

Strategic Plan – Workshop #2

Rob Thompson
General Manager

Strategic Plan Workshop #2
April 16, 2025

OC SAN
ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT

1

OC San's Policy Areas

Business Principles

- ✓ Budget Control and Fiscal Discipline
- ✓ Asset Management
- ✓ Cybersecurity
- ✓ Property Management
- ✓ Organizational Advocacy and Outreach

Environmental Stewardship

- Energy Independence
- Climate and Catastrophic Event Resilience
- Food Waste Treatment
- Water Reuse
- Environmental Water Quality, Stormwater Management and Urban Runoff

Wastewater Management

- ✓ Chemical Sustainability
- Biosolids Management
- Constituents of Emerging Concern

Workplace Environment

- ✓ Resilient Staffing
- ✓ Safety and Physical Security

✓ Workshop #1 Completed • Workshop #2 Tonight

2

2

Feedback & Next Steps from Workshop #1

Policy Area	Request/Comment	Action
Budget Control and Fiscal Discipline	No additional feedback for consideration.	No action required.
Cybersecurity	Consider adding Artificial Intelligence (AI) to this Policy area.	Feedback will be considered while updating the Plan and developing the GM Work Plan.
	Consider OC San acting as a clearinghouse for sewer service providers on Cybersecurity.	Presentation provided in closed session on the collaboration taking place w/ the lead organizations.
Property Management	No feedback at this time.	No action required.
Organizational Advocacy and Outreach	No feedback at this time.	No action required.

3

3

Feedback & Next Steps Cont.

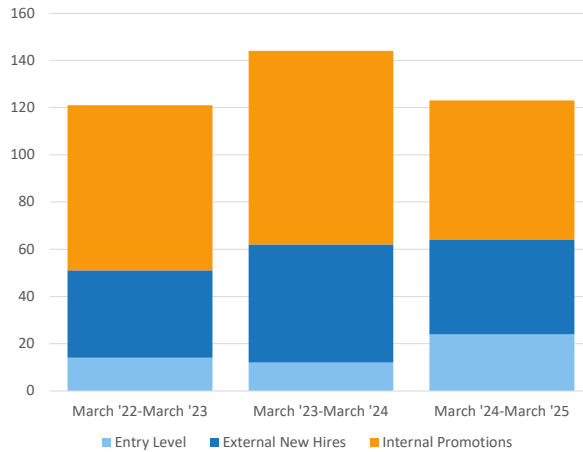
Policy Area	Request/Comment	Action
Resilient Staffing	Review efficacy of training program for promotion and retention.	Feedback will be considered while updating the Plan and developing the GM Work Plan.
Safety and Physical Security	No feedback at this time.	No action required.
Asset Management	No feedback at this time.	No action required.
Chemical Sustainability	No feedback at this time.	No action required.

4

4

OC San Recruitments – Last 3 Years

External Hires vs Internal Promotions

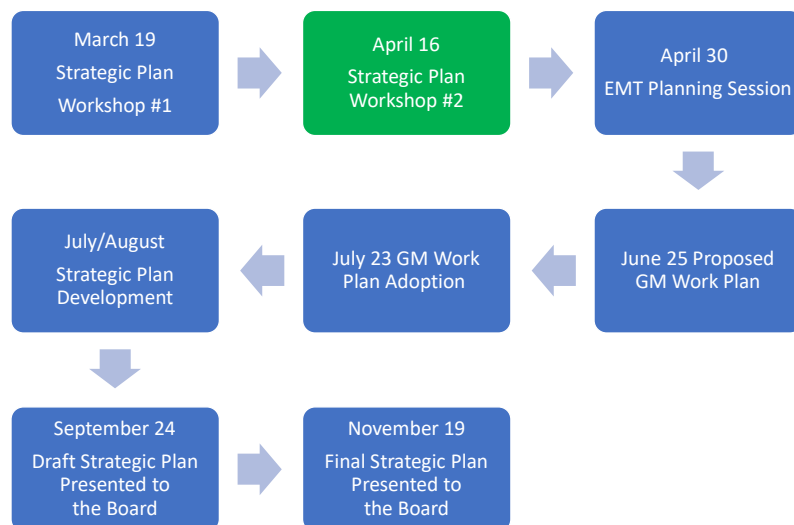


Group	External New Hires (Last 3 Years)	Promotions (Last 3 Years)	% of Vacancies Filled by Promotion (Last 3 Years)
EMT	0	5	100.0%
Managers	2	10	83.3%
Supervisors & Professionals	71	120	62.8%
Local 501	59	60	50.4%
OCEA	34	15	30.6%
Confidential	5	7	58.3%
Total	171	217	55.9%

5

5

Timeline



6

6

Policy Topics in Workshop #2

- Water Reuse
- Energy Independence
- Biosolids Management
- Climate and Catastrophic Event Resiliency
- Food Waste Treatment
- Constituents of Emerging Concern
- Environmental Water Quality, and Urban Runoff

7

7

Water Reuse

Strat. Plan Pg. 50

Policy Statement:

OC San will seek to beneficially reuse all reclaimable water for potable, industrial, irrigation and environmental uses.



8

8

Water Reuse

Initiatives

- Support Groundwater Replenishment System and maximize reclaimable wastewater availability to the Orange County Water District (OCWD).
- Support Green Acres project water production to provide reclaimed water for industrial and irrigation uses.
- Conduct a Dry Weather Urban Runoff Optimization Study in collaboration with OCWD and Orange County Public Works to identify additional opportunity to accept up to 10 MGD of dry weather urban runoff.



9

9

Energy Independence

Strat. Plan Pg. 40

Policy Statement:

OC San will strive to be energy neutral. Electrical, thermal, and methane gas generation will be maximized. Energy utilization will be minimized using sound engineering and financial principles.



OC San Battery Storage System

10

10

Energy Independence

Initiatives

- Maximize the anaerobic digestion conversion of organics to methane through receipt of food waste and operational techniques.
- Investigate and install energy storage and photovoltaic systems where practical to achieve energy independence/resilience.
- Investigate the treatment and sale of biogas to external users.

11

11

Energy Independence Cont.

Initiatives

- Continue to support the conversion of biomethane into electricity and heat for process use. Improve systems as necessary to comply with air regulations.
- Pursue technology innovation to reduce energy use, reduce transportation energy impacts, and reduce greenhouse gas impacts.
- Investigate the optimum wastewater influent flow split between Plant No. 1 and Plant No. 2 that satisfies the Orange County Water District specification water requirements and energy efficiency

12

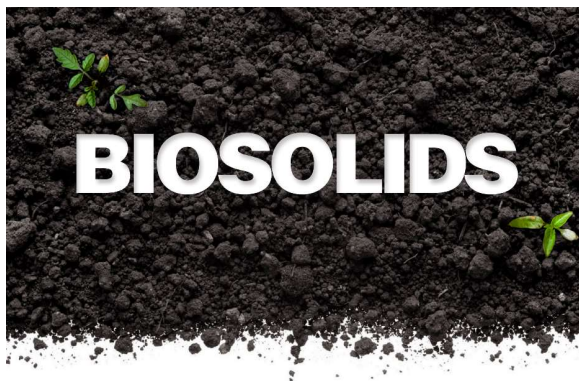
12

Biosolids Management

Policy Statement:

Strat. Plan Pg. 60

OC San will remain committed to a sustainable biosolids program and will continue the beneficial reuse of biosolids in accordance with Resolution No. OC San 13-03 and the 2017 Biosolids Master Plan.



13

13

Biosolids Management

Initiatives

- Proceed with implementation of new thermophilic biosolids facilities at Plant No. 2 to improve OC San's operational resiliency against seismic events while enhancing biosolids quality and marketability.
- Engage with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that biosolids will continue to be safely and legally used as a soil amendment.



14

14

Biosolids Management Cont.

Initiatives

- Refresh both short and long-term hauling and management options to ensure reliability and availability of failsafe options, promote local biosolids management options, and enable compliance with Advanced Clean Fleets and Greenhouse Gas reduction regulations.
- Stay abreast of new biosolids management options, technologies, and biosolids recycling and renewable energy partnerships in Southern California, with special emphasis on technologies that address the removal, sequestration, and destruction of contaminants of emerging concern, such as Supercritical Water Oxidation.

15

15

Climate and Catastrophic Event Resiliency

Strat. Plan Pg.43

Policy Statement:

OC San aims to design, maintain, and operate valuable wastewater assets that withstand or adapt to adverse conditions in a reasonable manner that is both cost-effective and sustainable for present and future generations. These adverse conditions include drought, heavy rains, flooding, sea level rise, earthquakes, tsunamis, extreme heat, wildfires, pandemic, and electrical grid interruptions.



Rob Thompson leads staff in an earthquake drill.

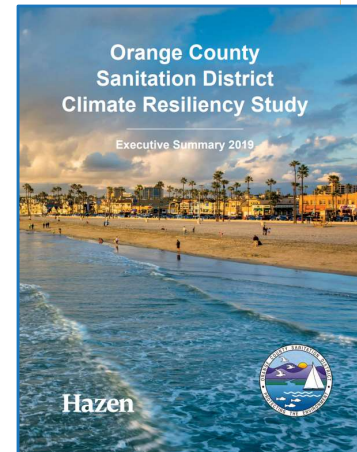
16

16

Climate and Catastrophic Event Resiliency

Initiatives

- Evaluate the seismic vulnerabilities of Plant No. 2 flow processes (primary clarifiers, activated sludge facility, and ocean outfall piping) within the plant. Determine the required improvements to maintain dry weather flow capacity after a seismic event. Incorporate necessary upgrades into future capital improvement projects.
- Complete the biannual high flow exercise to assure readiness for a high flow event. Maintain a higher level of readiness October 15 through March 15 and in advance of predicted significant rain events.



17

17

Food Waste Treatment

Strat. Plan Pg. 46

Policy Statement:

OC San The State of California limits the volume of organic waste that is diverted to landfills. The Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) will collaborate with the County of Orange, other local agencies, and waste haulers to find ways to beneficially reuse food waste, a type of organic waste to assist cities in our service area in meeting their diversion requirements while increasing OC San's energy production.



18

18

Constituents of Emerging Concern

Initiatives

- OC San will continue to actively engage water and wastewater stakeholders to stay abreast of the scientific progress and any potential operational and financial impacts of CECs and provide timely briefings to OC San's Executive Management Team and Board of Directors to facilitate informed decision making.
- OC San will continue to develop capacity to identify, detect, quantify, and characterize CEC sources throughout the service area and treatment process to promote source reduction, treatment effectiveness, communication of credible risks, and responsible reuse and disposal.

21

21

Constituents of Emerging Concern

Initiatives

- OC San will proactively establish internal expertise and develop laboratory capability to research the potential impact of CECs on beneficial reuse of water and biosolids. OC San will use science-based knowledge to help shape CEC legislation and regulations to protect the public health and environment.
- In the absence of promulgated regulatory limits for specific CECs, OC San will work with regulatory agencies to establish interim source control measures to safeguard its water and biosolids reuse initiatives and ocean discharge against potential adverse impacts.



22

22

Environmental Water Quality, Stormwater Management, and Urban Runoff Policy

Policy Statement:

Strat. Plan Pg.52

OC San will collaborate with regional stakeholders to accept up to 10 million gallons per day of dry weather urban runoff at no cost to the dischargers through its permit-based Dry Weather Urban Runoff Diversion Program (DWURD Program). The primary objective of the DWURD Program is to improve water quality in streams, rivers, and beaches in OC San's service area without adversely impacting OC San's occupational safety, collection and treatment systems, reuse initiatives, or permit compliance. Unauthorized discharge of urban runoff to OC San is strictly prohibited.



23

23

Environmental Water Quality, Stormwater Management, and Urban Runoff Policy

Initiatives

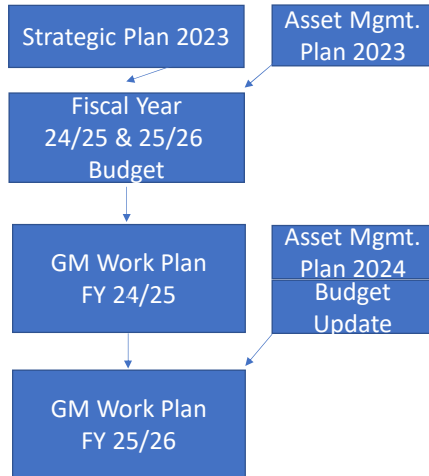
- Issue dry weather urban runoff connection permits to accept up to a total of ten million gallons per day of controlled discharge of dry weather urban runoff where existing conveyance capacity exists, and the constituents within the flow will not adversely impact OC San.
- Safeguard OC San's sanitary sewer system against uncontrolled and unregulated discharge by supporting responsible industry practices for flow management and urban runoff pollutant reduction at the source. Utilize OC San's pretreatment expertise to support effective urban runoff best management practices and special purpose discharge requests among OC San's regional stakeholders.
- Support responsible and practicable urban runoff management and reuse legislations and regulations.

24

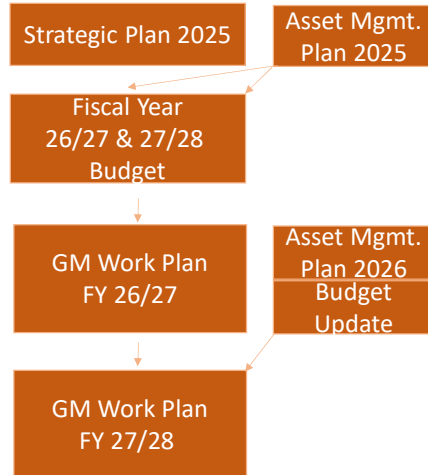
24

Strategic Planning Process

Current Planning Cycle



Next Planning Cycle



25

25

The Process

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS



26

26

Questions?

27

27