

Meeting of May 22, 2015

OCTA Board approves principles, funding strategy for Environmental Mitigation Program

The OCTA board approved guiding principles and a long-term funding strategy for the M2 Environmental Mitigation Program, which provides comprehensive environmental mitigation for impacts of freeway improvement projects.

The program falls under Measure M, the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements that was approved by Orange County voters in November 2006. At least five percent of freeway program revenues is set aside for this mitigation.

At least \$300 million is expected to be available to the program through 2041. About \$150 million has been set aside for habitat restoration projects, the acquisition of preservation areas, the funding of an endowment to pay for long-term management of these acquisitions, and other program expenses.

To date, OCTA has funded 11 habitat restoration projects affecting about 400 acres of land and has purchased seven properties totaling more than 1,300 acres.

CEO gives progress report on 2015 goals and initiatives

Darrell Johnson, chief executive officer of OCTA, gave a progress report on his action plan and initiatives for the 2015 calendar year.

Sixteen of 18 targeted milestones were completed during the first quarter of the year. Major accomplishments include:

- In January, the board approved funding for 43 projects totaling \$19.9 million as part of the Arterial Pavement Management Program, which provides funding to local agencies for pavement rehabilitation and preservation.
- In March, the board approved funding for 18 projects totaling \$2.8 million under the Tier 1 M2 Environmental Cleanup Program. The program allocates Measure M revenues to improve overall water quality from transportation-generated pollution; the Tier 1 Grant Program aims to remove the more visible forms of pollutants, such as litter and debris, which collect on roadways.
- In March, the Federal Transit Administration issued a Finding of No Significant Impact for the environmental assessment/final environmental impact report for the Santa Ana/Garden Grove Fixed-Guideway Project, clearing the project to advance into the design phase. Construction is planned to begin in 2017 and be completed by 2019.
- In January, a real-time bus locator application was launched. Bus customers can now receive real-time bus locations and predicted bus stop arrival times by downloading smartphone applications that receive updated bus position information from OCTA.

OCTA board receives legislative update

The OCTA board received an update on legislative issues affecting the state of California and adopted stances on various bills. The board voted to support:

- AB 902, which would allow local authorities to implement diversion programs for people of any age who commit a moving violation not involving a motor vehicle. Currently, authorities can only establish such programs for minors.
- SB 508, which would revise several elements of the Transportation Development Act regarding transit funding.
- AB 516, which would require the California DMV to implement a temporary license plate program by Jan. 1, 2017. Failure to display the temporary plate would be an infraction, and counterfeiting a temporary license plate would be a felony.