

✦ All the Veterans Homes are at a considerable distance from Monterey County with the closest in Fresno and Yountville (both 2.5 hours away) and Ventura (4 hours away).

California's Veteran Population

California has the second largest veteran population in the United States – with nearly 1.5 million veterans. Monterey County and its surrounding area is home to thousands of these veterans plus thousands more active and reserve military members. The veteran population in the local area is 86,300:

- 17,500 in Monterey County
- 44,300 in Santa Clara County
- 8,100 in Santa Cruz County
- 14,300 in San Luis Obispo County
- 2,100 in San Benito County

Economic Impact

California's veterans are accessing their earned benefits, VA Compensation and Pension (C&P) Benefits, at greater levels than ever before. In 2011, 15.8% of veterans accessed these benefits, which increased to 27.8% by 2019. During FY23-24 alone, nearly \$579 million in new or increased benefits were paid to veterans, dependents and survivors. Overall, the FY23-24 VA benefits paid to California veterans or survivors totaled \$10.9 billion, representing a tremendous positive economic impact on California's economy. Unfortunately, California is losing veterans at an alarming rate – much faster than its peer veteran population states (Texas and Florida). We owe all we have to the veterans of this nation, and it is our joint obligation to do all we can to care for those who have selflessly served for the freedoms we have today.

Benefits to Locating a Veterans Home in Monterey County

Locating a Veterans Home or CLC in Monterey County will provide an attractive geographical location with a rich military history and current military presence. Residents of the Veterans Home/CLC would have easy access to the Major General William H. Gourley VA-DoD Outpatient Clinic, commissary, military recreational facilities, and other military/veteran accessible resources. There are a large variety of beaches, walking/bike trails and county/state/national parks that will promote outdoor activity. A CalVet Veterans Home or VA CLC would provide an anchor towards keeping veterans, their families, and their economic resources to remain in Monterey County rather than seeing the continued outflow of veterans and their benefits.

Request

Support efforts to establish a CalVet Veterans Home or VA Community Living Center in Monterey County to serve the long-term health and housing needs of our veteran population and honor their contributions to our lifestyle, values and economy.

Contact

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Protecting Monterey County Values



The County of Monterey has a long tradition of providing a welcoming, safe, and sustainable community for its residents. People are entitled to live their life as they see fit and access public benefits and resources free of fear, hate or retribution. The County is resolute in its commitment to preserving the values that define this community including fundamental civil rights, reproductive freedom, protection of immigrants regardless of documentation status, and more.

The County will rigorously advocate to protect and preserve:

- **Immigrants:** Oppose efforts that unfairly target documented and undocumented immigrants including but not limited to separation of migrant families at border crossings, large-scale deportations, efforts to limit or eliminate Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).
- **Data Privacy:** Support effort to protect data privacy for individuals who have provided personal information to any private or governmental institution and ensure that such data is only used for the purpose for which it was originally provided.
- **Public Health:** Oppose efforts that diminish public health initiatives such as access to preventative healthcare services and vaccines.
- **Reproductive Freedom:** Support efforts to defend and protect reproductive freedom, including the right to access safe, legal abortion services. Support legislation to codify the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*.
- **Marriage Equality:** Support and defend marriage equality as a constitutional right.
- **Climate Change:** Support efforts to continue to combat the very real climate change impacts experienced in the County and throughout California (e.g., wildfires, winter storms).
- **Disaster Assistance:** Oppose cuts to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A well-funded FEMA is critical to partner with local communities to prepare for and recover from natural disasters, and to provide opportunities for federal funding/grants to supplement county services.
- **Freedom of Thought and Expression:** Support efforts to preserve access to freedom of thought and expression, as available through a variety of institutions, such as libraries and museums.
- **Combating Disinformation:** Foster access to reliable and factual content from trusted news outlets, social media channels, and other information sources. Promote media literacy, equipping individuals to independently fact-check and analyze potentially deceptive or misleading data.
- **Education:** Oppose any efforts to limit or abolish the critical functions and protections provided by the U.S. Department of Education.
- **Military Personnel and Veterans:** Support the rights of veterans and members of the military, including women who seek to serve in combat roles, LGBTQ and transgender populations.
- **Defense institutions:** Support efforts to enhance, grow, and protect national security assets in the Monterey Bay Area and oppose Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and similar Department of Defense proposals, which would diminish local missions and negatively impact the economy.

Contact

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FEMA Reimbursements

Improve the FEMA Public Assistance Program, provide guidance to clarify expenses eligible for reimbursement, and expedite the grant award process.



The County continues to work with the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to recover costs related to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, 2020 Wildfires, and 2021, 2023 and 2024 Winter Storms. Monterey County has experienced several major disaster events in recent years and is concerned that FEMA may reduce disaster related reimbursement funding and/or change the way disaster events qualify for reimbursement. The County has submitted millions of dollars in FEMA Public Assistance grant requests to recover costs related to these disaster events. FEMA takes considerable time to review these applications - in some cases, the County has waited two-four years to recover eligible and expended costs for disaster response and recovery efforts. The process creates a significant administrative burden and creates a need for dedicated staff and training to keep up with FEMA's ever-changing requirements. There is also a need for clear and consistent guidance and policy interpretation from FEMA, as constant changes lead to major difficulties in documenting and seeking reimbursement.



More recently, the County has been working with Cal OES and FEMA towards reimbursement for costs related to non-congregate shelters (NCS) under FEMA Public Assistance following the 2023 Winter Storms and the COVID-19 Pandemic. NCS is an activity eligible for reimbursement under FEMA Public Assistance, and the County has spent several months working to clarify the guidance surrounding eligibility criteria. FEMA has continued to issue retroactive guidance for both disasters which contradict previously issued guidance and Public Assistance Policy.

Request

Support efforts to improve the FEMA Public Assistance Program including written guidance to clarify expenses that are eligible for reimbursement and expedite the grant award process to ensure the County is reimbursed for eligible costs as quickly as possible. Support efforts to streamline FEMA Public Assistance workflow and reduce overly burdensome bureaucracy.

Contact

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Lithium-Ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities



The Moss Landing Lithium-Ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), one of the world's largest BESS, is located in Monterey County at the retired Moss Landing oil and gas-fired power plant, which was built by PG&E. The facility began operating in December 2020 and houses large quantities of LG brand and Tesla brand lithium-ion battery packs managed by Vistra Energy and PG&E, respectively.

There have been several incidents at the site resulting in emergency response from the local fire protection district, regional HAZMAT team, the Environmental Health Bureau, law enforcement, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and others. One of these incidents resulted a shelter-in-place order issued to the surrounding residential community due to potentially hazardous air quality. A second incident, in January 2025, resulted in the mandatory evacuation of 1,500 people. Both of these incidents resulted in the closure of State Route 1, which lasted several days for the second incident.

Utility scale battery usage at the residential level, as well as commercial level, will continue to increase as the focus on renewable energy source demands intensifies.

Key Objectives:

- The County was instrumental in the development of Sb 38 (Laird, 2023) – and supports legislative and regulatory efforts to further strengthen emergency response planning and enhance disaster response mitigation.
- The County is reviewing AB 303 (Addis).
- The County seeks legislative and regulatory changes to support periodic evaluation of existing facilities with current safety and fire codes to align with technology changes. The County supports more robust engagement with local fire departments on existing and planned BESS facilities.
- The County is dedicated to supporting policies and funding for local emergency response and preparedness resulting from BESS hazardous threats to the surrounding community.
- The County supports new environmental health, public health, and fire/safety regulations for BESS facilities as they develop.

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County of Monterey

Item No.5

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: 25-079

February 07, 2025

Introduced: 1/29/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: General Agenda Item

Remarks by State and Federal Legislators on their 2025 Priorities

- a. U.S. Senator Alex Padilla
- b. U.S. Senator Adam Schiff
- c. Congressman Jimmy Panetta
- d. Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren
- e. Senator John Laird
- f. Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
- g. Assemblymember Dawn Addis



County of Monterey

Item No.6

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: 25-084

February 07, 2025

Introduced: 1/29/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: General Agenda Item

Remarks by Monterey County Board of Supervisors Regarding 2025 Priorities

- a. Supervisor Luis Alejo - *District 1*
- b. Supervisor Glenn Church - *District 2*
- c. Supervisor Chris Lopez - *District 3*
- d. Supervisor Wendy Root Askew - *District 4*
- e. Supervisor Kate Daniels - *District 5*



County of Monterey

Item No.7

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: 25-080

February 07, 2025

Introduced: 1/29/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: General Agenda Item

Roundtable Discussion



County of Monterey

Item No.8

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: 25-081

February 07, 2025

Introduced: 1/29/2025

Version: 1

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Matter Type: General Agenda Item

Public Comment on Agenda Items



County of Monterey

Item No.9

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: 25-082

February 07, 2025

Introduced: 1/29/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: General Agenda Item

Board Direction to Staff