



September 6, 2018

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs – Measure M2
Environmental Cleanup Program Revised 2018 Tier 1 Projects

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 2018-19 Tier 1 Grant Program call for projects was issued on March 12, 2018. Evaluations are now complete, and a list of projects and funding allocations are presented for review and approval.

Recommendation

Approve the revised 2018 Tier 1 Environmental Cleanup Program programming recommendations to fund 12 projects, in the amount of \$2,460,363.

Background

In May 2010, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) approved a two-tiered approach to fund the Measure M2 Project X Environmental Cleanup Program (ECP). The Tier 1 Grant Program is designed to mitigate the more visible forms of pollutants, such as litter and debris, which collect on the roadways and in the catch basins (i.e., storm drains) prior to being deposited in waterways and the ocean. The Tier 2 Grant Program consists of funding larger projects (treating catchment areas of 50 acres or greater) such as potentially multi-jurisdictional, capital-intensive structural treatment best management practice (BMP) projects.

Tier 1 funds are available for Orange County local governments to purchase equipment and upgrades for existing catch basins and other related BMPs 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 OCTA Environmental Cleanup Allocation Committee (ECAC).

To date, the Board has approved funding for 154 Tier 1 projects, totaling approximately \$20 million. An estimated 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 Grant Program in 2011.

The Board approved issuance of the 2018 ECP Tier 1 call for projects (call) on March 12, 2018. Up to \$2.8 million was made available for the 2018 call.

Discussion

The 2018 ECP Tier 1 call deadline to submit applications was May 18, 2018. Sixteen applications were submitted from 15 local agencies (City of Santa Ana submitted two project applications). Applications were reviewed and evaluated by an evaluation committee consisting of OCTA staff, the ECAC Chairman, and an additional member of the ECAC. Project applications were ranked based on the following Board-approved criteria:

- Proposed project's effectiveness at removing trash and debris;
- Cost/benefit analysis of the proposed project;
- Drainage and flowrate analysis of the proposed project;
- Operations and maintenance plan adequate to maintain the efficiency of the proposed BMPs for regularly scheduled inspections, maintenance, and cleaning/disposal of pollutants;
- Clear and detailed work plan with a specific implementation period; and
- Project readiness.

The ECAC, which met and reviewed the evaluation committee's ranking on July 12, 2018, is recommending 12 projects for funding, in the amount of \$2,460,363, based on final scores (Attachment A). These programming recommendations result in approximately \$339,637 in program savings, which would be available for future calls.

The Tier 1 projects recommended for funding primarily consist of catch basin debris screen devices. More detailed project descriptions are outlined in Attachment A, and a brief overview of project types is provided below.

- Catch basin debris screen devices (ten projects): These screens prevent debris from entering the storm drain system. This recommendation would fund the construction of 1,293 connector pipe screens, 596 automatic retractable screens, and 55 curb inlet screens;
- Underground storm water detention and infiltration system (one project): This project consists of an underground, pre-manufactured detention and infiltration system, and repaving utilizing pervious surfaces. Reinforced concrete storm water conveyance pipes will direct visible trash and debris to the detention system; and
- Bioretention basin (one project): This project consists of a bioretention basin to intercept and infiltrate dry weather nuisance and stormwater flows. The bioretention basin will intercept flows and remove pollutants, effectively preventing their entry into the storm drain system.

As part of this grant program, local agencies agree to contribute a minimum cash match of 20 percent of the total project cost.

Given the competitive nature of this program, applications were evaluated and scored based upon the thoroughness of responses to application questions related to water quality benefits of the proposed project. For this call cycle, the recommendation is to program \$2,460,363, which is less than what was authorized for this cycle. The projects that were not recommended for funding did not provide the same level of detail in terms of quantifying project benefits and requirements, compared to the projects that were ultimately recommended by the evaluation committee and the ECAC. These projects can be resubmitted in the next funding cycle.

After initially presenting this item at the August 6, 2018 Regional Planning and Highways Committee (RPH) meeting, staff discovered an error in Attachment A of the staff report, which when corrected, increased the overall programming recommendation by \$260,000 (from \$2,200,363 to \$2,460,363). As result of this correction, the item was pulled from the August 13, 2018 Board agenda. Revised programming recommendations are being submitted for RPH and Board consideration and approval.

It should be noted that these proposed revisions do not affect project scoring or the number of projects being recommended for funding. These changes have also been shared with the City of Santa Ana (who was affected by the change) and the ECAC.

Next Steps

If the revised programming recommendation is approved by the RPH and Board respectively, each funded agency will be required to execute a letter amendment prior to project implementation. OCTA will continue to monitor project status and project delivery through the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs semi-annual review process.

Summary

Staff is seeking Board approval to program \$2,460,363 to 12 projects through the Project X Tier I ECP call.

Attachment

- A. Measure M2 Environmental Cleanup Program 2018 Tier 1 Call for Projects, Revised Programming Recommendations

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