




March 2, 2020

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Measure M2 Environmental Cleanup Program - Project X Tier 1 Grant 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. Staff has updated the program implementation guidelines and is seeking authorization to release the next Environmental Cleanup Program Tier 1 call for projects.

Recommendations

- A. Approve the proposed revisions to the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs Guidelines for the Environmental Cleanup Program Tier 1 Program.
- B. Authorize staff to issue the fiscal year 2020 Environmental Cleanup Program Tier 1 call for projects.

Background

The Environmental Cleanup Program (ECP), also referred to as Project X, provides for the allocation of two percent of annual gross Measure M2 (M2) revenues to improve overall water quality in Orange County. Funding is allocated on a countywide competitive basis to assist jurisdictions 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. The ordinance requires the Environmental Cleanup Allocation Committee (ECAC) to advise the OCTA Board of Directors (Board) on priorities and processes for the use of ECP funds. The ECAC reviewed the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs (CTFP) Guidelines and the call for projects (call) on February 13, 2020.

On May 24, 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 multi-jurisdictional, capital-intensive projects.

The previous Tier 1 call was finalized by the OCTA Board on September 9, 2019, with the approval of \$2,045,234 in ECP Tier 1 funds. The Board programmed funding to support 11 successful project applications (based on the scoring criteria). To date, the Tier 1 Program has funded 177 projects, totaling approximately \$24.5 million.

Discussion

OCTA staff worked with local agencies and the ECAC to determine areas of the program guidelines that needed to be adjusted, as well as reviewed issues that emerged out of the previous calls. The proposed modifications to the program guidelines are included in Attachment A.

The proposed changes were reviewed by the ECAC at the February 13, 2020 meeting. Although the ECAC meeting did not have a quorum (seven members minimum needed out of 12), the six present ECAC members voted unanimously to endorse the changes to the CTFP Guidelines and recommend Board approval to issue the fiscal year (FY) 2020 ECP Tier 1 call. A summary of the modifications is provided below.

2020 Call Updates

- Updated ECP call application schedule and target funding availability level (approximately \$2.8 million in M2 Project X funds).

General Updates

- Revised language referencing the ECP to Project X in order to be consistent with CTFP Guidelines.
- Clarified that all proposed scope modifications must be submitted to OCTA for review and approval.

Next Steps

Following Board approval, staff anticipates notifying local agencies of the call, which is anticipated to open on March 9, 2020. During the call, staff will offer one-on-one meetings to assist local agencies with the application process. Per the recommendation of the ECAC, in addition to one-on-one meetings, staff will offer a workshop for local agencies as an additional resource. Applications

would be due to OCTA by May 7, 2020, and staff will return to the Board with programming recommendations by late summer 2020.

Awards would be effective with Board approval and become available starting in FY 2021.

Summary

OCTA staff is recommending revisions to the ECP Tier 1 CTFP Guidelines and requests authorization to issue a 2020 ECP Tier 1 call, totaling approximately \$2.8 million.

Attachments

- A. List of Proposed Revisions to the 2020 CTFP Guidelines for Project X (Chapter 11)
- B. Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs Guidelines Excerpt, Proposed Revisions

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