

Meeting of Sept. 10, 2018

\$2.5 Million Awarded to Improve Orange County's Water Quality

The OCTA board awarded nearly \$2.5 million to 12 cities in an ongoing effort to improve water quality in Orange County.

To date, OCTA has awarded funds for water-quality improvement projects to every city in Orange County and has helped capture an estimated 1 million cubic feet of trash before it reaches local waterways that lead to the ocean.

The funds come from Measure M, also known as OC Go, the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements renewed by Orange County voters in 2006. The measure 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.

After reviewing 16 applications from 15 cities, the OCTA board approved \$2.5 million for 12 projects focused on removing visible pollutants, such as litter and debris, from roads before they reach waterways. These projects include purchasing or upgrading screens, filters and inserts for catch basins, as well as other devices designed to remove pollutants.

The following cities received funding: Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Los Alamitos, Newport Beach, Placentia, Santa Ana, Seal Beach and Tustin.

The OCTA board has approved funding for 154 projects – including at least one from each of Orange County's 34 cities and the County of Orange – since the inception of the program in 2011, awarding approximately \$20 million in all.

Next 10 Plan Updated to Keep Promises to Voters

The Measure M Next 10 Delivery Plan was updated in response to lower revenue forecasts and updated project costs and schedules.

The Next 10 Plan is intended to ensure OCTA's commitment to Orange County voters, keeping the freeway program moving, continuing to invest in streets and roads, advancing rail and transit options and upholding the Measure M environmental agreement.

The plan sets project and program priorities over a 10-year period from 2017 through 2026. It was originally approved in November 2016, incorporating a sales tax revenue forecast of \$14.2 billion, but was adjusted to reflect an updated forecast of \$13.1 billion.

The plan calls for prioritizing Measure M projects by distributing the sales tax revenue to the following:

- Deliver up to \$4.3 billion in freeway projects
- Allocate nearly \$1 billion of funding for streets and roads improvements
- Invest approximately \$1 billion to enhance access to rail and transit, including delivery of the OC Streetcar

- Ensure ongoing preservation of open space preserves and provide \$40 million in water quality grants

OCTA will continue to monitor revenue and project cost impacts that could affect the delivery plan and will update the plan as needed.

I-405 Construction Ongoing to Speed up Commutes

The board received an update on the I-405 Improvement Project, a project that 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 \$1.9 billion project will add one regular lane in each direction between SR-73 and I-605 and a second lane in each direction in the center of the freeway that will combine with the existing carpool lanes to form the 405 Express Lanes. More than 18 bridges will also be built, widened or replaced as part of the project.

The McFadden Avenue bridge over I-405 was closed to traffic and demolished in August. The Slater Avenue bridge is anticipated to close to traffic on Sept. 21, with demolition occurring in the following weeks. Both bridges will be closed for approximately 12 months as the new bridges are built.

Partial demolition of the Goldenwest Street and Magnolia Street bridges is anticipated for November. Both of these bridges will remain open to traffic during construction.

In the coming weeks, the project mobile app will launch. This free app will include closure and detour information, photos and videos from the project and ways to contact the outreach team.

The 405 project is scheduled for completion in 2023.

Board Receives Update on SR-57 Northbound Improvement Project

The board received an update on proposed improvements to SR-57 between Orangewood Avenue in Orange and Katella Avenue in Anaheim.

The Measure M project is currently in its environmental phase. This initial stage of the project will study the benefits and potential environmental impacts of increasing capacity on SR-57 by extending the fifth northbound regular lane to this portion of the freeway.

The project area is about a mile long and is a vital stretch of SR-57, serving as an important link between Los Angeles County, Orange County and the Inland Empire.

The project's draft environmental document is anticipated to circulate for public review and comment later this year, with a public hearing scheduled for late October.