

Environmental Oversight Committee

November 5, 2008

Committee Members Present:

Chair Patricia Bates, OCTA Board of Directors
Cathy Green, OCTA Board of Directors
Adam Probolsky, Probolsky Research
Dan Silver, Endangered Habitats League
Jonathan Snyder, US Fish and Wildlife Services
Debbie Townsend, California Wildlife Conservation Board
Sylvia Vega, Caltrans
Erin Wilson, CA Department of Fish and Game

Committee Members Absent:

Rose Coffin, Taxpayers Oversight Committee
Stephanie Hall, US Army Corps of Engineers
Judy McKeehan, SWCA Environmental Consultants
Vice-Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck, Measure M Support Groups

Orange County Transportation Authority Staff Present:

Kirk Avila
Ellen Burton
Marissa Espino
Monte Ward

Members of the Public:

1. Welcome

Chair Patricia Bates welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Minutes

A motion was made by Cathy Green and seconded by Adam Probolsky to approve the October 1, 2008 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

3. New Member Announcement

Chair Bates announced the EOC would be receiving a new member; Rose Coffin of the Taxpayers Oversight Committee would be joining the EOC in December.

4. Master Agreement and Planning Agreement Update

Monte Ward, OCTA Director of Special Projects gave the Committee members a draft of the Master Agreement for the Freeway Mitigation Program. He highlighted areas in the Agreement that needed to be clarified.

Chair Patricia Bates asked members to give Monte Ward or Marissa Espino any of their comments on this document. Chair Bates also asked staff to copy any comments received to all Committee members.

5. Public Outreach Update

Marissa Espino, OCTA Senior Community Relations Specialist gave the Committee members draft copies of information going out to the public asking for input on habitat conservation sites in Orange County. This information included an introductory letter, a form for information on the habitat sites, and a mailing list of organizations who would get the information.

Dan Silver asked if the mail list included the groups that had made presentations to the EOC. Marissa said yes, all the groups were on the mail list. Monte Ward noted it had been suggested OCTA do workshops, there are organizations where workshops would be well received. This would be a great opportunity, if anyone had any recommendations please tell staff. Chair Patricia Bates suggested the South Orange County Chamber of Commerce would be a good choice.

Sylvia Vega asked if staff could provide the members with a matrix of information from the groups who presented projects to the EOC. Marissa Espino said she would put a matrix together and distribute it to the Committee members.

6. M2 Sales Tax Revenue Status

Kirk Avila, OCTA Treasurer, gave a report on Measure M2 Sales Tax Revenue Status, which included revised projections and assumptions. Kirk distributed a copy of the Status Report to the Committee members.

Monte Ward had two observations: The downtrend has happened before in the early 1990's and it eventually recovered. There have also been reductions in property values, which would reduce costs of projects.

Chair Patricia Bates asked if there were any further comments. Monte Ward said he would like to point out that the Commercial Paper Program used to finance the environmental program is relatively well positioned.

Dan Silver asked if he was right in assuming there will be no change in the mid-2009 potential ability to begin early acquisitions? Monte said the economy will not affect the schedule – it would affect the amount of money available for the first funding cycle. It could be made up later if things turn around.

7. Public Comments

No one from the public spoke.

8. Next Meeting – December 3, 2008

9. Committee Member Reports

There were no Committee reports

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.