



Minutes

Measure M2 Environmental Cleanup Allocation Committee

Committee Members Present:

Mary Anne Skorpanich Chair O.C. Watersheds
Vice-Chair Garry Brown, O.C. Coastkeeper
Scott Carroll, Costa Mesa Sanitary District
Gene Estrada, City of Orange
Keith Linker, City of Anaheim
Mark Tettemer, Irvine Ranch Water District
Laurie Walsh, San Diego RWQCB
Dennis Wilberg, City of Mission Viejo
Marwan Youssef, City of Westminster

Orange County Transportation
Authority
600 South Main Street, Room 103/104
Orange, California
July 9, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Committee Member(s) Absent:

Doug Houston, University of California, Irvine
Jill Ingram, City of Seal Beach
Hector Salas, Caltrans District 12
Sat Tamarbuchi, Environmental Consultant
Vacant, Santa Ana RWQCB

Orange County Transportation Authority Staff Present:

Alison Army, Senior Transportation Analyst
Kirk Avila, OCTA Treasurer
Marissa Espino, Community Relations Officer
Janice Kadlec, Public Reporter
Charlie Larwood, Manager of Planning and Analysis
Dan Phu, Project Development Section Manager

1. Welcome

Chair Mary Anne Skorpanich welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Approval of the June 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Chair Mary Anne Skorpanich asked if anyone had additions or corrections to the June 11, 2015 meeting minutes. Alison Army explained a correction to the minutes requested by a committee member. A motion was made by Mark Tettemer, seconded by Marwan Youssef, and carried unanimously to approve the June 11, 2015 minutes as corrected.

3. Tier 1 Call for Projects Funding Recommendations

Alison Army reported OCTA received 22 Tier 1 applications from 21 agencies. The evaluation committee is recommending 18 projects for funding, totaling \$2,865,899.

Pending ECAC endorsement and OCTA Board approval, all cities in Orange County except for the City of Los Alamitos will have received funds through the Tier 1 program.

Marwan Youssef asked what the weakness was in Los Alamitos' application. Alison Army said they did not respond adequately to most questions in the application and the same response was repeated on multiple questions.

Charlie Larwood said he believes staff, along with consultant support, has helped the cities as much as they can, but once the application deadline has passed, the applications are evaluated as submitted.

Mark Tettemer said since everyone has now applied for funding from the program at some time, the committee should consider no longer awarding points to the applicant's priority project. All applications should compete at the same level.

Garry Brown said he sees great disparities in the quality of the applications. His concern is that an application prepared by a very good staff person who writes exceptional applications would be awarded time after time before the average applicant. Also, most of the cities who have one, two, three, or four projects usually the second, third, or fourth projects are extensions of the first project. If there was more consistency in the quality of the applications he would not have any concern with removing the 15 points given to an applicant's priority project.

Gene Estrada said he would like every city to be able to get funds from the grant, but they should note this is a competitive grant. People need to spend a little time and effort to do a complete application. He is surprised Los Alamitos scored so low especially with the time OCTA staff spent with them.

Chair Mary Anne Skorpanich asked Garry Brown if he felt they were getting good quality projects even with the extra points being given. Garry Brown said he felt the cities that scored high deserved to be funded.

A motion was made by Gene Estrada, seconded by Marwan Youssef and passed unanimously to endorse staff's recommendation to fund 18 projects totaling \$2,865,899 for the Measure M2 Environmental Cleanup Program Tier 1 funding program.

4. M2 Revenue/Expenditures Update

Dan Phu and Kirk Avila gave an overview of the M2 expenditures and anticipated revenues as they relate to the Environmental Cleanup Program.

A committee member asked how much time is allowed to complete a project. Dan Phu said three years is given to complete a project. In March and September of each year, applicants must undergo a semi-annual review process at this time they must report progress on their funded project. Also, at this time, a funding recipient may request a one-time extension for their project.

Laurie Walsh asked if the Measure M money had been paid out. Dan Phu said the first two rounds of Tier 1 funding has mostly been paid out. The maximum grant amount for the first two rounds of Tier 1 funding was \$100,000 per project. For the third and fourth rounds the maximum was \$200,000 per project.

Laurie Walsh asked if people are typically asking for an extension. Dan Phu said not for the Tier 1 program.

Keith Linker asked what happens to any left over money. Dan Phu said any money left on the table would go back into the pool for the next round of funding.

Marwan Youssef asked if bonding costs the program any money. Dan Phu said yes. Every dollar borrowed costs approximately two dollars.

Laurie Walsh asked if points can be given to any applicant whose project is shelf ready. Dan Phu said this is something they are looking into.

Dan Phu introduced OCTA Treasurer Kirk Avila who gave an overview the program's expenditures and anticipated revenues.

Charlie Larwood asked how much money is anticipated to come in on a yearly basis for Measure M2 Project X. Kirk Avila said based upon the latest forecast, the program should get \$6.4 million this year and steadily increase each year by 4% to 4.5% each year.

Gene Estrada asked how much money is available to date for Tier 1 and Tier 2 without bonding. Kirk Avila said they have collected approximately \$24 million.

Laurie Walsh asked how much time it would take to bond. Kirk Avila said the financing process takes approximately six months. However, based on the revenues pay outs expected, they would look at alternatives other than financing.

There was no item 5 and no item 6. Agenda was numbered incorrectly.

7. Public Comments

No one from the public spoke.

8. Committee Member Reports

Garry Brown asked for a future discussion on the potential for applicants to be allowed to apply for one large project and if awarded, OCTA would allocated funds over multiple years, rather than the applicant segmenting the project into multiple applications.

9. Next Meeting – TBD