



Orange County Transportation Authority . 550 South Main Street . P.O. Box 14184 . Orange, California 92863-1584 . 714-560-OCTA (6282)

Meeting of March 10, 2014

### **Funding For New ACCESS Buses Gets Green Light**

The board approved funding to buy 99 cutaway buses for ACCESS service to replace the existing buses that have exceeded their useful service life. The 22-foot gasoline powered buses will cost \$11.6 million.

To purchase the new vehicles OCTA is partnering with A-Z Bus Sales, Inc. and using their existing contract, which would allow OCTA to start receiving vehicles within seven months. OCTA will also be able to include on-board cameras, enhanced fire detection and suppression systems, as well as radio communication hardware consistent with OCTA's existing fleet.



The buses being purchased are manufactured by Glaval Bus and will be similar to the existing fleet.

### **Projects To Improve Water Quality Get ABoost from Measure M Environmental Program**

The board on Monday approved allocating \$2.8 million to help improve water quality in Orange County from the Measure M Environmental Cleanup Program that awards money on a competitive basis to cities and the county for projects that reduce the impacts of water pollution related to transportation.



The OCTA board has approved a two-tier approach to funding, with Tier 1 projects focused on removing visible pollutants such as litter and debris from roads before they reach waterways and Tier 2 projects focused on detention basins and bioswales that can prevent chemicals, heavy metals and sediment from reaching the ocean.

In the current call for projects, that runs through May 16, OCTA will make \$2.8 million available countywide for Tier 1 projects that improve water quality.

An 11-member committee reviews the proposals and makes recommendations to the OCTA board. Last year, OCTA received 46 applications from 29 cities.

So far, at least \$5.6 million has been awarded for water quality projects, including a litter removal project in Newport Beach, installation of catch basin inserts and screens in Tustin and stormwater and transportation runoff abatement project in Mission Viejo, among many others throughout the county.

For more information on the Measure M water quality program, visit [www.octa.net/water](http://www.octa.net/water).

### **OCTA Is Found In Compliance At Measure M Taxpayers Oversight Committee Public Hearing**

The board received an update on the Measure M Taxpayers Oversight Committee (TOC), which conducted its 23rd annual public hearing on Measure M on Feb. 11 at OCTA headquarters. During the hearing the public was able to provide comments regarding Measure M projects.



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The TOC found that OCTA is in compliance with the approved ordinances. Specific ordinances include the M1 Countywide Traffic Improvement and Growth Management Plan and the M2 Transportation Ordinance and Investment Plan.

Measure M is administered by OCTA and is a half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements that was approved by voters in 1990 and renewed by a vote of 70 percent in 2006.

For more information about Measure M or the Taxpayers Oversight Committee, visit [www.octa.net/TOC](http://www.octa.net/TOC).