

Meeting of Sept. 9, 2019

August Employees of the Month Recognized

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors recognized three employees of the month for August.

The honors went to:

- Deanna Alhayek, coach operator
- Pio Balonda, maintenance
- Ron Wolf, administration

OCTA Board Awards \$2 Million to Improve Water Quality

The OCTA board approved more than \$2 million for 11 projects that will improve water quality in Orange County.

The funds come from Measure M, the half-cent sales tax approved by Orange County voters in 2006 for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go. A key promise that was made to voters was the protection of the county's natural resources, while improving the transportation network.

The 11 projects that will receive funding focus on removing visible pollutants, such as litter and debris, from roads before they reach waterways. The projects include purchasing or upgrading screens, filters and inserts for catch basins, as well as other devices designed to remove pollutants.

The cities that received funding are Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Fullerton, Lake Forest, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Orange and Seal Beach.

To date, the OCTA board has approved funding for nearly 150 projects, totaling approximately \$19 million. It is estimated that more than 1 million cubic feet of trash has been captured as a result of the installation of these devices.

OCTA Awarded \$100,000 Safety Grant

The OCTA board accepted a \$100,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety that will be used to fund bicycle and pedestrian safety classes.

The California Office of Traffic Safety distributes grants to local and state agencies for programs that help enforce traffic laws, educate the public about traffic safety and ways to reduce fatalities, injuries and economic losses stemming from collisions. These programs may include classroom education, bicycle rodeos, community events, presentations and workshops.

The 2019-20 award will fund bicycle skills classes, a train-the-trainer course and the distribution of reflective keychains, helmets and bicycle lights.

405 Improvements Progress Through 2019

The board received an update on the I-405 Improvement Project, which recently marked a major milestone when the Slater Avenue bridge over I-405 in Fountain Valley opened to traffic after a year-long closure.

The Slater Avenue bridge was the first of 18 bridges to be built, widened or replaced as part of the 405 Improvement Project, which will speed up travel times on I-405 between Costa Mesa and the Los Angeles County line, an area traveled by more than 370,000 vehicles a day.

The McFadden Avenue bridge is anticipated to open to traffic next year, and significant bridge construction continues at the Fairview Road, Magnolia Street, Goldenwest Street and Bolsa Chica Road overcrossings.

The \$1.9 billion project will add one regular lane between Euclid Street and I-605, and a second lane in each direction in the center of the freeway from SR-73 to I-605 that will combine with the existing carpool lanes to form the 405 Express Lanes.

For more information on the project, visit octa.net/405improvement.