# 2026 Draft Legislative and Regulatory Plan



1

#### **Guiding Priorities**

- Oppose redundant regulatory and legislative requirements that impose excessive limitations on effective operations;
- Support legislative and regulatory measures that enhance affordability, safeguard public health, and ensure environmental protection;
- Maintain local control over governance of special districts and other local entities;
- Pursue financial assistance opportunities for OC San projects through grants, loans, and legislative-directed funding.

### **Legislative - Regulatory Team**

#### OC San:

- Rob Thompson
- Jennifer Cabral
- Daisy Covarrubias
- Rebecca Long
- · Lan Wiborg
- Sam Choi
- Mark Kawamoto
- Tom Meregillano

#### Consultants:

- Cori Takkinen Townsend Public Affairs
- Eric O'Donnell- Townsend Public Affairs
- Eric Sapirstein ENS Resources
- Sarah Sapirstein ENS Resources
- David French-ENS Resources
- Peter Whittingham Whittingham Public Affairs

3

#### 3

### **Legislative - Regulatory Team**





4

Δ

#### **How The Plan Is Developed**

- Committee Feedback Throughout the Year
- Obtain Feedback From OC San Staff/Subject Matter Experts
- Work with State and Federal Lobbyist
- Share with Various Organizations:
  - California Association of Sanitation Agencies
  - California Special Districts Association
  - Orange County Water District
  - Municipal Water District of Orange County
  - Irvine Ranch Water District
- Committee Review and Input
- Board Adoption in November

5

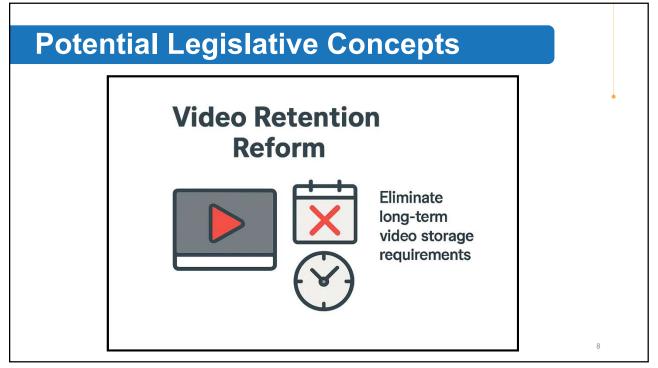
5

#### 2026 Plan Highlights

- Secure Infrastructure Funding Advocate for federal and state grants, loans, and financing tools (SRF, WIFIA, tax-exempt bonds) to modernize wastewater facilities, expand water recycling, and strengthen resiliency against climate impacts.
- PFAS & Emerging Contaminants Support federal and state policies that reduce non-essential PFAS
  use, shift cleanup responsibility to producers, and secure liability exemptions for wastewater
  agencies.
- Climate & Resiliency Advance funding and legislation to address sea level rise, drought, seismic
  events, and wildfires while supporting clean energy, carbon reduction, and sustainable biosolids
  management.
- Water Reuse Protection Oppose legislation that threatens the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) and promote recycled water credits in statewide conservation policies.
- **Bid & Contracting Reforms** Pursue legislation to relieve outdated bid advertising requirements and raise contracting thresholds, giving OC San more flexibility and cost savings.
- Local Control & Governance Defend the independence of special districts, oppose unfunded
  mandates, and support modernized, cost-efficient transparency tools such as flexible video retention
  and virtual meeting options.

6





### **Final Plan**

- Provide comments/direction in preparation for the final document.
- Recommend to the Board of Directors to:
  - Adopt the OC San 2026 Legislative and Regulatory Plan at the November Board Meeting.



9

9

## **Questions?**