

Meeting of August 14, 2023

Board Approves \$3.4 Million to Help Protect Orange County's Water Quality

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors approved \$3.4 million for 10 projects that will improve water quality throughout Orange County.

The funds for these projects come from Measure M, a half-cent sales tax Orange County voters approved for transportation improvements. Measure M, also known as OC Go, includes funding for an environmental cleanup program that awards funding on a competitive basis to cities and the County of Orange for projects with a transportation nexus that reduce impacts to water quality.

The approved projects will focus on removing litter and debris from roads before reaching waterways and the ocean. These projects include purchasing or upgrading screens, filters and inserts for catch basins, as well as other devices designed to remove pollutants.

Cities to receive funding include Anaheim, Costa Mesa, the County of Orange, Huntington Beach, La Habra, Laguna Hills, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Orange and San Clemente.

OCTA Issues Call for Projects to Improve Mobility in Orange County

The OCTA board issued its annual call for projects aimed at improving traffic flow and reducing congestion throughout Orange County.

Approximately \$45 million has been made available through Measure M, a half-cent sales tax, also known as OC Go. These funds are part of the Regional Capacity Program and Regional Traffic Signal Synchronization Program and are distributed on a competitive basis to help improve mobility in the county.

Grant applications are due by Oct. 26 and will be considered by the board in spring 2024.

OCTA Selects Consultant for Coastal Rail Study

OCTA selected HDR Engineering Inc. as the consultant to conduct the South Coast Rail Infrastructure Feasibility Study and Alternative Concepts Analysis.

The study will bring together technical experts and public agency partners and engage a wide range of stakeholders to pinpoint the issues threatening the rail corridor and offer solutions to protect it. It will be the first of two studies, focusing on short- to medium-term solutions, and the second-phase study will look longer-term.

Goals for the study include:

- Developing options to protect coastal rail infrastructure in its current location

- Gaining a more detailed understanding of climate effects on the rail line
- Identifying potential solutions for beach erosion
- Consulting with key stakeholders and agencies each step of the way.

The coastal track through San Clemente was reinstated for full service in July and remains open, welcoming passengers of both Metrolink regional rail and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner.