

Meeting of Oct. 14, 2024

OCTA Board Approves Nearly \$11 Million to Improve O.C. Water Quality

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors approved \$10.7 million for 15 projects aimed at improving water quality throughout Orange County.

These projects are funded through Measure M, a half-cent sales tax approved by Orange County voters to support transportation improvements. Measure M includes funding for an environmental cleanup program that awards funding on a competitive basis to cities and the county for projects that capture transportation-related pollution before it reaches the ocean and other waterways.

The funding will go toward:

- 11 projects that will install devices like screens, filters and inserts to catch debris from entering local waterways. These projects are located in Anaheim, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Mission Viejo, San Clemente, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Stanton and the County of Orange.
- Four larger-scale projects including the Santa Ana Zoo Stormwater Capture and Diversion Project, the Poche Beach Water Reclamation Project in San Clemente, the State College Boulevard Stormwater Capture and Conveyance Project in Anaheim and the Newport Dunes Water Quality Improvement Project in Newport Beach.

In addition to this funding, the Board has previously awarded \$64 million for 244 water quality projects since the program's inception.

OCTA Begins Development of 405 Express Lanes Expenditure Plan

The OCTA Board discussed the development of an expenditure plan for the 405 Express Lanes, which has been improving commutes for thousands of drivers between Costa Mesa and the Los Angeles County line since its opening on Dec. 1, 2023.

The 405 Express Lanes was built as part of OCTA's I-405 Improvement Project and offers carpoolers, as well as solo driver willing to pay a toll, the option to speed up their commutes.

OCTA, in partnership with Caltrans, is required to develop a plan for how future excess toll revenues will be spent. This is similar to how OCTA manages the 91 Express Lanes in partnership with the Riverside County Transportation Commission. Tolls collected on the 91 Express Lanes have led to nearly \$2 billion in investments to improve the way people move in and around that area.

Any excess revenue generated from the 405 Express Lanes will be reinvested into the corridor to benefit all commuters, whether they choose to use the express lanes or not.

A draft expenditure plan is currently being developed and will be presented to the Board for approval at a future meeting. For more information on the 405 Express Lanes, visit [405ExpressLanes.com](https://www.405ExpressLanes.com).

Measure M 10-Year Review Underway

The OCTA Board has directed the agency to initiate its second comprehensive 10-year review of the Measure M Transportation Investment Plan.

Measure M, renewed by Orange County voters in 2006, requires a 10-year review to assess the progress of the measure's transportation projects, identify any challenges and consider any necessary adjustments to ensure that the commitments to taxpayers are being fulfilled. The first 10-year review was completed in 2015.

The current review will include public feedback, stakeholder outreach and analysis of local, state and federal transportation plans, among other factors. OCTA anticipates completing the review by late 2025.