




**October 6, 2025**

**To:** Regional Transportation Planning Committee

**From:** Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

**Subject:** Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs – Project X  
Tier 1 2025 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-generated pollution. The 2025 Tier 1 Grant Program call for projects was issued on March 10, 2025. Evaluations of the grant applications are now complete, and a list of projects is presented for Board of Directors' review and approval.

### **Recommendation**

Approve the award of \$3,088,766 in Tier 1 Environmental Cleanup Program funding for eight 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 prior to being deposited in waterways and the ocean. The Tier 2 grant program provides funding for larger, multi-jurisdictional, capital-intensive structural treatment best management practice (BMP) types of projects.

Tier 1 funding, which is the focus of the most recent call for projects (call), is available for Orange County local jurisdictions to purchase and install equipment and other related BMPs that supplement, not supplant, current water quality programs. 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 OCTA's Environmental Cleanup Allocation Committee (ECAC).

To date, the Board has approved funding for 233 Tier 1 projects, totaling over \$40 million. It is estimated that over 80 million gallons of trash have been captured since inception of the ECP in 2011. On March 10, 2025, the Board approved issuance of the current 2025 ECP Tier 1 call, making available approximately \$3.5 million to support a 15th call for the Tier 1 program.

### ***Discussion***

The ECP Tier 1 call application deadline was May 8, 2025. As of that date, nine applications were submitted from nine local jurisdictions. However, one application was withdrawn during the evaluation process due to the applicant's financial constraints. The remaining eight applications were reviewed and evaluated by an application review committee consisting of OCTA staff and two ECAC members. Project applications were evaluated based on Board-approved selection criteria, 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.

On August 14, 2025, the ECAC was provided with the application review committee's conclusions and staff's recommendation that eight projects totaling \$3,088,766 be considered by the Board for funding (Attachment A). The members of the ECAC, which lacked a quorum to formally recommend approval to the Board, did not raise any concerns regarding the recommendations. At the discretion of the Chair of the ECAC, this item is being advanced to the Board for approval.

The Tier 1 projects being recommended for funding primarily consist of various catch basin debris screen devices including 904 connector pipe screens (CPS), 381 automatic retractable screens (ARS), 30 full trash capture (FTC) units, four grated inlet trash screens (GITS), 54 brush inlet screens (BIS), as well as one trash rover and two hydrodynamic separators (HDS).

More detailed project descriptions and visual samples are provided in Attachments B and C, respectively. A brief overview of these project types is also provided below.

- Catch basin debris screen devices: These devices prevent debris from entering the storm drain system through catch basins and primarily consist of CPS, ARS, FTC, GITS, and BIS type devices.
- A trash rover is a mechanical device that can be deployed in larger enclosed bodies of water, such as bays and harbors, and is designed to collect floating waste autonomously and/or manually via remote control.
- An HDS utilizes a combination of swirl concentration and indirect screening to separate and capture trash and debris. The filtered water then passes into the separation area where suspended solids can settle, and runoff passes through. Trash and debris are captured and contained within the screen enclosure and vacuumed during maintenance.

As part of the Tier 1 program, local jurisdictions agree to contribute a minimum cash match of 20 percent of total project costs. All recommended projects meet or exceed this requirement.

#### **Next Steps**

Upon Board approval, each funded jurisdiction will be required to execute a letter amendment (to their existing M2 Master Funding Agreement with OCTA). Unless pre-award authority is requested, an executed letter amendment must be in place prior to project implementation. Once this process is complete, OCTA will initiate project monitoring and Board reporting through the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs semi-annual review and M2 quarterly reporting processes.

#### **Summary**

The OCTA ECP provides grant funding to local jurisdictions for projects that support water quality improvements related to transportation infrastructure. The 2025 Tier 1 call has concluded, and staff is recommending Board approval to program \$3,088,766 in ECP funds to eight local jurisdiction projects.

***Attachments***

- A. 2025 Project X Tier 1 Call for Projects – Programming Recommendations
- B. 2025 Project X Tier 1 Call for Projects – Project Summaries
- C. Visual Samples of Recommended Best Management Practice, Tier 1 Project Types

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