




March 4, 2019

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: 2019 Measure M2 Environmental Cleanup Program Call for Projects

Overview

The Measure M2 Environmental Cleanup Program provides grants to projects that protect Orange County waterways and beaches from roadway runoff. Updated Environmental Cleanup Program Tier 1 Call for Projects Program Guidelines are submitted for review and approval. Board of Directors' authorization is also requested to initiate the 2019 Environmental Cleanup Program Tier 1 call for projects.

Recommendations

- A. Approve the proposed revisions to Chapter 11 of the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs Guidelines.
- B. Authorize staff to issue the 2019 Environmental Cleanup Program Tier 1 call for projects for approximately \$2.8 million.

Background

The Environmental Cleanup Program (ECP) provides for the allocation of two percent of annual Measure M2 (M2) revenues to improve overall water quality in Orange County. Funding is allocated on a countywide competitive basis to assist local agencies in controlling transportation-related pollution. These funds are intended to supplement, not supplant, existing transportation-related water quality programs. Funds are awarded to priority projects that improve water quality in streams, harbors, and other waterways that have a nexus to transportation-related pollution, consistent with the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) Ordinance No. 3 (Ordinance). The Ordinance calls for establishment of an Oversight Allocation Committee to advise the Board of Directors (Board) on priorities and processes for use of these funds.

In May 2010, the Board approved a two-tiered approach to fund the M2 ECP. The Tier 1 Grant Program consists of funding for equipment purchases and upgrades to existing storm drains and related best management practices. The Tier 2 Grant Program consists of funding for regional, potentially multijurisdictional, and more capital-intensive projects.

In September 2018, the Board approved funding for 12 Tier 1 projects. To date, the Tier 1 Program has funded 166 projects, totaling approximately \$22 million. There have been two Tier 2 calls for projects (call) to date, and the program has funded 22 projects, totaling approximately \$28 million. The current call focuses on the M2 ECP Tier 1 Program.

Discussion

OCTA staff worked with local agencies and the Environmental Cleanup Allocation Committee (ECAC) to determine areas of the M2 ECP Tier 1 Program Guidelines (Guidelines) that needed to be adjusted, as well as reviewed issues that emerged out of previous calls. The proposed modifications to the Guidelines are included in Attachment A.

The proposed changes were reviewed and endorsed by the ECAC at the January 10, 2019 meeting. The changes are minimal and include the following:

- An update to the ECP Tier 1 call application schedule and identification of a \$2.8 million funding commitment to support the 2019 call, and
- An update to the acceptable formats for electronic submittal of project applications. Electronic versions of application materials should be submitted on a thumb drive or via Dropbox, rather than on a CD/DVD.

It should also be noted that 2018 call Guidelines changes, including cost/benefit analysis and targeted pollutant scoring criteria, are proposed to remain in the Guidelines. Based on the results from last year's call, the ECAC concurred that these scoring criteria proved to be effective in providing a quantitative method to score applications.

The ECAC also discussed the long-term funding disposition of the ECP. This included whether there is going to be an ongoing need for the Tier 1 funding program where the focus is to capture trash and debris. The ECAC felt that with the state's recently adopted regulations requiring more stringent trash capturing devices, there will be an ongoing need for Tier 1-funded projects well into the foreseeable future. Based upon this conclusion, the ECAC agreed that maintaining an annual \$2.8 million call for Tier 1 projects is both appropriate and sufficient. Future Tier 2 calls may also be recommended following various need assessments that are under development by the County of Orange.

Next Steps

Upon Board approval of the staff recommendations, OCTA will notify local agencies of the call, which is anticipated to commence March 11, 2019. During the call, staff will offer a workshop, tentatively scheduled for March or April 2019, and one-on-one meetings by appointment to assist local agencies with the application process. Applications will be due to OCTA on or before May 9, 2019, and staff will return to the Board with final programming recommendations by late summer 2019. Upon Board approval of final programming recommendations, funds will become available to the selected projects.

Summary

OCTA staff is recommending revisions to the Guidelines and is requesting authorization to issue the 2019 call for the ECP Tier 1 Grant Program, totaling approximately \$2.8 million.

Attachment

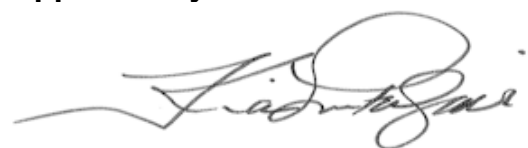
- A. Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs Guidelines Excerpt, Proposed Revisions

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