



Environmental Cleanup Allocation Program

Fast Facts



Enhancing Water Quality for Orange County's Future



Program Description & Objectives

The Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) Environmental Cleanup Program (Program), provides for the allocation of approximately \$274 million to improve overall water quality in Orange County from transportation-generated pollution. The Program was approved under Orange County Measure M2 (M2), the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements approved by Orange County voters in 2006.

In August 2007, the OCTA Board of Directors (Board) approved a five-year M2 Early Action Plan, covering the years 2007 to 2012, to advance the implementation of several key M2 projects, including the water quality program.

Program Funding

Program funds will be allocated on a countywide competitive basis to assist jurisdictions in meeting the Clean Water Act for controlling transportation-generated pollution. The funds are designed to supplement, not supplant, existing transportation-related water quality programs. Funding allocation is designated to improve upon and not replace existing pollution reduction efforts.

Eligible applicants include city and county agencies such as planning departments, public works agencies, recreational departments, etc. Third parties, such as water and wastewater public entities, environmental resource organizations, nonprofit 501(c) environmental institutions, and homeowners associations cannot act as the lead agency for a proposed project, however, these agencies can jointly apply with a County city and/or the County of Orange.

Funds will be awarded to the highest priority projects that improve water quality in streams, harbors, and other waterways that have a nexus to transportation-generated pollution.

Environmental Cleanup Allocation Committee

The Environmental Cleanup Allocation Committee (Allocation Committee) is responsible for developing the Program and making funding recommendations to the Board. Comprised of 12 voting and two non-voting members, the Allocation Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis since November 2007.

Tier 1 Grant Program

In May 2010, the Board approved the recommended Allocation Committee's two-tier grant funding approach. The Tier 1 Grant Program is designed to mitigate the more visible form of pollutants, such as litter and debris that collects on roadways and in storm drains prior to being deposited in waterways and the ocean. Tier 1 consists of funding for equipment purchases and upgrades to existing catch basins and related best management practices (BMPs) such as screens, filters, inserts and other street-scale low-flow diversion projects.

A total of up to \$19.5 million is available for the Tier 1 program over a seven-year window from fiscal year 2011-12 through fiscal year 2017-18. The first Tier 1 program call for projects for \$2.8 million is expected to be issued in February 2011 with an award of funding to projects in spring 2011. Project implementation is anticipated in summer 2011.

Tier 2 Grant Program

The Tier 2 Grant Program consists of funding regional, potentially multi-jurisdictional, capital-intensive projects. Examples include constructed wetlands, detention/infiltration basins and bioswales, which mitigate pollutants including litter and debris, but also heavy metals, organic chemicals, sediment and nutrients.

The Tier 2 program will be funded beginning in fiscal year 2012-13 using bond financing revenues with up to \$38 million allocated through fiscal year 2015-16. Beyond 2015-16, funding will be based on a pay-as-you-go basis. The first call for projects for Tier 2 is expected to be issued in Spring 2012.

Contact Us

For more information, visit the OCTA website at www.octa.net/water or contact Hal McCutchan of OCTA at (714) 560-5759 or by e-mail at hmccutchan@octa.net.

