



## ***Minutes***

### ***Measure M2 Environmental Oversight Committee***

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#### **Committee Members**

*Chair Lori Donchak, Chairman  
Melanie Schlotterbeck, Vice Chairman  
Charles Baker, Caltrans District 12  
Lisa Bartlett, OCTA Board of Directors  
Dr. David Chapel, Brandman University  
Veronica Li, US Army Corp of Engineers  
David Mayer, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife  
Derek McGregor, DMc Engineering  
Dan Silver, Endangered Habitats League  
Jonathan Snyder, US Fish & Wildlife  
Anthony Villa, Taxpayers Oversight Comm.  
John Walsh, CA Wildlife Conservation Brd.*

*Orange County Transportation Authority  
600 South Main Street, Room 154  
Orange, California  
September 2, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.*

#### **1. Welcome**

Chairman Lori Donchak called the Environmental Oversight Committee (EOC) meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Chairman Donchak introduced the new Taxpayers Oversight Committee (TOC) Representative – Anthony Villa. She asked each EOC member to introduce themselves and give a little background about their position on the EOC.

#### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice-Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **3. Approval of August 5, 2015 minutes**

Chairman Lori Donchak asked if there were any additions or corrections to the August 5, 2015 EOC meeting minutes. A motion was made by Melanie Schlotterbeck, seconded by Lisa Bartlett, and passed unanimously to approve the August 5, 2015 EOC meeting minutes as presented.

#### **4. M2 10-Year Review Discussion**

Marissa Espino gave a brief overview of the reasoning behind the current review of the program. The M2 Ordinance No. 3 requires that a review of the program take place at least every 10 years. Tamara Warren, Manager of the program management office said the M2 10-Year Review is currently underway and OCTA would like to share the progress of the M2 review and seek the EOC's input on the overall M2 program.

Lisa Bartlett asked what type of improvements were being made to the bus stops. Tamara Warren said within Measure M there is a project identified (Project W – The Safe Stops Program) which provides for improvements to the top 100 busiest bus stops. These improvements would be for things to improve amenities for the passengers such as provide shelters, provide lighting, provide better signage or whatever is needed.

Alice Rogan, Manager of Public Outreach, reported on the outreach efforts for the M2 10 Year Review.

Chairman Lori Donchak asked Tamara Warren about extending the carpool lanes on the I-5. She asked if this could be a bonus project similar to the M1 bonus project Tamara Warren mentioned earlier. Could this project be included into the 10-year Review as something important to be looking at if there were extra resources? Warren said it certainly could. Although OCTA is looking at the M2 Program as being a very tight program and they are not at the point of looking at adding projects, but this doesn't mean it could not be put on the sidelines. Chair Lori Donchak said she would like to see this project captured somehow in the M2 Program just in case. It would have some bearing on the EOC in terms of the mitigation which would be needed.

Dan Silver asked what is meant by "gallons saved." Dan Phu said, under the Water Quality Program, the Board has already recognized 126 projects since 2011. These projects are broken up into two tiers. Tier 1 projects are targeted to fund projects that remove trash and debris. The Tier 2 program is meant to improve the quality of the water by cleaning up watersheds.

Melanie Schlotterbeck asked if the project construction costs have settled down or is this still a huge variable. Tamara Warren said construction costs are always a variable. They go up and down. Currently they have been pretty level however there is concern from the project delivery staff on cost escalation of materials. It is always a factor and staff is watching it carefully.

Melanie Schlotterbeck asked if she heard the quote right "two thirds of the Freeway Program projects will be either done or started by 2020." Tamara Warren said they will be in construction or completed by 2020. When she says two thirds she is looking at the project on a financial level. So financially two thirds of the program revenue will be expended.

Melanie Schlotterbeck asked if the Freeway Program was prioritized before other Measure M projects. Tamara Warren said forty-three percent of the funds are Freeway Program funds but all the Measure M funds A through X have moved forward.

Melanie Schlotterbeck asked if there is a list of what has been funded in the Streets and Roads Program. Tamara Warren said on the OCTA Website you can find out

which cities have received funds through the Competitive Streets and Roads Program. She believed it is listed by city.

Melanie Schlotterbeck asked if there was a deadline to make comments on the program. Tamara Warren said they intend to take the final report to the Board in October so any time before this date would be fine.

Alice Rogan asked for feedback about the program:

- OCTA is a good partner with Riverside, Los Angeles, etc.
- M2 signs (re tax dollars at work) are very good
- Don't let water from freeway landscaping run onto the roadways.
- This program has done very well but not by accident – Staff is great
- Need to look at the last mile route reductions that took place during the recession.
- Look at mass transit options
- Look at mass transit options in South County
- Because El Nino is supposed to happen next year the water program should take another look at the culverts and drains in Orange County.

#### **5. Restoration Projects Update**

Lesley Hill, OCTA, introduced: Milan Mitrovich, Science Coordinator, Nature Reserve of Orange County and Margot Griswold, Senior Restoration Ecologist. They gave an update on the University of California, Irvine Ecological Reserve Restoration Project.

The University of California, Irvine Ecological Reserve Restoration Project was funded through the Measure M Freeway Environmental Mitigation Program in 2010. A total of \$325,000 was funded to the Nature Reserve of Orange County to restore cactus scrub.

There was a discussion on whether or not strip planting is the most cost effective method to move cactus.

#### **6. Interim Land Management Status**

Lesley Hill gave a status report on the interim land management status. It is anticipated the upcoming rainy season may result in an El Nino year. OCTA is taking a proactive approach to address land maintenance issues that may require immediate attention.

#### **7. Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

#### **8. Committee Member Reports**

The following was discussed:

- Signage alerting drivers school is back in session – stay alert.

- Riverside County Transportation Commission is hosting a Transportation Summit
- California Senate Bill SBX 1-1 has an amendment for wildlife corridors
- OCTA did host a group looking at the Puma/mountain lion corridors and coordinating with other neighboring agencies.

**9. Next Meeting – October 7, 2015**

The next EOC meeting will be October 7, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.

**10. Closed Session**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 to discuss the price and terms of payment for the acquisition of the Aliso Canyon property.

The negotiator for OCTA is Dan Phu. The negotiator for the Aliso Canyon property is specified below:

- Aliso Canyon (APN – 056-240-66), Mr. Lanny Winberry

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.