




October 5, 2020

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: 2020 Project X – Environmental Cleanup Program Tier 1 Call for Projects – Programming Recommendations

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority's Environmental Cleanup Program provides Measure M2 funding for water quality improvement projects to address transportation-related pollution. The fiscal year 2020-21 Tier 1 Grant Program call for projects was issued on March 9, 2020. Evaluations are now complete, and a list of projects and recommended funding allocations are presented for review and approval.

Recommendation

Approve 12 projects, in the amount of \$2,800,000, for the 2020 Tier 1 Environmental Cleanup Program Tier 1 call for projects.

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) 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 roadways and in catch basins (i.e., storm drains) prior to being deposited in waterways and the ocean. The Tier 2 Grant Program provides funding for larger (i.e., treating catchment areas of 50 acres or greater) potentially multijurisdictional, capital-intensive structural treatment best management practice (BMP) types of projects.

Tier 1 funds are made available through a call for projects (call) to Orange County local governments to purchase equipment and provide upgrades to 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 177 Tier 1 projects, totaling approximately \$25 million. It is estimated that nearly 33 million gallons of trash have been captured since inception of the ECP in 2011. On March 9, 2020, the Board approved issuance of the current fiscal year 2020-21 ECP Tier 1 call, making available up to \$2.8 million to support a tenth call.

Discussion

The initial deadline for the ECP Tier 1 call applications was May 7, 2020. However, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and Governor Newsom's statewide stay-at-home order (issued during the call), the application deadline was extended to June 25, 2020. As of that date, 13 applications were submitted from 13 local agencies. Subsequently, the City of Lake Forest elected to withdraw their application due to anticipated budget uncertainties resulting from impacts of COVID-19. The applications were reviewed and evaluated by an application review committee consisting of OCTA staff, the ECAC Chairman, and an additional member of the ECAC. Project applications were evaluated based on key Board-approved criteria for project applications, which included the following:

- Effectiveness at removing trash and debris;
- Cost/benefit analyses;
- Pollution reducing benefits;
- Project readiness;
- Adequacy of proposed operations and maintenance plans; and
- Submission of clear and detailed work plans with specific implementation timing documented.

The ECAC met on September 10, 2020, and at that meeting the ECAC approved recommending to the Board that 12 projects be awarded ECP Tier 1 funds, in an amount equaling \$2,800,000. The projects that are recommended for funding primarily consist of catch basin debris screen devices, including 1,346 connector pipe screens (CPS), 963 automatic retractable screens (ARS) devices, 32 catch basin inlet filters, one trash interceptor, one debris separating baffle box, and one continuous deflection separator.

All 12 projects met overall program objectives and satisfied key Board-approved criteria for project applications (listed above).

A brief overview of the project types that are recommended for funding is provided below. Attachment A includes project-specific information, final scores, and recommended award amount.

- Catch basin debris screen devices: These devices prevent trash and debris from entering storm drain systems through catch basins and primarily consist of CPS and/or ARS types of devices.
- Catch basin inserts consist of filters inserted into storm drains and/or catch basins, which filter and remove trash and debris from storm water flowing through them.
- A trash interceptor (also referred to as a trash wheel) includes a floating boom system that captures trash and directs it toward a conveyor system that is powered by stream flow and solar power. Trash is lifted by a conveyor system and then dropped into a haul-off container, which is then collected and emptied as part of regular maintenance and operations.
- A debris-separating baffle box is an advanced storm water treatment system utilizing a non-clogging screen technology and hydrodynamic separation to capture pollutants. The non-clogging screening system stores trash and debris in a dry state, suspended above sedimentation chambers, thereby allowing for easier maintenance.
- A continuous deflection separator device, which allows storm water to be conveyed through 5mm-diameter perforated metal sheets while trapping trash, debris, and solids for subsequent maintenance and removal.

As part of this program, local agencies agree to contribute a minimum cash match of 20 percent of total project costs. All recommended projects meet this requirement and are recommended for programming approval.

Next Steps

If these programming recommendations are approved by the OCTA Board, each funded agency will be required to execute a letter amendment to the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs (CTFP) Master Agreement prior to project implementation. OCTA will then monitor project status and implementation through the CTFP semi-annual review process.

Summary

In order to assist local agencies in delivering projects that support water quality improvements related to transportation infrastructure, staff is seeking Board approval to program \$2,800,000 in ECP funds to 12 local agency projects.

Attachment

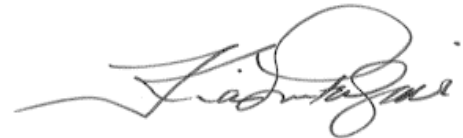
A. Project X 2020 Tier 1 Call for Projects, Programming Recommendations

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