



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO CY 2012 FEDERAL AGENDA & WORK PLAN

	PROJECT/ISSUE	NOTES
1	Transportation authorization bill	Provisions related to bridge replacement, MPO protection, off-system project eligibility, funding flexibility. HR 7 & MAP-21. With SLOCOG.
2	101 / 46 interchange	DOT grant funding
3	Willow Road	DOT grant funding
4	Oceano Highway 1 flooding	DOT and FEMA grant funding
5	Southland interchange	DOT and EDA grant funding
6	Los Osos Wastewater	USDA, Corps of Engineers, Reclamation, EPA funding. Regulatory assistance/relief including FWS, NOAA, NMFS, DOI.
7	Habitat Conservation Planning	Los Osos, Arroyo Creek, and regional HCP efforts. FWS, DOI, NOAA, NMFS, COE, and other agencies.
8	Water recycling	Bureau programs including WaterSMART
9	NPDES – MSR4s Phase II	Permitting requirements
10	Stormwater conveyance & liability	9th Circuit Court ruling. Clean Water Act, EPA.

	PROJECT/ISSUE	NOTES
11	Invasive species (aquatic)	Quaaga mussels – inspection and other assistance. Bureau of Reclamation Mussel Program.
12	Arroyo Grande Creek – levees and HCP	Potential small flood control or aquatic ecosystems project. Corps of Engineers, NOAA, NMFS, FWS.
13	Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE)	Actively engage legislators and Administration. FHFA accepting comments on its position – due March 26, 2012.
14	Climate Change	Alternative transportation funding opportunities, urban forestry, climate change planning, greenhouse gas reduction opportunities
15	Energy efficiency for public buildings	DOE – EERE program.
16	Federal nuclear energy and waste policy	Diablo Canyon licensing; nuclear waste disposal and transportation
17	Anti-Gang Funding	Funding via USDOJ grant programs.
18	DNA Cold Hit funding	Funding via USDOJ grant programs. Grant opportunity announced – applications due April 23, 2012.
19	CDBG and Energy Efficiency and Community Block Grant (EECBG)	Track and advocate for maximum funding and flexibility
20	Cambria Library Expansion	Expansion. USDA and other grants.

	PROJECT/ISSUE	NOTES
21	Homeless services and facilities funding	
22	Low income wastewater assistance	Akin to LIHEAP
23	Farm Bill	Relevant provisions including broadband service, land preservation, wildfire prevention, habitat resource conservation districts, erosion control
24	Medicare reimbursement	Inadequate reimbursement due to high cost but rural designation
25	Veterans assistance	Transportation to clinic and other assistance
26	NEA funding for public art	

CY 2012 Work Plan

The Ferguson Group (TFG) will assist San Luis Obispo County in all matters of interest pertaining to the federal government, including federal funding as well as legislative, regulatory, and other administrative matters not directly related to federal funding.

The milestones and pace of our efforts are generally driven by the congressional legislative process. The work plan is presented in sequence of execution; please also note that all dates presented are approximate and are subject to change. The timeline is approximate and there is often overlap between tasks, but the work plan provides an accurate account of the sequence and timing of work. Some items in the work plan have already occurred or are underway.

TFG will continue to work with the County to identify grant opportunities and will assist County staff throughout the grant application process with strategic counsel, drafting, and agency follow up. Congressional support will be sought as appropriate. As we have discussed, grant funding will become more important during the next budget cycle as the congressional earmarks are questionable in the near term.

The Ferguson Group will work with San Luis Obispo County to ensure that project development and advocacy are efficient, effective, and result in putting projects in the best possible position to receive federal funding.

1. Research and Identify Federal Funding Opportunities. On an ongoing basis, TFG reviews and identifies federal funding opportunities – both actual and potential. This research allows us to efficiently assess the likelihood of funding for projects in the early phases of specific project development. TFG maintains communications with key Members of Congress, congressional staff, and Administration officials and staff regarding funding opportunities and trends.

- Timeframe: Ongoing.
- Work product: Research and develop funding opportunity information for meetings with County officials and staff, communications with congressional and Administration contacts regarding funding opportunities and trends.

2. Develop Project Agenda. While TFG researches and identifies federal funding opportunities, we concurrently work with the County to develop a project agenda. TFG has already met with the County's elected officials and staff to identify project priorities. TFG briefs the County on other funding opportunities to stimulate thought regarding other County projects not previously discussed.

- Timeframe: December – February.
- Work product: Preliminary project agenda with project assessment focusing on likelihood of funding based on funding criteria, precedent, and other considerations.

3. Congressional Delegation and Federal Agencies - Input. TFG discusses the agenda on an informal basis with key congressional representatives and relevant federal agency officials and staff to secure initial support or identify challenges. To ensure early feedback from the County's congressional delegation, we will work with congressional staff and seek initial review of the

County's preliminary federal agenda concurrently with our federal funding research and preliminary federal agenda development.

- Timeframe: Ongoing.
- Work product: Briefings with congressional offices, agencies, and County staff.

4. Finalize Project Agenda. TFG briefs the County on congressional and agency comments on the agenda. TFG proposes a final project agenda based upon identified County priorities, funding opportunities, and congressional comments. While it is important to identify an agenda and remain focused on the agenda, TFG understands that County priorities can change during the appropriations cycle; TFG remains flexible throughout the year to address possible changes in priorities.

- Timeframe: Ongoing.
- Work product: Communications with County staff and officials, final project agenda.

5. Formal Requests. TFG works with the County, federal agencies, and the congressional delegation to finalize and submit requests for funding, policy changes, and regulatory relief. TFG drafts correspondence to congressional offices requesting support for projects. TFG coordinates communications with congressional offices and federal agencies and confirms receipt of project requests in advance of deadlines. TFG assists congressional offices as appropriate with work related to requests. TFG completes all required Member, committee, and subcommittee forms and other documents as appropriate. TFG communicates regularly with delegation offices and provides project background memoranda and other support to congressional staff as appropriate.

Once again in FY13, House Republicans have adopted a moratorium on congressional earmarks for this appropriations cycle. The Senate has also decided to keep the earmark moratorium in place for FY2013. TFG will ensure funding opportunities are explored and will also work with the congressional delegation and the Administration to find funding opportunities outside the appropriations process (e.g., competitive and discretionary grants).

- Timeframe: Ongoing.
- Work product: Meetings with County staff and officials, project descriptions, required forms, supporting materials, congressional correspondence and other communications with congressional offices, project advocacy, grants research and applications.

6. County Advocacy. TFG strongly believes the most effective advocates for San Luis Obispo County are the County's elected officials and staff. We will continue to maximize the benefits of your expertise by ensuring that the right message is delivered to the right people at the right time. TFG provides full support to the County, including but not limited to meeting scheduling, briefing materials and talking points for meetings, meeting attendance and participation, and travel assistance. TFG staff attends meetings in Washington and California and follows up on all action items resulting from meetings. TFG also advises County officials and staff regarding additional communications at key points throughout the appropriations process, and provides draft correspondence, contact information, and talking points to the County as needed. TFG advises the County regarding building and maintaining a strong working relationship with congressional offices, and as appropriate, with Administration officials and staff.

- Timeframe: February – March and ongoing as necessary.
- Work product: Secure meetings with congressional delegation and relevant Administration officials and staff; meeting schedules, briefing materials, talking points, draft correspondence, communications with County officials and staff, congressional testimony.

7. Outcomes and Project Assessment. Upon final determinations by Congress or agencies, TFG reports results to the County immediately upon receiving accurate and reliable information. TFG provides copies of relevant legislation, congressional reports, and other documents. TFG debriefs congressional offices regarding project results and reports findings to the County. TFG provides outcomes assessments, assisting TFG and the County in formulating the San Luis Obispo’s federal agenda for the next cycle.

- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Work product: Communications regarding results and assessment of federal agenda, debriefing congressional offices regarding outcomes.

8. TFG Advocacy. Throughout the year, TFG regularly communicates with Members of Congress, their staff, and key committee staffers in support of the County’s requests. TFG full support to congressional offices, including support letters to appropriations committees, talking points for Member and staff meetings, memoranda regarding project and budget status, draft congressional testimony, and other communications as requested by congressional offices. TFG tracks legislation of interest to the County, including appropriations and other legislation, and will report key developments in the legislative process to the County. TFG also provides regular reports to the County outlining major policy areas, initiatives, and legislation. TFG staff attends relevant committee hearings and markups and provides updates to the County. In addition, TFG works with federal agencies to secure positive outcomes for the County’s federal agenda.

- Timeframe: Ongoing.
- Work product: Communications with congressional representatives and federal agency officials and staff, draft correspondence, support materials, memoranda for congressional offices regarding project status, and other support as requested and needed by congressional offices, attend congressional hearings.

9. Grants. TFG will work closely with County officials and staff throughout the year to identify meaningful grant opportunities related to County priorities and needs. TFG will provide ongoing analysis of grant opportunities and will assist the County in application development and submittal. TFG will also provide outcomes analysis regarding grant applications and will follow up post-award to ensure funding is secured efficiently.

10. Client Communications. TFG is fully accessible to County officials and staff. We provide regular reports regarding project status, and we regularly meet in person with officials and staff in San Luis Obispo. By way of example, TFG holds biweekly conference calls with County staff regarding the Los Osos Wastewater Project. We are available via telephone and email to answer questions and respond to other inquiries and requests from the County. TFG staff is available to County officials and staff to check and track the status of any legislation or regulatory activity at

the federal level, as well as to advise the County regarding any potential impact of the matter on San Luis Obispo.

- Timeframe: Ongoing.
- Work product: Meetings in San Luis Obispo, written and oral status reports, other communications as necessary, meetings with other relevant entities, respond to information requests from County officials and staff.