



ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Agenda Report

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File #: 2025-4140

Agenda Date: 6/11/2025

Agenda Item No: 6.

FROM: Robert Thompson, General Manager
Originator: Jennifer Cabral, Director of Communications

SUBJECT:

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2025

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend to the Board of Directors to:

Receive and file the Legislative Affairs Update for the month of May 2025.

BACKGROUND

The Orange County Sanitation District's (OC San) legislative affairs program includes advocating for OC San's legislative interests; sponsoring legislation (where appropriate); and seeking local, state, and federal funding for projects and programs.

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 for OC San's legislative interests. Help to create and monitor legislation and grants that would benefit OC San, the wastewater industry, and the community. To assist in relationship building efforts, OC San will continue to reach out to elected officials through facility tours, one-on-one meetings, and trips to Washington D.C. and Sacramento.

RAMIFICATIONS OF NOT TAKING ACTION

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Activities in May:

WIPPES Act Letter

On May 1, a letter of support for the Federal Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety (WIPPES) Act (H.R. 2269) was issued. The bill proposes to create a uniform federal “Do Not Flush” labeling requirements for non-flushable wipes packaging. This proposed bill mirrors California’s wipes labeling law and is supported by the California Association of Sanitation Agencies and its membership.

On Wednesday, May 21 the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation favorably reported out S 1092, WIPPES Act, as amended, by voice vote. The bill now goes to the Senate Floor for consideration and a vote. The House bill, HR 2269, is awaiting floor consideration.

Senate Bill (SB) 496 - Clean Fleets

On May 7, OC San submitted a letter of support for SB 496 to Senator Hurtado.

This bill would create an Advanced Clean Fleets Appeals Advisory Committee, ensure disaster service workers are able to effectively respond to emergency situations, and provide needed and common-sense reforms for compliance.

Cap and Trade Funding Request

On May 8, OC San submitted a letter to Senator Limon and Assembly Member Irwin to request the inclusion of biosolids management in the Cap-and-Trade Expenditure Plan. The letter included a request for a \$100 million discretionary allocation to support the development and deployment of innovative biosolids treatment technologies across the state.

California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) State Legislative Committee Meeting

On Friday, May 16 OC San staff and our State lobbyist attended the virtual CASA State Legislative Committee Meeting where topics discussed included bill updates, the current State budget, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) bills, and proposed legislation related to environmental concerns.

Local Lobbyist

During the month of May, Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors (WPAA) OC San’s Local Lobbyist has continued to monitor the various City Council agendas of each of OC San’s member agencies and highlighted issues and items of relevance to OC San.

Activities for June:

Federal Advocacy Days

Planning is underway for the Federal Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C. Board Chairman Gallagher, General Manager Thompson and our advocacy team are actively preparing for a scheduled trip on July 15-17. Throughout June, we’ll be focused on finalizing meeting schedules, developing key messaging, and coordinating logistics to ensure a successful and productive trip.

ATTACHMENT

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

- Federal Legislative Update
- Federal Matrix
- State Legislative Update
- State Matrix
- Local Legislative Update
- H.R. 2269, WIPPES Act - Letter of Support
- SB 496 (Hurtado) - Letter of Support
- Cap-and-Trade Funding Request
- Presentation