




August 7, 2017

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Measure M2 Environmental Cleanup Program – 2017 Tier 1 Water Quality Grant Funding Allocations

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority's Environmental Cleanup Program provides Measure M2 funding for water quality improvement projects to address transportation-generated pollution. The fiscal year 2017-18 Tier 1 Grant Program call for projects was issued on March 16, 2017. Evaluations have been completed, and a list of projects is presented for review and approval of funding allocations.

Recommendation

Approve the 2017 Tier 1 Environmental Cleanup Program funding recommendations to fund 16 projects, in an amount totaling \$3,130,251.

Background

In May 2010, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) approved a two-tiered approach to fund the Measure M2 (M2) Environmental Cleanup Program (ECP). The funding plan called for up to \$19.5 million in Tier 1 grants on a "pay-as-you-go" basis through seven funding cycles. Approximately \$2.8 million has been available for each cycle of Tier 1 calls for projects (call). The fiscal year (FY) 2017-18 call is the seventh cycle.

The Tier 1 Grant Program is designed to remove the more visible forms of pollutants, such as litter and debris, which collect on roadways and in catch basins, or "storm drains", prior to being deposited in waterways and the ocean.

These funds are available for Orange County eligible local agencies to purchase equipment and upgrades for existing catch basins and other related best management practices (BMP) that supplement current requirements.

Examples include screens, filters, and inserts for catch basins, as well as other devices designed to remove the above mentioned pollutants. Proposed projects must demonstrate a direct nexus to the reduction of transportation-related pollution as developed and defined by the Environmental Cleanup Allocation Committee (ECAC).

The Board has approved funding for 138 projects through six Tier 1 calls, totaling approximately \$17 million. Staff has estimated that over one million cubic feet of trash has been captured as a result of the installation of Tier 1 devices since the inception of the Tier 1 Program in 2011.

Discussion

The Board issued the FY 2017-18 Tier 1 call on March 16, 2017. Twenty-four applications were submitted from 21 cities and the County of Orange prior to the May 17, 2017 deadline (Attachment A). Applications were reviewed and evaluated by the Chairman of ECAC, an ECAC member, as well as OCTA staff. The applications were ranked based on the following Board-approved criteria:

- Proposed project's effectiveness at removing trash and debris;
- Identification of the affected waterway(s) and the pollutant(s) treated by the proposed BMP;
- Operations and maintenance plan adequate to maintain the efficiency of the proposed BMP for regularly scheduled inspections, maintenance, and cleaning/disposal of pollutants;
- Clear and detailed work plan with a specific implementation period;
- Project readiness.

The evaluation team recommends 16 projects for funding based on total points earned (Attachment B). The Tier 1 proposals recommended for funding consist primarily of catch basin and screen projects. A brief summary is provided below.

- Catch basin inserts and other debris screens or inserts (14 projects): These screens or insert units prevent debris from entering the storm drain system;
- Underground storm water detention and infiltration system (one project): Install an underground, pre-manufactured detention and infiltration system, and repave the lot utilizing pervious surfaces. Reinforced concrete storm water conveyance pipes will direct visible trash and debris to the detention system;

- Hydrodynamic separator (one project): A hydrodynamic separator is a manhole type concrete and steel structure that is effective in capturing pollutants such as trash, sediment, nutrients, and more.

As part of this grant program, local agencies agree to contribute a minimum cash match of 20 percent of the project cost. Given the amount of funding available for each call cycle and the competitive nature of this program, applications are evaluated and scored based upon the thoroughness of the responses to application questions related to water quality benefits of the proposed project. Attachment A also includes projects that were beyond the funding capacity of this cycle. Staff will continue outreach efforts to the sponsor agencies and offer assistance on how their applications can be strengthened.

Staff will also work with the ECAC to evaluate and recommend changes to the funding guidelines for the 2018 call. Guideline changes are expected to return to the Board for approval by December 2017.

Summary

The proposed programming recommendations for the M2 ECP Tier 1 Water Quality Grant Program are presented for approval. Funding for 16 projects, totaling \$3,130,251, in M2 funds is proposed. Staff is seeking Board approval of the programming recommendations presented.

Attachments

- A. 2017 M2 Environmental Cleanup Program Tier 1 Call for Projects – Applications Received
- B. 2017 M2 Environmental Cleanup Program Tier 1 Call for Projects – Programming Recommendations

Prepared by:



Sam Kaur
Section Manager III, Local Programs
(714) 560-5673

Approved by:



Kia Mortazavi
Executive Director, Planning
(714) 560-5741