



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: February 27, 2024
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 Min
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Legislative Program Committee
Director(s)
Contact Info: Jasmine McGinty, Principal Analyst/ Legislative Coordinator
Brittany Odermann, Deputy County Executive Officer

SUBJECT: **Fiscal Year 2024-25 Federal Legislative Funding Requests/ Critical Project List**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve 2024-25 Legislative Funding Critical Projects List and 2024-25 Legislative Budget Goals consisting of projects to consider for submittal to Congressman Carbajal, Senator Padilla, and Senator Butler related to Federal Earmark Community Project Funding and State Budget Member Requests, if any;
- b) Provide other direction as appropriate; and
- c) Determine that the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because pursuant to sections 15378(b)(4) and 15378(b)(5) the recommended actions consist of organizational, administrative or fiscal activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary:

This item is before your Board to request approval of the 2024-25 Legislative Funding Critical Projects List and 2024-25 Legislative Budget Goals list for consideration as County priority items. The lists will be used by staff and the County's legislative advocates to select projects for submission to State and

Federal delegation that are viable and meet the stringent criteria set forth in the federal appropriations process.

Each year, the County's legislative representatives request major funding goals and critical capital projects for potential State and Federal funding. Staff along with the expertise of our federal and state legislative advocates evaluate various project alternatives to determine the top viable projects to best meet the criteria set forth in the appropriations process. While it varies each year, at the federal level, the County is limited to submittal of 5-10 projects for federal earmark requests. At the State level, the County typically advocates for 1-2 projects or initiatives for member requests. Given the State budget deficit this year, it is anticipated that member requests will be extremely limited. The Legislative Funding Critical Project List and the Legislative Budget Goals list are typically reviewed and approved each year by the Legislative Program Committee (LPC) and serve as a guide for staff and our lobbyists to select viable projects. The LPC approved draft lists at its [February 12, 2024 Special Meeting](#).

Discussion

On February 12, 2024, the Legislative Program Committee reviewed and approved a list of countywide projects compiled from departments identified as critical unfunded projects (Attachment A). One project was added during this meeting, the Lompoc Animal Shelter renovation, as requested by Supervisor Hartmann. These projects are generally shovel-ready unfunded capital projects that may be used for legislative funding requests, at both the State and federal level. While this list is extensive, only a limited number of projects are selected to be submitted for either member requests at the State level, or federal earmarks. The County's State and Federal lobbyists work closely with staff to identify projects from this list and/or from the Legislative Platform that would be optimal submissions during the appropriations process.

The Legislative Funding Critical Project List consists of a wide variety of projects and range in cost from \$600,000 to \$50 million dollars. The projects were derived from the approved County Legislative Platform, the County's Capital Improvement Program, and with department input, including the County Executive Office, Public Works, General Services, and Community Services Department. Earmark funding for each Community Project is anticipated to be approximately \$500,000 to \$2,000,000. The projects to be submitted will be narrowed down to approximately 7-10 projects for Community Project Funding. Federal project requests require a significant amount of project detail and community support letters to be collected after projects are identified. If staff and the federal legislative advocate cannot collect a certain level of detailed project information from the department, then an alternative project will be identified for submission.

The LPC is recommending that the full Board of Supervisors approve the legislative funding critical projects list to allow staff and the County's legislative advocates to review and submit projects in a timely manner in finalizing feasible projects for submittal to Congressman Carbajal, Senator Padilla and Senator Butler related to Community Project Funding and to Senator Limon and Assembly member Hart for member requests.

Once the list is approved by the Board, the County's federal legislative advocate will then review the projects with departments regarding funding criteria, viability and likely success of being selected. While earmarked funding is not guaranteed through these funding requests, the County's federal legislative advocate assists in gauging the chances of success for each project. The County's State legislative advocate reviews the project list and budget goals list with staff to determine the most viable funding requests for the upcoming fiscal year. There are constraints and certain factors that limit the eligibility of projects. These factors include project scope and size, cost estimate, priorities of the local delegation,

community support, among others. It is critical our legislative advocates have flexibility in determining which projects from the approved list are the most viable and ultimately get selected for submission. At this time, tentative proposed projects have not been identified for submission.

Background

Each year, the United States Congress considers and enacts annual appropriations bills, providing critical funding to the federal government. The bills that emerge from the appropriations process include government operations, medical research, national defense, infrastructure, and education. Requests for Community Project Funding are submitted to the House Appropriations Committee and are funded through numerous government funding bills. Staff expects Congress to continue to earmark funds in 2024 for a limited number of projects through the Senate Congressionally Directed Spending and the House Community Project Funding processes. This will be for the FY 2025 Appropriations Bills.

Historically, legislative funding requests for projects are identified through the Board's approved Legislative Platform. The Legislative Platform serves as the guide and authority on what the Board's priorities are for legislative advocacy. After careful analysis of these projects, staff then works with the County's federal legislative advocate to screen each project for viability and whether or not a project fits the stringent criteria. Staff also works closely with our State legislative advocates to determine priority funding requests at the State budget level. There is typically a quick turnaround time from when the County receives this information from the federal government and must work quickly to screen projects for eligibility and criteria. All projects on the project list (Attachment A) are in alignment with the Board approved Legislative Platform and the County Capital Improvement Program.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This agenda item is for information and administrative purposes only. There are no current budget impacts associated with this report.

Attachments:

Attachment A – 2024-25 Legislative Funding Critical Projects
Attachment B – 2024-25 Legislative Budget Goals

Authored by:

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