



OCTA

Minutes

Measure M2 Environmental Cleanup Allocation Committee

Committee Members Present:

*Keith Linker, Vice Chair.
Dan Kim, California State University, Fullerton
Hector B. Salas, Caltrans
Grant Sharp, County of Orange
Mark Tettemer, Irvine Ranch Water District
Jeff Thompson, Rancho Mission Viejo
Marilyn Thoms, East OC Water District
Alex Waite, City of Tustin
Dennis Wilberg, City of Mission Viejo
Marwan Youssef, City of Westminster
Helen Yu, San Diego RWQCB*

*Orange County Transportation Authority
550 South Main Street, Orange, CA
Via Teleconference
September 10, 2020 at 11 a.m.*

Committee Member(s) Absent:

*Garry Brown, Chair
Marc Brown, Santa Ana RWQCB
Jill Ingram, City of Seal Beach*

Orange County Transportation Authority Staff Present:

Joseph Alcock, M2 Local Programs Manager Andrew Troxel, Financial Analyst
Marissa Espino, Community Relations Officer Dan Phu, Environmental Programs Mgr.
Alfonso Hernandez, Transp. Funding Analyst

1. Welcome

Vice Chair Keith Linker (KL) welcomed everyone to the Environmental Cleanup Allocation Committee (ECAC) meeting. Vice Chair Linker went over meeting protocols and asked Marissa Espino to take roll call attendance.

Vice Chair KL asked the committee to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. New Committee Members

Vice Chair KL introduced new member Marylin Thoms who will serve as the member representing water waste/water public entities and she is a water resource consultant from the East Orange County Water District. He also introduced Dan Kim who will serve as the scientific/academic representative and he is an associate professor from Cal State Fullerton, Department of Public Health. Marylin Thoms and Dan Kim introduced themselves.

3. Approval of August 8, 2019 and February 13, 2020 Minutes

Vice Chair KL asked if there are any additions or corrections to the August 8, 2019 or February 13, 2020 meeting minutes.

A motion was made by a Grant Sharp, seconded by Mark Tettemer, and carried unanimously to approve the August 8, 2019 ECAC minutes with five abstentions by members not present.

A motion was made by a Jeff Thompson, seconded by Marwan Youssef, and carried unanimously to approve the February 13, 2020 ECAC minutes with three abstentions by members not present.

4. Tier 1 Programming Recommendations

Dan Phu (DP) provided the Tier 1 Programming Recommendations and provided background information on the Tier 1 program. This year, \$2.8 million is available for this round of call for projects. Due to COVID-19, the call deadline was extended to June 25, 2020. OCTA received a total of 13 applications, with the City of Lake Forest withdrawing its application due to the uncertainty of the economy. The projects submitted consisted primarily of connector pipe screens as well as retractable screens. Within the recommendations there is one condition on the City of Costa Mesa due to administrative process timing. The city went to their council and a resolution has been established. Staff is waiting for the documentation which should arrive before this item goes to the OCTA Board of Directors.

Jeff Thompson asked if OCTA had sufficient funds available or if there were excess funds being returned to the program for the next call. DP said when the call was released there was roughly \$2.8 million available. Joseph Alcock (JA) said that the city of Costa Mesa reduced their proposed project requested funds by about \$18,000 so that the total recommended funding is \$2.8 million.

Grant Sharp said the city of Mission Viejo was awarded funding for a Tier 1 project during the last call for projects, but due to engineering constraints they were not able to move forward with the project and are returning the funds. JA said once the funds are returned, the money would go toward future calls for projects.

Mark Tettemer said during the review there was talk about potentially awarding funding over the \$2.8 million. He said that it appeared the city of Laguna Woods and Costa Mesa are receiving less than what their original request. Alfonso Hernandez clarified that after an audit review, it was determined that the city of Laguna Woods included some costs that were not eligible, and they then revised their total costs. JA said the city of Costa Mesa's project cost was reduced to keep this call within the \$2.8 million. JA clarified that allocating Tier 1 funding above \$2.8 million was considered early in the review process, but due to funding sensitivity with tax revenue being lower than projected, OCTA needed to stay within the current budget.

A motion was made by Jeff Thompson, seconded by Marwan Youssef to unanimously endorse the application review committee's recommendation for Board of Directors approval to program \$2,449,059 in Tier 1 Environmental Cleanup Program funding for 11 projects and endorse the application review committee's recommendation for Board of Directors approval to program \$350,941 in Tier 1 Environmental Cleanup Program funding for one project in the city of Costa Mesa, subject to the receipt of a final executed city council resolution.

5. Environmental Cleanup Program Expenditures and M2 Revenue Forecast

Andrew Troxel provided background on how M2 revenue is forecasted. In 2019, the M2 forecast was at \$13.3 billion over the lifetime of Measure M2. Of that, \$263 million was allocated to Environmental Cleanup Program. In 2020, the forecast was updated and M2 sales tax revenue collection over the lifetime of the program is predicted to be lower due to the impacts of COVID-19. The revised forecast is currently \$11.6 billion in sales tax collected over the lifetime of M2. The current predicted allocation of funds to the Environmental Cleanup Program is forecasted at \$225 million. OCTA is waiting to receive a sales tax payment in the coming weeks. Once that is received the forecast experts will determine if any other changes need to be made to the overall forecast.

Vice Chair KL asked what the 13% reduction is being compared against. Andrew Troxel said the \$11.6 billion is the gross sales tax over the life of the program and the prior year was \$13.3 billion, so the comparison is over last year's estimates.

Marwan Youssef asked if this estimate would change again because COVID will not last forever. DP said it is likely the estimate will change again. The revenue will go up and down over the life of the program. In 2015 this committee decided to "pay-as-you-go" and spend within our current means and not bond against future revenues.

6. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

7. Committee Member Reports

Grant Sharp updated the committee members on the OC Stormwater Tools application. He said as of today over 12,000 water quality assets have been inventoried within the application. Grant said many of those have been funded through OCTA Environmental Cleanup Program. He said the plan is to come back to this committee with a detailed update on the program. Vice Chair KL said this is a powerful tool and it will be on a future agenda.

8. Next Meeting – November 12, 2020

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.