

## **Meeting of Oct. 12, 2020**

### **OCTA Awards \$2.8 Million to Improve O.C.'s Water Quality**

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors approved \$2.8 million for 12 projects that will improve water quality in Orange County.

The funds come from Measure M, the county's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, also known as OC Go. Approved by voters in 2006, Measure M includes funding for an Environmental Cleanup Program that awards money on a competitive basis to cities and the county for projects that reduce the impacts of water pollution related to transportation.

The 12 projects that will receive funding focus on removing litter and debris from roads before they reach waterways. The projects include purchasing or upgrading screens, filters and inserts for catch basins.

The cities that received funding are Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Fullerton, Irvine, Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Orange, Placentia, San Clemente and Yorba Linda.

To date, the OCTA board has approved funding for 177 projects, totaling approximately \$25 million. It is estimated that nearly 33 million gallons of trash have been captured since the inception of the program in 2011.

### **I-5 Project in South Orange County Advances**

The OCTA board selected Advanced Civil Technologies to prepare environmental documents to advance improvements to I-5 between Avenida Pico and the San Diego County line, an important step toward a vital transportation project for South Orange County.

The improvement project would extend the I-5 carpool lane from Avenida Pico to the county line, completing the carpool lane network in Orange County.

It is one of three near-term projects identified by OCTA, Caltrans and the Transportation Corridor Agencies to help relieve traffic and meet travel demand in South Orange County over the next decade. The other two projects are a non-tolled extension of Los Patrones Parkway from Cow Camp Road to Avenida La Pata and the widening of Ortega Highway between Calle Entradero and Reata Road.

### **OCTA Studying Development Opportunities for Fullerton Park-and-Ride**

The OCTA board received an update on the early stages of a study aimed at exploring joint development opportunities at the Fullerton Park-and-Ride, which could include the addition of offices, homes and commercial properties.

The Fullerton facility is OCTA's largest park-and-ride and serves as a key regional transfer point for transit users. It includes 745 public parking spaces on more than 11 acres, with 14 bus docks, covered waiting areas, restrooms and benches.

When it first opened in 1974, the park-and-ride primarily served commuters traveling to Los Angeles, however, the introduction of Metrolink service in the 1990s reduced demand. Since 2007, parking at the site has been underutilized, with 55% of parking used on weekdays, and 20% on weekends.

The initial phase of the study determined that joint development at the Fullerton Park-and-Ride is feasible. Joint development could improve convenience, safety and access to transit and rideshare, while providing economic and environmental benefits to the surrounding communities by supporting new jobs, housing and retail.

The study will now move on to the next phase, where OCTA will work with Fullerton and other stakeholders over the next few years to establish goals and options for the site, as well as gauge interest from developers.