

Agenda Report

File #: 2021-1648

Agenda Date: 5/26/2021

Agenda Item No: 22.

FROM: James D. Herberg, General Manager

SUBJECT:

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the Legislative Affairs Update for the month of April 2021.

BACKGROUND

The Orange County Sanitation District's (OC San) legislative affairs program includes advocating OC San's legislative interests; sponsoring legislation (where appropriate); and seeking Local, State, and Federal funding for projects and programs. Staff will provide an update on recent legislative and grant activities.

RELEVANT STANDARDS

- Maintain influential legislative advocacy and a public outreach program
- Build brand, trust, and support with policy makers and community leaders
- Maintain collaborative and cooperative relationships with regulators, stakeholders, and neighboring communities

PROBLEM

Without a strong advocacy program, elected officials may not be aware of OC San's mission, programs, and projects and how they could be impacted by proposed legislation.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Continue to work with Local, State, and Federal officials to advocate OC San's legislative interests. Help to create/monitor legislation and grants that would benefit OC San, the wastewater industry, and the community as a whole. To assist in our relationship building activities, we will continue to reach out to our elected officials providing facility tours, one-on-one meetings, and trips to Washington D.C. and Sacramento.

RAMIFICATIONS OF NOT TAKING ACTION

If we do not work with Local, State, and Federal elected officials, legislation could be passed that negatively affects OC San and the wastewater industry as a whole. Additionally, a lack of engagement may result in missed funding opportunities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Community Funding Requests**

As part of the Congressional Community Funding Requests for directed federal spending, OC San staff has requested letters of support from our cities and fellow associations for our Headworks Rehabilitation Project. To date, OC San has received 10 letters of support. The letters have been transmitted to the OC Congressional Delegation. Staff and ENS will continue to work with the Delegation and monitor the requests and possible funding opportunities.

- **OC San Visits Sacramento Virtually for Annual Advocacy Day**

As part of our legislative outreach program, OC San's Board Chairman David Shawver and Vice-Chairman John Withers participated in a virtual State Advocacy Day. The meetings were held on April 22-23 and 29, during which current legislation, infrastructure, and funding opportunities was discussed with the Legislatures and their staff.

ATTACHMENT

The following attachment(s) may be viewed on-line at the OC San website (www.ocsan.gov) with the complete agenda package:

- Federal Update - ENS Resources
- Federal Legislative Matrix - ENS Resources
- Federal Advocacy Day Recap
- State Update - Townsend Public Affairs
- State Legislative Matrix - Townsend Public Affairs
- Grant Matrix
- Presentations LaPA Committee 05/10/2021