

**TO:** Alina Gonzalez, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs  
Jessica Hart, Director of Federal Affairs  
Manny Orozco, Federal Affairs Advisor

**FROM:** Jim Davenport, Partner  
Greg Burns, Partner

#### RECENT TRP ACTIVITIES

- Reviewed, edited and provided advice on FY2026 community project funding (CPF) proposals prepared by County staff
- Discussed strategy for obtaining FY26 funding for Back Bay Nature Based Solutions with County's Resiliency Team
- Responded to requests for information pertaining to FY 2025 appropriations, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the Inflation Reduction Act
- Shared other items of importance, including updates on:
  - Advice on new wording that could be used in Federal grant applications
  - The FY25 and FY26 Appropriations process.
  - Provided daily *Tip Sheet* and periodic *TRP Grants Newsletter*.

#### CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

##### **Congress Brushes Up Against a Government Funding Deadline**

Congress will return next week in a scramble to fund the government ahead of next Friday's midnight deadline. As of now, House Republican leadership is hoping to release text of a relatively "clean" continuing resolution (CR) that funds the government through the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2025. The bill would likely come up for a final vote next Tuesday under "regular order," meaning that, absent support from Democrats, GOP leadership cannot afford to lose many votes within the Conference if they are to be successful in sending the stopgap to the Senate. Of note, the House Democratic Caucus plans to meet early next week once CR text is released to formulate a plan.

The "four corners" leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are still attempting to reach a topline agreement for FY 2025 that could potentially lead to a few bipartisan "minibus" packages. However, progress toward these numbers has reportedly cooled over the last 24 hours, especially as Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) looks to press forward with the CR endorsed by President Trump. Nevertheless, if a topline agreement does get announced over the weekend, it will be worth watching to see if House and Senate Democrats try to use this as leverage to move off of the year-long CR and toward a shorter-term stopgap to allow for the development of bipartisan appropriations bills.

#### OTHER RELEVANT NEWS

##### **The Hill: Democratic lawmakers warn budget cuts pose risks to power grids**

Congressional Democrats are sounding the alarm on the impact of sweeping federal job cuts to the resilience of U.S. power grids. As early as February, about 130 federal workers were fired from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), which operates about three quarters of the Pacific Northwest's power grid. The following week, some 30 probationary workers were offered their jobs back, similarly to

workers who were fired and recalled from jobs at the Department of Agriculture and the National Nuclear Safety Administration (NNSA). But Democratic lawmakers expressed concern that even temporary disruptions in such cases could have an effect. Another 88 employees have been fired from the Western Area Power Administration, which provides service to 15 states. In an interview with The Hill, House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Jared Huffman (D-Calif.) called the cuts at the BPA “another ready shoot, aim, disaster by this reckless Trump administration and the clown car group from DOGE,” referencing Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency. A DOGE spokesperson has denied the group was involved in the Department of Energy firings.

**POLITICO: Trump EPA cancels more than \$100 million in low-carbon construction grants**

The Trump administration canceled 21 grants for work on low-carbon construction materials this week, according to two former senior EPA officials who granted anonymity to discuss sensitive issues. EPA announced a third round of canceled grants amounting to \$116 million in a press release Tuesday, but did not identify the program the grants stemmed from, nor that the funding came from Democrats’ Inflation Reduction Act. EPA career staff overseeing the low-carbon construction grant program didn’t learn that it was their funding that had been canceled until Wednesday night, the former EPA officials said. An agency spokesperson did not immediately reply to a request for comment Thursday. The two former officials said the canceled grants were already obligated. They funded efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from U.S. manufacturing of steel, concrete, wood and other construction materials — sectors that account for about 15 percent of global emissions of climate-warming gasses, according to EPA. Receipts uploaded March 4 to the Department of Government Efficiency’s “Wall of Receipts” match 19 of the grant awards announced by EPA in July under the program.

**E&E News: Judge gives FEMA one-week deadline on disaster aid (\$)**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency must show in one week whether it is complying with a judge’s ruling Thursday that blocks the Trump administration from withholding grants and loans. In a broad ruling on presidential powers, Chief Judge John McConnell of the Rhode Island District Court cited the withholding of FEMA disaster aid as an example of “acute harm” caused by a federal funding freeze. “With floods and fires wreaking havoc across the country, federal funding for emergency management and preparedness would be impacted” by freezing FEMA grants, McConnell wrote in a 45-page ruling. McConnell, an appointee of former President Barack Obama, was the second federal judge in the past two weeks to rebuke the Trump administration for trying to withhold grants and loans.

Please let us know if you have any questions.