



ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND ATTENDANCE AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 361 on September 16, 2021, which, in part, addresses the conduct of public meetings in light of the continued State of Emergency order.

Effective October 1, 2021, AB 361 suspends the requirements located in California Government Code, Section 54953, Subdivision (b), Paragraph (3) specifically pertaining to the conduct of public meetings. As such, the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) Board of Directors has determined that due to the size of OC San's Board of Directors (25), and the health and safety of the members, the Board of Directors will be participating in meetings of the Board telephonically and via Internet accessibility.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Your participation is always welcome. OC San offers several ways in which to interact during meetings. You will find information as to these opportunities below.

ONLINE MEETING PARTICIPATION

You may join the meeting live via Teams on your computer or similar device or web browser by using the link below:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

We suggest testing joining a Teams meeting on your device prior to the commencement of the meeting. For recommendations, general guidance on using Teams, and instructions on joining a Teams meeting, [please click here](#).

Please mute yourself upon entry to the meeting. Please raise your hand if you wish to speak during the public comment section of the meeting. The Clerk of the Board will call upon you by using the name you joined with.

Meeting attendees are not provided the ability to make a presentation during the meeting. Please contact the Clerk of the Board at least 48 hours prior to the meeting if you wish to present any items. Additionally, camera feeds may be controlled by the meeting moderator to avoid inappropriate content.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING BY TELEPHONE

To join the meeting from your phone: Dial (213) 279-1455
When prompted, enter the Phone Conference ID: 714 120 108#

All meeting participants may be muted during the meeting to alleviate background noise. If you are muted, please use *6 to unmute. You may also mute yourself on your device.

Please raise your hand to speak by use *5, during the public comment section of the meeting. The Clerk of the Board will call upon you by using the last 4 digits of your phone number as identification.

NOTE: All attendees will be disconnected from the meeting at the beginning of Closed Session. If you would like to return to the Open Session portion of the meeting, please login or dial-in to the Teams meeting again and wait in the Lobby for admittance.

VIEW THE MEETING ONLINE ONLY

The meeting will be available for online viewing only at:

<https://ocsd.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

HOW TO SUBMIT A COMMENT

You may provide verbal comment in real time during the meeting. In order to provide a verbal comment, please raise your hand as described above or alert the Clerk of the Board before or during the public comment period.

You may also submit your comments and questions in writing for consideration in advance of the meeting by using the eComment feature available online at: <https://ocsd.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> or sending them to OCSanClerk@ocsan.gov with the subject line "PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM # (insert the item number relevant to your comment)" or "PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEM".

You may also submit comments and questions for consideration during the meeting by using the eComment feature available online at: <https://ocsd.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. The eComment feature will be available for the duration of the meeting.

All written public comments will be provided to the legislative body and may be read into the record or compiled as part of the record.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT PRIOR TO AND DURING MEETINGS

For technical assistance before and during the meeting, please call 714-593-7431. For any other questions and/or concerns, please contact the Clerk of the Board's office at 714-593-7433. Thank you, in advance, for your patience in working with these technologies. We appreciate your interest in OC San!

May 2, 2022

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

**LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT**

Monday, May 9, 2022 – 4:30 P.M.

ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Your participation is always welcome. Specific information as to how to participate in this meeting is detailed in the Special Notice attached to this agenda. In general, OC San offers several ways in which to interact during meetings: you may join the meeting live via Teams on your computer or similar device or web browser, join the meeting live via telephone, view the meeting online, and/or submit comments for consideration before or during the meeting.

The Regular Meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee of the Orange County Sanitation District will be held at the above location and in the manner indicated on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.



Clerk of the Board

- Serving:*
- Anaheim
 - Brea
 - Buena Park
 - Cypress
 - Fountain Valley
 - Fullerton
 - Garden Grove
 - Huntington Beach
 - Irvine
 - La Habra
 - La Palma
 - Los Alamitos
 - Newport Beach
 - Orange
 - Placentia
 - Santa Ana
 - Seal Beach
 - Stanton
 - Tustin
 - Villa Park
 - County of Orange
 - Costa Mesa Sanitary District
 - Midway City Sanitary District
 - Irvine Ranch Water District
 - Yorba Linda Water District

LEGISLATIVE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE	BOARD MEETING DATE
Monday, 05/09/22, 4:30 p.m.	05/25/22
JUNE DARK	06/22/22
Monday, 07/11/22, 4:00 p.m.	07/27/22
AUGUST DARK	08/24/22
Monday, 09/12/22, 4:30 p.m.	09/28/22
OCTOBER DARK	10/26/22
Monday, 11/14/22, 4:30 p.m.	11/16/22 **
DECEMBER DARK	12/21/22 **
JANUARY DARK	01/25/23
Monday, 02/06/23 *	02/22/23
Monday, 03/13/23, 4:30 p.m.	03/22/23
Monday, 04/10/23, 4:00 p.m.	04/26/23

*** Meeting will be held on the first Monday of the month**

**** Meeting will be held on the third Wednesday of the month**

ROLL CALL

LEGISLATIVE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: May 9, 2022

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Adjourn: _____

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (7)

Jesus J. Silva, Chair	
Marshall Goodman, Vice-Chair	
Kim Carr, Member-At-Large	
Anthony Kuo, Member-At-Large	
Andrew Nguyen, Member-At-Large	
John Withers, Board Chair	
Chad Wanke, Board Vice-Chair	

OTHERS

Brad Hogin, General Counsel	

STAFF

Jim Herberg, General Manager	
Rob Thompson, Assistant General Manager	
Lorenzo Tyner, Assistant General Manager	
Celia Chandler, Director of Human Resources	
Kathy Millea, Director of Engineering	
Riaz Moinuddin, Director of Operations & Maintenance	
Lan Wiborg, Director of Environmental Services	
Kelly Lore, Clerk of the Board	

ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Complete Roster

Effective 03/07/2022

AGENCY/CITIES	ACTIVE DIRECTOR	ALTERNATE DIRECTOR
Anaheim	Stephen Faessel	Gloria Ma'ae
Brea	Glenn Parker	Cecilia Hupp
Buena Park	Art Brown	Connor Traut
Cypress	Paulo Morales	Anne Hertz-Mallari
Fountain Valley	Patrick Harper	Ted Bui
Fullerton	Jesus J. Silva	Nick Dunlap
Garden Grove	Steve Jones	John O'Neill
Huntington Beach	Kim Carr	Dan Kalmick
Irvine	Anthony Kuo	Farrah N. Khan
La Habra	Rose Espinoza	Steve Simonian
La Palma	Marshall Goodman	Nitesh Patel
Los Alamitos	Ron Bates	NONE
Newport Beach	Brad Avery	Joy Brenner
Orange	Kim Nichols	Chip Monaco
Placentia	Chad Wanke	Ward Smith
Santa Ana	Johnathan Ryan Hernandez	Nelida Mendoza
Seal Beach	Sandra Massa-Lavitt	Schelly Sustarsic
Stanton	David Shawver	Carol Warren
Tustin	Ryan Gallagher	Austin Lumbard
Villa Park	Chad Zimmerman	Robert Collacott

Sanitary/Water Districts

Costa Mesa Sanitary District	Bob Ooten	Art Perry
Midway City Sanitary District	Andrew Nguyen	Mark Nguyen
Irvine Ranch Water District	John Withers	Douglas Reinhart
Yorba Linda Water District	Brooke Jones	Ted Lindsey

County Areas

Board of Supervisors	Donald P. Wagner	Doug Chaffee
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LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Regular Meeting Agenda
Monday, May 9, 2022 - 4:30 PM
Board Room
Administration Building
10844 Ellis Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 593-7433**

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE DISABLED: If you require any special disability related accommodations, please contact the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) Clerk of the Board's office at (714) 593-7433 at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting. Requests must specify the nature of the disability and the type of accommodation requested.

AGENDA POSTING: In accordance with the requirements of California Government Code Section 54954.2, this agenda has been posted outside the main gate of the OC San's Administration Building located at 10844 Ellis Avenue, Fountain Valley, California, and on the OC San's website at www.ocsan.gov not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting date and time above. All public records relating to each agenda item, including any public records distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting to all, or a majority of the Board of Directors, are available for public inspection in the office of the Clerk of the Board.

AGENDA DESCRIPTION: The agenda provides a brief general description of each item of business to be considered or discussed. The recommended action does not indicate what action will be taken. The Board of Directors may take any action which is deemed appropriate.

MEETING AUDIO: An audio recording of this meeting is available within 24 hours after adjournment of the meeting at <https://ocsd.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> or by contacting the Clerk of the Board at (714) 593-7433.

NOTICE TO DIRECTORS: To place items on the agenda for a Committee or Board Meeting, the item must be submitted in writing to the Clerk of the Board: Kelly A. Lore, MMC, (714) 593-7433 / klore@ocsan.gov at least 14 days before the meeting.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS ON THE AGENDA, BOARD MEMBERS MAY CONTACT STAFF AT:

General Manager: Jim Herberg, jherberg@ocsan.gov / (714) 593-7300
Asst. General Manager: Lorenzo Tyner, ltyner@ocsan.gov / (714) 593-7550
Asst. General Manager: Rob Thompson, rthompson@ocsan.gov / (714) 593-7310
Director of Human Resources: Celia Chandler, cchandler@ocsan.gov / (714) 593-7202
Director of Engineering: Kathy Millea, kmillea@ocsan.gov / (714) 593-7365
Director of Environmental Services: Lan Wiborg, lwiborg@ocsan.gov / (714) 593-7450
Director of Operations & Maintenance: Riaz Moinuddin, rmoinuddin@ocsan.gov / (714) 593-7269

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Clerk of the Board

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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REPORTS:

The Committee Chairperson and the General Manager may present verbal reports on miscellaneous matters of general interest to the Directors. These reports are for information only and require no action by the Directors.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Consent Calendar Items are considered to be routine and will be enacted, by the Committee, after one motion, without discussion. Any items withdrawn from the Consent Calendar for separate discussion will be considered in the regular order of business.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2022-2291](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee held April 11, 2022.

Originator: Kelly Lore

Attachments: [Agenda Report](#)
[04-11-2022 LaPA Committee Minutes](#)

NON-CONSENT:

2. PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2022 [2022-2287](#)

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend to the Board of Directors to:

Receive and file the Public Affairs Update for the month of April 2022.

Originator: Jim Herberg

Attachments: [Agenda Report](#)
[Outreach and Media Summary Report - April 2022](#)
[OC Register CA Water Edition 2022](#)
[Wastewater 101 - Citizens Academy \(Virtual\)](#)
[Doing Business with OC San](#)

3. PUBLIC AFFAIRS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020-2022 YEAR-END REPORT [2022-2296](#)

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend to the Board of Directors to:

Receive and file the Public Affairs Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2020 - 2022 Year-End Report.

Originator: Jim Herberg

Attachments: [Agenda Report](#)
[Public Affairs Strategic Plan FY 2020-2022](#)
[Presentation - PAO Strat Plan Yr End Report](#)

4. LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2022 [2022-2281](#)

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend to the Board of Directors to:

Receive and file the Legislative Affairs Update for the month of April 2022.

Originator: Jim Herberg

Attachments: [Agenda Report](#)
[Federal Legislative Update - ENS Resources](#)
[Federal Legislative Matrix - ENS Resources](#)
[Presentation - ENS Legislative Update](#)
[State Legislative Update - TPA](#)
[State Legislative Matrix - TPA](#)
[Presentation - TPA Legislative Update](#)
[Grant Tracker 2022](#)

INFORMATION ITEMS:

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS [2022-2272](#)
2022-2024

RECOMMENDATION:

Information Item.

Originator: Jim Herberg

Attachments: [Agenda Report](#)
[Public Affairs Draft Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2022-2024](#)
[Presentation - PAO Draft Strat Plan FY22-24](#)

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

CLOSED SESSION:

None.

OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS OR SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA ITEMS, IF ANY:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS INITIATED ITEMS FOR A FUTURE MEETING:

At this time Directors may request staff to place an item on a future agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

Adjourn the Committee meeting until the Regular Meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee on July 11, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.



LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

Administration Building
10844 Ellis Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 593-7433

Agenda Report

File #: 2022-2291

Agenda Date: 5/9/2022

Agenda Item No: 1.

FROM: James D. Herberg, General Manager
Originator: Kelly A. Lore, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee held April 11, 2022.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Board of Directors Rules of Procedure, an accurate record of each meeting will be provided to the Directors for subsequent approval at the following meeting.

RELEVANT STANDARDS

- Resolution No. OC SAN 21-04

ATTACHMENT

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

- Minutes of the LaPA Committee meeting held April 11, 2022



CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee of the Orange County Sanitation District was called to order by Committee Chair Jesus J. Silva on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Administration Building of the Orange County Sanitation District. Chair Silva stated that the meeting was being held telephonically and via Internet accessibility in accordance with new provisions in California Government Code Section 54953 and Resolution No. OC SAN 22-11, due to the continued State of Emergency Order. Chair Silva announced the teleconference meeting guidelines and Director Kim Carr led the flag salute .

ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared present, as follows:

PRESENT: Jesus Silva, Marshall Goodman, Kim Carr, Anthony Kuo, Andrew Nguyen, Chad Wanke and John Withers
ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Kelly Lore, Clerk of the Board, and Mo Abiodun were present in the Board Room. Jim Herberg, General Manager; Rob Thompson, Assistant General Manager; Lorenzo Tyner, Assistant General Manager; Celia Chandler, Director of Human Resources; Kathy Millea, Director of Engineering; Riaz Moinuddin, Director of Operations and Maintenance; Lan Wiborg, Director of Environmental Services; Tanya Chong; Daisy Covarrubias; Tina Knapp; Rebecca Long; Joshua Martinez; Kelly Newell; Wally Ritchie; and Thomas Vu were in attendance telephonically.

OTHERS PRESENT: Brad Hogin, General Counsel; Eric O'Donnell, Townsend Public Affairs (TPA); and Eric Sapirstein, ENS Resources were in attendance telephonically.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

REPORTS:

Chair Silva reminded the Committee of the Special meeting of the Board of Directors to be held on April 13, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.; and that in-person tours of Plant No. 1 for the Board of Directors are currently be scheduled.

General Manager Jim Herberg did not provide a report.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2022-2237](#)

Originator: Kelly Lore

MOVED, SECONDED, AND DULY CARRIED TO:

Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee held March 14, 2022.

AYES: Jesus Silva, Marshall Goodman, Kim Carr, Anthony Kuo, Andrew Nguyen and John Withers

NOES: None

ABSENT: Chad Wanke

ABSTENTIONS: None

NON-CONSENT:

2. LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR: A.B. 1724 (STONE) WASHING MACHINES: MICROFIBER FILTRATION, A.B. 2787 (QUIRK) MICROPLASTICS IN PRODUCTS, AND A.B. 2771 (FRIEDMAN) COSMETIC PRODUCTS: SAFETY

[2022-2169](#)

Originator: Jim Herberg

Senior Public Affairs Specialist Rebecca Long provided a brief explanation of each bill.

MOVED, SECONDED, AND DULY CARRIED TO:

Approve Letters of Support for:

A. A.B. 1724 (Stone) Washing Machines: Microfiber Filtration;

B. A.B. 2787 (Quirk) Microplastics in Products; and

C. A.B. 2771 (Friedman) Cosmetic Products: Safety.

AYES: Jesus Silva, Marshall Goodman, Kim Carr, Anthony Kuo, Andrew Nguyen and John Withers

NOES: None

ABSENT: Chad Wanke

ABSTENTIONS: None

Board Vice-Chair Chad Wanke arrived at the meeting at approximately 4:16 p.m.

3. LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2022

[2022-2228](#)

Originator: Jim Herberg

In response to a question from Director Silva at a previous meeting, Mr. Herberg stated that General Counsel has opined that OC San has the capability of purchasing property from another government agency at less than fair market value when it is in the best interest of the public and both agencies are collaborating on the project, and they make the determination and agree to the price.

Eric Sapirstein, ENS Resources, provided a PowerPoint presentation which included issues regarding non-flushable wipes, Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations, PFAS/PFOA liability, and Build America/Buy America.

Eric O'Donnell, TPA, provided a PowerPoint presentation which including a general overview of the policy committee deadline,; COVID-19 regulations, key proposals in Sacramento, Executive Order N-7-22 (Drought Order), and priority legislation of interest for 2022.

MOVED, SECONDED, AND DULY CARRIED TO: Recommend to the Board of Directors to:

Receive and file the Legislative Affairs Update for the month of March 2022.

AYES: Jesus Silva, Marshall Goodman, Kim Carr, Anthony Kuo, Andrew Nguyen, Chad Wanke and John Withers

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

4. **PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2022** [2022-2232](#)

Originator: Jim Herberg

Principal Public Affairs Specialist Daisy Covarrubias provided a PowerPoint presentation which provided information regarding tours held, various events and community involvement, construction outreach, and social media activities in the months of March/April 2022.

MOVED, SECONDED, AND DULY CARRIED TO: Recommend to the Board of Directors to

Receive and file the Public Affairs Update for the month of March 2022.

AYES: Jesus Silva, Marshall Goodman, Kim Carr, Anthony Kuo, Andrew Nguyen, Chad Wanke and John Withers

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

None.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

None.

CLOSED SESSION:

None.

OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS OR SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA ITEMS, IF ANY:

None.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS INITIATED ITEMS FOR A FUTURE MEETING:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Silva declared the meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m. to the next Regular Legislative and Public Affairs Committee meeting to be held on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kelly A. Lore, MMC
Clerk of the Board



LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Administration Building
10844 Ellis Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 593-7433

Agenda Report

File #: 2022-2287

Agenda Date: 5/9/2022

Agenda Item No: 2.

FROM: James D. Herberg, General Manager

SUBJECT:

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2022

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend to the Board of Directors to:

Receive and file the Public Affairs Update for the month of April 2022.

BACKGROUND

Staff will provide an update on recent public affairs 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
- Listen to and seriously consider community input on environmental concerns

PROBLEM

The Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) is well-recognized within the water/wastewater industry; however, within our service area there is limited knowledge by our customers of the important work we do to protect public health and the environment. In general, the customers we serve do not realize that when they improperly dispose of waste into the sanitation system, it can negatively affect our sewer lines, our treatment plants, and the quality of water we supply to the Groundwater Replenishment System.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

By providing tours, community outreach, education, and general communication via OC San's website, social media outlets, and direct mailings, we can educate the community, local agencies, and businesses on our messaging such as the What2Flush program, energy production, water recycling, biosolids, and our source control program. This, in turn, helps improve the quality of wastewater that is recycled or released to the ocean.

RAMIFICATIONS OF NOT TAKING ACTION

If we do not educate the community, local agencies, and area businesses about OC San, we may not have the support necessary to deliver our mission.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2022

Outreach Report

An outreach report that includes tours, website postings, social media postings, construction notifications, speaking engagements, and more is included as an attachment to this Agenda Report.

Virtual Tours

As COVID-19 restrictions have eased, exceptions have been made for small in-person tours. This month we held three tours for a few of our Board Members, reaching a total of six people.

Social Media

Over the last month, OC San remained active on our social media accounts to continue connecting with our audience. This is a quick snapshot of what we did:

- Facebook: 23 posts and reached 16k people
- Twitter: 19 posts and reached 5.2k people
- Instagram: 17 posts and reached 5.7k people
- LinkedIn: 7 posts and reached 4k people

Presentations

This month staff presented at the Water Environmental Foundation (WEF) on OC San's collection system, and General Manager Jim Herberg provided a presentation on Large Scale Battery Storage with Utility Executives.

Construction Outreach

OC San continues to keep communities informed of construction activities throughout our service area. There are currently active projects in Fountain Valley, Los Alamitos, Seal Beach, Westminster, Buena Park, Anaheim, and within both of our treatment facilities. Website updates, email and text alerts, and notifications continue to be distributed as the projects progress.

OC Water Insert

For the third year in a row, OC San joined other local agencies throughout the county in a California Water supplemental educational insert which was featured in the Thursday, April 21 Orange County Register issue. The insert highlighted who we are, what we do, and our Capital Improvement Program. The insert is provided as an attachment to this agenda report.

Children's Water Festival

OC San participated in the Orange County Water District's Children's Water Festival, April 25-29. The virtual event featured a mix of live, on-demand, and grab-and-go activities. OC San submitted a 20-minute prerecorded video created by staff highlighting what to flush and our *No Wipes in the Pipes* campaign. The event reached more than 7,000 third, fourth, and fifth grade students from Orange County.

Community Newsletter

The spring issue of the electronic community newsletter, *The OC San Connection*, was shared with our public via social media, distribution email lists, and with our member agencies. The issue features stories on various construction projects, OC San initiatives, and much more. The issue can be found online at www.ocsan.gov.

Member Agency Outreach Toolkit

Every quarter an outreach toolkit is created with topics of interest for our customers that is sent to our member agencies to share on their various communication channels. This quarter's toolkit features the upcoming Wastewater 101 - Citizens Academy. The academy was created to give community members an inside look into our operations. The first session starts on Thursday, May 9 and will conclude at the June Board meeting with a certificate presentation to all the participants. For further details, a link is provided on the Agenda for this item.

Vendor Information Workshop

The second of five vendor workshops will be hosted on May 3. The focus of this workshop is to present upcoming maintenance services contract opportunities to prospective bidders. Over 75 participants registered for the event. The next workshop is scheduled for July. Details can be found using the link provided on the Agenda for this item.

Association Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

OC San was awarded the Outstanding Wastewater Project Award for the State College Sewer Construction Project. This is the second time that OC San has been awarded for this project by ASCE. The award was received by the project consultant, Lee and Ro, who attended on our behalf.

ATTACHMENT

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

- Outreach and Media Summary Report - April 2022
- *Orange County Register* California Water Edition 2022

Outreach and Media Summary



April 2022

OC San Public Affairs Office

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LINKEDIN POSTINGS.....	PAGE 8
NEWS ARTICLES.....	PAGE 13




Outreach Report April 2022

Date	Tours	Attendees	Tour Guide
04/08/2022	Chair Withers/and Director Gallagher	2	Jim Herberg
04/14/2022	Director Brooke Jones	2	Jim Herberg
04/22/2022	Director Andrew Nguyen	2	Jim Herberg
Date	Speaking Engagements/Events	Attendees	Presenter
04/06/2022	Utility Exec Peer to Peer on Large Scale Battery Storage	20	Jim Herberg
04/21/2022	WEF Conference Presentation on Collections System	*200	Dickie Fernandez
04/25/2022	Children's Water Festival	*6000	
Project Area	Construction Outreach Notifications	# of People Reached	Website Posts and Text Alerts
Anaheim/ Buena Park	Project Update		1 website alert
Fountain Valley	Project Update		1 website alert
Los Alamitos/ Seal Beach	Project Update		1 website post/ 1 text alert
Westminster	Project Update – night work notification		2 website post / 3 text alert
External Communications	Distribution	# of People Reached	
5 Minutes Per Month	One	216	
Board Member Talking Points	One	50	
Website Posts	10 posts	423 views	
Facebook	23 posts	16k reached	
Twitter	19 tweets	5.2k reached	
Instagram	17 posts	5.7k reached	
LinkedIn	7 posts	4 k reached	


*These events have not occurred at time of this report, therefore # of attendees is estimated.

Page Overview

Discovery






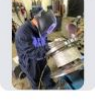




 Post reach	14,228
 Post engagement	606
 New Page Followers	6

Interactions

 Reactions	159
 Comments	21
 Shares	20
 Photo Views	78
 Link Clicks	102

Posts

Last 90 Days Date ▾

	OC San has joined other local agencies throughout the county in a California Water supplemental educational insert in the OC Register. Click here to view:... Wed, Apr 20	Post Reach 27	Engagement 1
	Lets talk about FOG baby, lets talk about Fats and Grease. (And Oils). Just a friendly OC San reminder that #FOG SHOULD NOT be put down your drain. #FOGClogs Tue, Apr 19	Post Reach 48	Engagement 11
	Night work starts tomorrow night in City of Westminster. Visit www.ocsan.gov/Westminster for details. Mon, Apr 18	Post Reach 550	Engagement 55
	A lot of our programs are run by volunteers. Our tour guides, public speakers and the team members you see at event booths, they're all OC San employees who volunteer their... Sun, Apr 17	Post Reach 194	Engagement 16
	There is still time to register for the first series of the Wastewater 101 - Citizens Academy. Visit ocsan.gov/wastewater101 to register. Sat, Apr 16	Post Reach 145	Engagement 9
	Shine Bright like a Diamo..... Welder. For #NationalWelderMonth We are showing off our highly experienced welders. Check out our stories throughout the... Fri, Apr 15	Post Reach 327	Engagement 43
	Congratulations to Raul Cuellar on his promotion to Engineering Manager in the Construction Management Division. To learn more about him and his experience visit... Thu, Apr 14	Post Reach 15	Engagement 38
	Yay to us for recently receiving the Honor Award for Optimized Odor Control and Cleaning in Sewer System from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and... Wed, Apr 13	Post Reach 365	Engagement 51
	OC San lab named first California public laboratory to receive accreditation to detect PFAS in wastewater. What does that mean for OC San? Visit ocsan.gov to find out. Tue, Apr 12	Post Reach 41	Engagement 16
	Teamwork makes the dream work and an essential part of that team are our interns! They come from all sorts of educational backgrounds and schools. It just felt right to... Mon, Apr 11	Post Reach 321	Engagement 43



Orange County Sanitation District created a class.
Mon, Apr 11

Post Reach Engagement
0 --



Construction work is coming to the City of Seal Beach. Visit ocsan.gov/losalamitos for more info @sealbeachpolice
Sat, Apr 9

Post Reach Engagement
128 5



The secret is out! OC San is holding a Virtual Wastewater 101-Citizens Academy and it was made specifically for you. To register for this FREE Academy visit...
Fri, Apr 8

Post Reach Engagement
11720 84



A Special Board of Directors Meeting is happening on March 13 at 4:30 p.m. It will be followed by the Administration Committee Meeting at 5 p.m. Click here to view the agenda:
Thu, Apr 7

Post Reach Engagement
100 8



Don't get caught flushing wipes down the pipes. Remember that #MomKnowsBest and that only Pee, Poop and Toilet Paper belongs in the toilet. #WipesAreTrash #3Ps
Wed, Apr 6

Post Reach Engagement
118 16



Wondering what constructions projects are happening around OC? Visit ocsan.gov/construction to learn about the regional sewer upgrades OC San is working on....
Mon, Apr 4

Post Reach Engagement
120 3



The Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Meeting is happening on April 11 at 4 p.m. Click here to view the agenda:
Mon, Apr 4

Post Reach Engagement
34 0



Starting April right with some action shots of the first grade beam an pile cap concrete pour at the site of our new Headquarters Building in Fountain Valley. #OCSanAtWork
Fri, Apr 1

Post Reach Engagement
246 33



The Operations Committee Meeting is happening on April 6 at 5 p.m. Click here to view the agenda:
Wed, Mar 30

Post Reach Engagement
59 0



If you're an educator in the area. Check this event out and see how you and your class can get involved.
Tue, Mar 29

Post Reach Engagement
147 12



More OC San career opportunities have been added! Check out ocsan.gov/jobs to apply. #CareersInWastewater #OCSanJobs
Tue, Mar 29

Post Reach Engagement
841 22



The latest and greatest on the Los Alamitos Trunk Sewer Project. Construction on Northbound Los Alamitos Blvd. at Bradbury Rd from 8:30am - 5pm. Details at...
Fri, Mar 25

Post Reach Engagement
116 1



Interested in working for a wastewater treatment plant? Apply to one of our open positions at ocsan.gov/jobs
Thu, Mar 24

Post Reach Engagement
455 44

Twitter Posts April 2022

 Account home
Orange County Sanitation District @OCSanDistrict Page updated daily

28 day summary with change over previous period



Apr 2022 • 19 days so far...

TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

Top Tweet earned 1,415 impressions

OC San lab named first California public laboratory to receive accreditation to detect PFAS in wastewater. What does that mean for OC San? Visit ocsan.gov to find out. pic.twitter.com/p2Hs7Wwee5J



↩️ 2 ↻️ 3 ❤️ 16

[View Tweet activity](#)

[View all Tweet activity](#)

Top Follower followed by 3,840 people



Jimmy Bernot, PhD 🇸🇪 🇩🇪

@JimmyBernot FOLLOWS YOU

Marine Biologist | NSF postdoc @NMNH, @Senckenberg & @NHM_London working on crustacean genomics, parasite evolution & copepod taxonomy #TeamInvert he/him

[View profile](#)

Top mention earned 18 engagements

374Water
@374Water · Apr 14

Excellent feature with @csENGINEERmag about our work with @OCSanDistrict! lnkd.in/dJumh2Rr \$SCWO #engineering #scwo #water #pfas

🔁 4 ❤️ 5

[View Tweet](#)

Top media Tweet earned 1,172 impressions

Don't get caught flushing wipes down the pipes. Remember that #MomKnowsBest and that only Pee, Poop and Toilet Paper belongs in the toilet. #WipesAreTrash #3Ps pic.twitter.com/vf7ZM9fwaQ



❤️ 1

[View Tweet activity](#)

[View all Tweet activity](#)

ADVERTISE ON TWITTER

Get your Tweets in front of more people

Promoted Tweets and content open up your reach on Twitter to more people.

[Get started](#)

APR 2022 SUMMARY

Tweets	Tweet impressions
16	4,742
Profile visits	Mentions
1,124	5
New followers	
-1	

**Instagram Posts
April 2022**



ocsandistrict [Edit Profile](#) 

793 posts 1,259 followers 82 following

OC Sanitation District
The OC Sanitation District provides wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling for approx 2.6 million people in central & north Orange County.
ocsan.gov

POSTS VIDEOS SAVED TAGGED

CALIFORNIA
WATER
ORANGE COUNTY 2022





CELEBRATING OC SAN
VOLUNTEERS
WE THANK YOU ALL!



**Wastewater 101
Citizens Academy**

COMING MAY 2022





ENGINEERING MANAGER



RAUL CUELLAR

HONOR AWARD

AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERS & SCIENTISTS

**OPTIMIZED ODOUR CONTROL AND CLEANING
IN SEWER SYSTEM**



**1ST CALIFORNIA PUBLIC
LAB TO RECEIVE
ACCREDITATION
TO DETECT PFAS IN
WASTEWATER**





- Marilyn - IT Intern
Computer Information Systems
CIO Perrine
- Kathryn - Operations Intern
Civil & Environmental Engineering
CIO Perrine
- Maria - Public Affairs Intern
Graphic Design
CIO Perrine
- Ruby - Planning Intern
Civil Engineering
CIO Long Beach

**Manhole Work
Starting Sunday, April 10
In the City of Seal Beach**

Los Alamitos, Trunk Sewer Project



For more info:
ocsan.gov/LosAlamitos
(714) 378-2965

**WASTEWATER 101
CITIZENS ACADEMY**



This Academy is a four-part series that will cover all aspects of OC San including Operations, Capital Improvements, Budgets, and Wastewater Treatment.

For the Spring Workshop Schedule or More Information Visit:
ocsan.gov/wastewater101
For Questions E-mail: faa@ocsan.gov



Learn about OC San's Current and Upcoming Construction Projects!

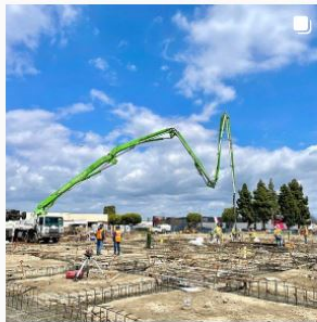
Visit ocsan.gov/construction

Capital Improvement Program

Orange County Sanitation District

CONSTRUCTION

Construction Map
Current Construction



WE ARE HIRING

- STUDENT INTERN (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)
- SOURCE CONTROL INSPECTOR II
- ENGINEER
- SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST (OCEAN MONITORING)

OC SAN
ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT

MANHOLE WORK
STARTING MONDAY, MARCH 28

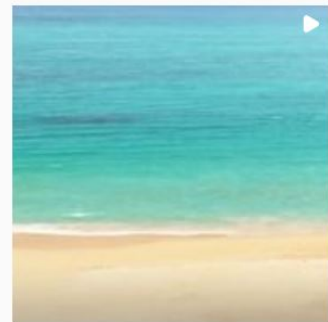
Los Alamitos Trunk Sewer Project

FOR MORE INFO:
OC SAN: 609.913.3313
(714) 378-2965

WE ARE HIRING

OPEN POSITIONS

- OFFICE ASSISTANT (WAREHOUSE/PURCHASING)
- LEAD MECHANIC (PLANT PROCESS)
- SENIOR ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL)
- ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL) - ESTABLISH ELIGIBLE LIST
- ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR (CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT)
- ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL)
- IT ANALYST II (PLC/DCS PROGRAMMER)



LinkedIn Posts
April 2022

Analytics

Last 30 day activity

1.1K ▲ 54.7%

Search appearances 

Last 7 days

264 ▲ 13.8%

Unique visitors

40 ▼ 13%

New followers

6.8K ▼ 15%

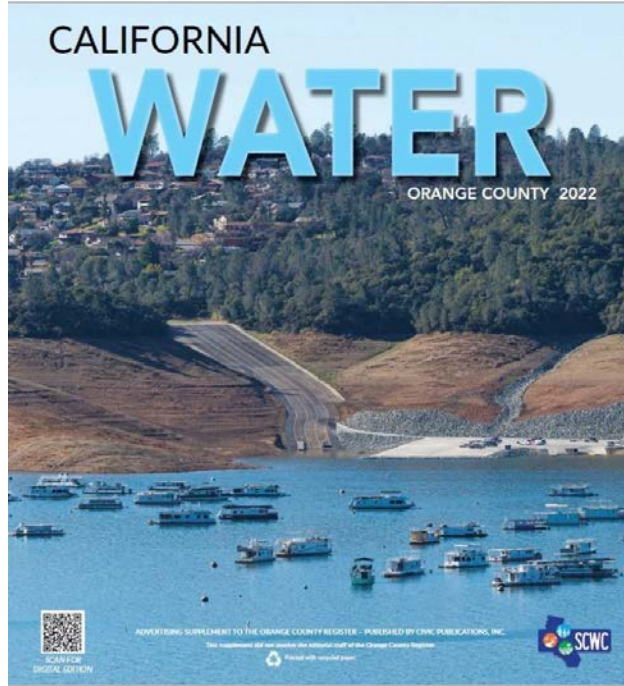
Post impressions

19 ▲ 26.7%

Custom button clicks

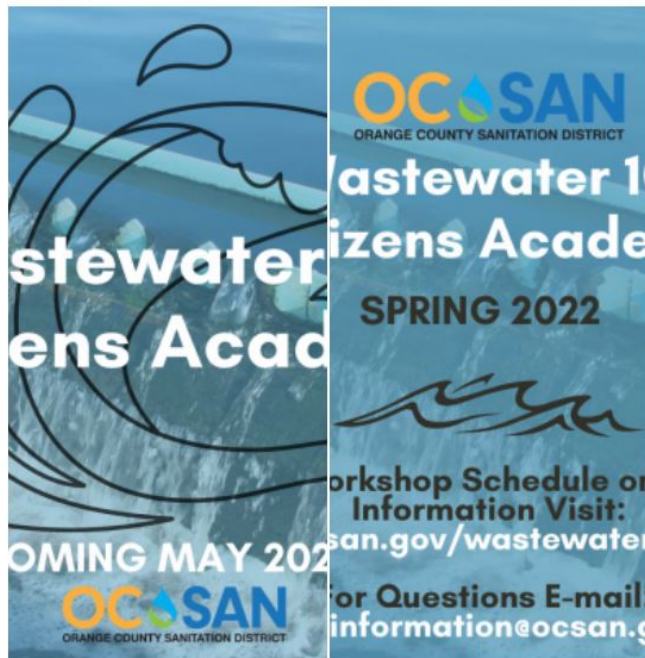
Orange County Sanitation District
3,600 followers
2h • 🌐

OC San has joined other local agencies throughout the county in a California Water supplemental educational insert in the OC Register. Click here to view: <https://lnkd.in/gZvSqvIQ>



Orange County Sanitation District
3,598 followers
3d • 🌐

There is still time to register for the first series of the Wastewater 101 - Citizens Academy. Visit ocsan.gov/wastewater101 to register.



OC SAN Orange County Sanitation District
3,598 followers
3d • 🔒

374Water
1,429 followers
5d • 🔒

Excellent feature with [Civil + Structural Engineer Media](#) about our work with [Orange County Sanitation District](#)!
<https://lnkd.in/dJumh2Rr> ...see more

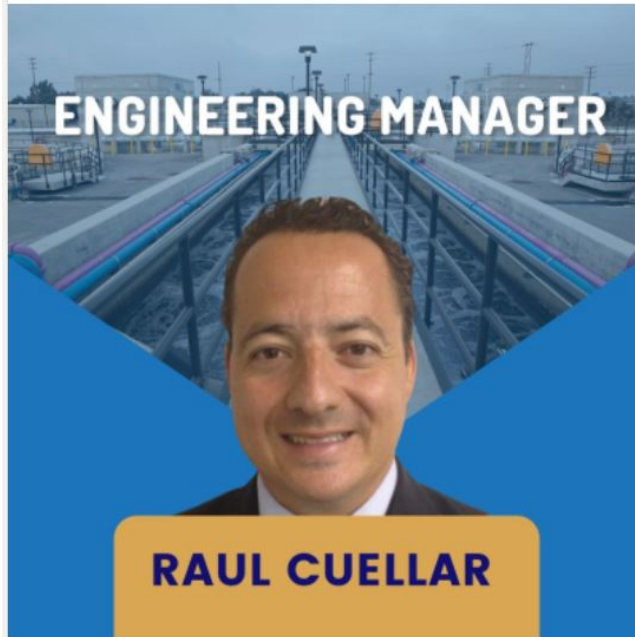


OC San and 374Water Enter into an Agreement to Deploy the First Commercial-Scale AirSCWO System

csengineermag.com • 2 min read

OC SAN Orange County Sanitation District
3,598 followers
5d • 🔒

Congratulations to Raul Cuellar on his promotion to Engineering Manager in the Construction Management Division. To learn more about him and his experience visit ocsan.gov



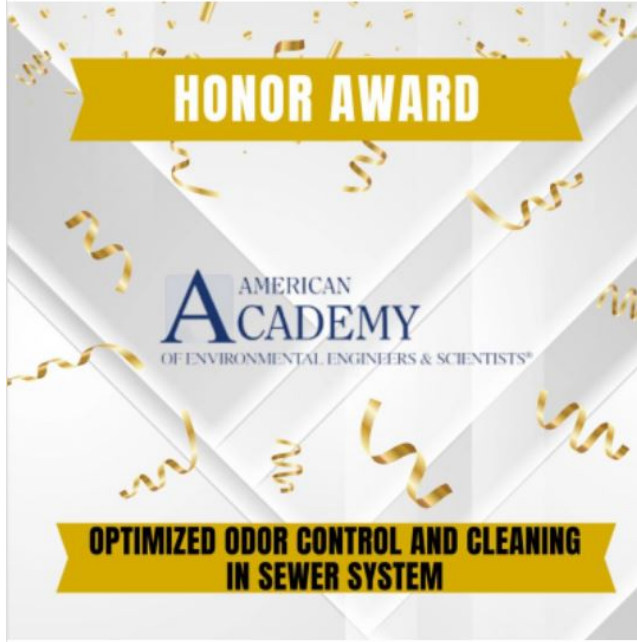


Orange County Sanitation District

3,598 followers

6d • 🌐

Congrats to OC San for recently receiving the Honor Award for Optimized Odor Control and Cleaning in Sewer System from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists. Way to go team!



Orange County Sanitation District

3,598 followers

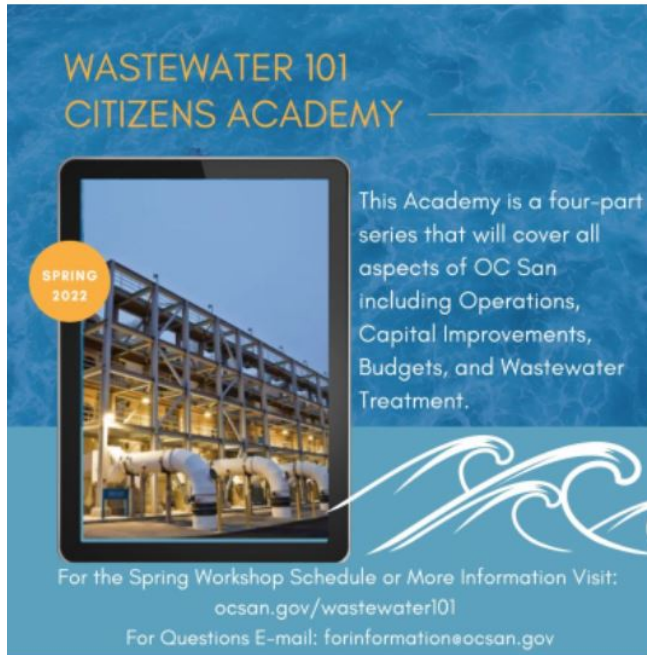
1w • 🌐

OC San lab named first California public laboratory to receive accreditation to detect PFAS in wastewater. What does that mean for OC San? Visit ocsan.gov to find out.



Orange County Sanitation District
OC&SAN 3,598 followers
1w • 🌐

The secret is out! OC San is holding a Virtual Wastewater 101-Citizens Academy and it was made specifically for you. To register for this FREE Academy visit ocsan.gov/wastewater101



**WASTEWATER 101
CITIZENS ACADEMY**

**SPRING
2022**

This Academy is a four-part series that will cover all aspects of OC San including Operations, Capital Improvements, Budgets, and Wastewater Treatment.

For the Spring Workshop Schedule or More Information Visit:
ocsan.gov/wastewater101
For Questions E-mail: forinformation@ocsan.gov

The poster features a blue background with a white wave graphic at the bottom right. A central image shows a large industrial building under construction at night, with a yellow circle containing the text 'SPRING 2022' overlaid on the left side. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout.

Article	Date	Resource	Link
Los Alamitos Newsletter - OC San Construction	25-Mar-22	Los Alamitos Newsletter	https://www.ocsan.gov/home/showdocument?id=32721&t=637860508386088211
The Supervisor's Scoop: Latest Third District News	31-Mar-22	Donald Wagner Newsletter	https://www.ocsan.gov/home/showdocument?id=32635&t=637846568364614967
March Hydrospectives	31-Mar-22	OCWD	https://www.ocsan.gov/home/showdocument?id=32637&t=637846573128752821
Los Alamitos Newsletter - OC San Construction	1-Apr-22	Los Alamitos Newsletter	https://www.ocsan.gov/home/showdocument?id=32719&t=637860508371713169
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts Achieve Carbon Neutrality	13-Apr-22	Waste 360	https://www.waste360.com/sustainability/los-angeles-county-sanitation-districts-achieve-carbon-neutrality
Los Alamitos Newsletter - OC San Construction	13-Apr-22	Los Alamitos Newsletter	https://www.ocsan.gov/home/showdocument?id=32689&t=637854428871184037
ACC-OC Weekly Update	13-Apr-22	ACC-OC Weekly Update	https://www.ocsan.gov/home/showdocument?id=32691&t=637854461211987798
2022 CA Water OC Edition	21-Apr-22	OC Register	https://www.ocsan.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/32701
OC San Announces Wastewater 101 - A Virtual Citizen's Academy!	22-Apr-22	ACC-OC WEEKLY UPDATE	https://www.ocsan.gov/home/showdocument?id=32717&t=637860498430775282
CASA Newsletter	22-Apr-22	CASA Connects	https://www.ocsan.gov/home/showdocument?id=32723&t=637861274670879219

CALIFORNIA

WATER

ORANGE COUNTY 2022



SCAN FOR
DIGITAL EDITION

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The Drought Is Back

It's hard to believe California was facing one of the worst droughts in its history just a few years ago. The state has since made tremendous strides in water conservation and supply management. But now the drought is back, and it's worse than ever.

Social scientists use "disaster fatigue" to describe a form of emotional exhaustion that shapes what we do when faced with multiple emergencies or disasters. And many researchers agree: the past two years have been hard on many Californians with wildfires, drought, and COVID-19. Disaster fatigue may indeed have set in, making it hard for many of us to fully grasp the severity of the drought and take action to save water.

But we must try. I've worked in water for decades, and I have never seen water planners and managers this worried about what is on the horizon for our region. With this drought's severity, we are starting to see the impacts of climate change in real-time. Saving water now may hold off dire consequences in the future.

In preparing for this issue, I have been amazed by the forward-thinking work done by so many community and water leaders to help stretch limited supplies through water recycling and reuse, stormwater capture, groundwater cleanup, and desalination. These efforts are critical to building water supply resiliency from the impacts of climate change, earthquakes, droughts, aging infrastructure and more. There is much work to be done, but progress is happening.

Your interest in what's happening with Southern California's water supply is greatly appreciated and I hope you will join us in saving water as well as in our efforts to address California's water issues.

Please connect with us on Facebook or Instagram, where you'll find us under the username socialwater. We will love to hear from you!

Charley Wilson
Executive Director

The Southern California Water Coalition is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public education partnership dedicated to informing Southern Californians about our water needs and our state's water resources.



Above, Diamond Valley Lake in Hemet, built by Metropolitan, provides water storage close to home. Water agencies offer turf replacement rebates to encourage residents to plant drought-tolerant landscapes, as shown at right. Photos Courtesy of Metropolitan

Climate Change Drives Weather Extremes

By Elizabeth Smilor
Special Sections Writer

Mother Nature has not been easy on Californians lately.

Wildfires have scorched millions of acres, an extended drought is draining our reservoirs, Sierra snowpack is well below average and climate change science tells us it will only get worse.

Coupled with the pandemic, it's no surprise if helplessness causes us to throw up our hands in despair when we hear we're not conserving enough water. With water still flowing freely from most of our taps, it's hard to feel like this drought is severe. But it is.

The good news is regional water managers, some featured in this section, are preparing for the worst-case scenario so that water still flows from your faucet. Gov. Gavin Newsom has asked urban water suppliers to activate "level 2" of their water shortage contingency plans, which means businesses and residents will be asked to take conservation up a notch.

"We can't just wait for the rain to come," said Metropolitan Water District of Southern California General Manager Adel Hagekhalil. "What we need to do is take bold, strategic actions today to adapt to this future."

Drought is defined as a prolonged period of water shortage. This drought has been characterized as a meteorological, hydrological and agricultural one, meaning the state has had below average rainfall which has affected streamflow and reservoir levels as well as food production due to a lack of soil moisture.

What makes this drought different? The simple answer is climate change.

Publisher Sean Fitzgerald
Editor Elizabeth Smilor
Art Director Christie Robinson
Contributors Elizabeth Smilor

CALIFORNIA WATER | ORANGE COUNTY

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For comments or questions, email Sean Fitzgerald at Sean@VoxCivic.com.



URBAN WATER CONSERVATION

While urban water use accounts for 10 percent of the state's overall use, it is still important to save every drop. Half of urban water use is for outdoor landscaping, so outside is a good place to start. The state Department of Water Resources is granting Metropolitan \$2 million for its regional turf replacement program. Metropolitan offers residents a \$2-per-square-foot rebate for lawn replacement, but regional agencies might offer more. For indoor use, check for rebates from your water agency for low-flow showerheads and toilets, and water-efficient appliances.

Other home conservation tips:

- Check for leaks, inside and out. If your water bill seems high, request a leak audit.
- Take shorter showers.
- Turn off water while brushing teeth and shaving.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes, and don't run faucet constantly when hand washing.
- Water your garden less often and then only during cool parts of the day.
- Put a layer of mulch over plants and trees.

The water years, from Oct. 1 through Sept 30, of 2020 and 2021 were the driest consecutive years on record for rainfall in California. December storms stirred optimism, but dry conditions returned at the start of this year and as of the end of March nearly all of the state is in severe or extreme drought, according to the National Integrated Drought Information Center (drought.gov).

"We are experiencing climate change whiplash in real time with extreme swings between wet and dry conditions. That means adjusting quickly based on the data and the science," said California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Director Karla Nemeth. "While we had hoped for more rain and snow, DWR has been preparing for a third consecutive year of drought since October."

A recent study published in the journal *Nature Climate Change* that analyzed tree rings to determine that the American West is in the worst megadrought in 1,200 years, found that human-caused climate change is responsible for about 42 percent of the soil moisture deficit since 2000.

"Without climate change, the past 22 years would have probably still been the driest period in 300 years," said UCLA geographer Park Williams, the lead author of the study. "But it wouldn't be holding a candle to the megadroughts of the 1500s, 1200s or 1100s."

Where Southern California's Water Comes From

On average, water use in California is 50 percent environmental, 40 percent agricultural and 10 percent urban, according to the Public Policy Institute of California.

"While we have made historic investments to protect our communities, economy and ecosystems from the worsening drought across the West, it is clear we need to do more," said Gov. Newsom, in announcing the revised guidelines that could set day or time limits on watering in residential areas and ban watering ornamental grass on commercial properties. "Amid climate-driven extremes in weather, we must all continue to do our part and make water conservation a way of life."

About 30 percent of Southern California's urban water comes from the State Water Project, a system of reservoirs and canals that carry water from Northern California to regional water agencies. Another 25 percent is imported from the Colorado River Basin, which supplies water to seven U.S. and Mexican states and 29 federally recognized tribes with approximately 40 million people. Both of these sources are compromised by record-setting drought.

"What we're seeing now is a strain on both systems. We haven't seen this before where both the Colorado River system and the State Water Project are strained," said Hagekhalil. "It's a wake-up call for all of us."

A cooperative of 26 member agencies, Metropolitan provides more than half the water used by 19 million people in six Southern California counties. Some areas are more dependent upon water from the State Water Project than others and with both systems under stress, redistribution becomes more difficult.

"The water playbook that we've used for 100 years, can't be used anymore. said Metropolitan's Hagekhalil. "The new chapter in the playbook is you recycle every drop and store it, and when you have heavy rain, you can move it and put it both underground and above ground."

The other half of Southern California's water is locally sourced from stormwater capture, groundwater basins and recycled water. Metropolitan built Diamond Valley Lake in Hemet, which opened in 2003, to create more storage capacity close to home.

"That project is saving us with 800,000 acre-feet of storage," said Hagekhalil of Diamond Valley. "We need more large projects to store water in wet years so it is available."

Orange County's Groundwater Replenishment System, a joint collaboration of Orange County Water District (OCWD) and OC San, is the world's largest water purification system for indirect potable reuse. The GWRS can produce up to 100 million gallons of water per day of near-distilled, high-quality water. That is enough to meet the needs of nearly 850,000 residents in north and central Orange County.

Water managers agree a reliable water future requires investment in local, regional and state infrastructure, innovation in recycling water, groundwater protection, storage and conservation. Reaching that future will require cooperation amongst all water users and managers.

"Metropolitan is what it is because of the member agencies, and was created to facilitate this coordination because no one can do things alone and nobody should. Our strength is in our collaboration and our working together," said Hagekhalil. "My commitment is to continue working for all our member agencies and make sure no one is left behind. We take care of our communities and make sure every community has the water they need." ○



Orange County Students Learn the Value of Water Through Environmental Literacy

Over the past several years, the Municipal Water District of Orange County's (MWDOC) investment in K-14 water education has grown substantially, evolving to include programs and hands-on learning activities for all Orange County students deeply rooted in environmental literacy. Using the local environment as the context for learning, students gain practical knowledge about the world around them by investigating, asking questions, and finding solutions to issues affecting their communities. From drought, earthquakes, erosion, and wildfires to aging infrastructure and dwindling resources, leaders of tomorrow become better equipped for the responsibility of lifelong environmental and community stewardship and develop the skills needed to find reasonable solutions to real-world problems.

Each year, nearly 70,000 students in grades K-12 participate in the MWDOC Choice School Programs presented by Shows That Teach and the Orange County Department of Education's Inside the Outdoors. Through active involvement, students learn about their local water supply sources, the critical need for good water stewardship and conservation, and water providers' challenges each day to deliver clean, safe, reliable water to homes, schools, and businesses. Orange County water providers opt-in to the MWDOC Choice School Programs to bring dynamic, water-centric learning experiences to K-12 students in their service areas. These programs inspire the county's youngest water users to make thoughtful, informed decisions to protect the natural resources we depend on every day. Programs are offered in-person, online, and a combination of both.

Paving the Way for the Next Generation of Water and Energy Workers

In 2020, MWDOC assumed leadership of the Water Energy Education Alliance (WEEA or Alliance). WEEA was formed in 2018 to establish partnerships between education and industry leaders looking to build and strengthen career pathways to water and energy jobs for Southern California high school students. The Alliance has grown significantly under MWDOC's leadership. It is now a collation of nearly 60 professional organizations from Los Angeles, Inland Empire, Orange County, and San Diego that include water and energy providers, departments of education, school districts, colleges, technical trade schools, and more.

As California braces for a wave of expected retirements from the last of the Baby Boomers, WEEA has mobilized to find solutions for the gaps that will be left by the industry professionals that have proudly served California communities for decades. Water workers are offered competitive wages, great benefits, and long-term stability and are instilled with a sense

of pride, serving their communities and contributing to a green economy. Developing new workforce pathways benefits industry and educational institutions, as well as young students and their future families.

WEEA is sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, Moulton Niguel Water District, Water Replenishment District of Southern California, and the Western Municipal Water District, with active support from the California Environmental Education Foundation, California Community Colleges, and Big Picture Learning. ○



MWDOC SPEAKERS BUREAU

Have questions about water? We have answers!

Is your community, business, or civic group looking for a keynote speaker for your next event? The Municipal Water District of Orange County's Speakers Bureau is here for you. Topics may include: where Orange County water comes from, drought, water supply solutions, water conservation programs, education initiatives for Orange County students, and more!

For more information visit
www.mwdoc.com/water-education/book-a-speaker/

Water Is Life

To Keep It Flowing We Must Invest More

Water is life. The last few years have only highlighted the importance of water as increased handwashing and another extended drought continued to persist in our realities. As we continue to weather the societal and economic impacts of the pandemic and recent global events, the rising cost of goods and services poses a challenge for many.

Affordability and equitable access to clean water and sanitation for all are encapsulated in the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (as SDG 6), and it's a critical priority for water utilities across the state. As we continue to realize the impacts of climate change over the years and make investments to ensure sustainable and reliable water supplies for the future, we are constantly balancing the costs of these investments with affordability and access to water.



With the last historic drought in California, much of our community realized how much of an impact water use efficiency and conservation (particularly outdoors) can help make a difference. We also recognized how challenging it could be to convey nuanced messaging – while turning off all outdoor watering often did more harm than good, dialing back the outdoor irrigation to avoid overwatering resulted in positive impacts to reducing runoff while limiting water waste.

At the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), we've taken a multi-faceted approach to everything from public outreach and education to water resource planning. We have Ricky the Raindrop, who's been around since the 1970s, to strategic partnerships across the state to further water education for all ages. We provide water use efficiency rebates for residential and commercial water users and even landscape designs that feature beautiful, colorful, and lush California native plants that are part of the 806 native species found in our local biodiversity hotspot. Our team proactively advocates for sound, meaningful legislation that aligns with the policy principles set forth by our board of directors to ensure high-quality, safe, sustainable, and affordable drinking water for all for now and the future.

Orange County already utilizes a robust portfolio of water supplies from Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR), better known as water recycling or

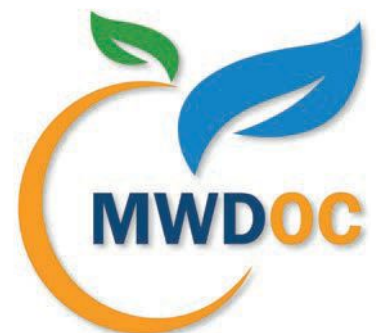
'purple pipe,' to brackish water desalination. Still, with climate change and a growing population, we will face regular water shortages without new investments in Southern California water, either imported or local.

This is why the MWDOC Board of Directors emphatically supports the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project -- an undertaking that would create a local and drought-proof water supply utilizing environmentally-friendly slant well technology that is fully compliant with the California Ocean Plan Desalination Amendment, which is intended to protect the beautiful coastline that we all cherish as one of our state's greatest jewels. MWDOC's 2018 Orange County Reliability Study deemed the Doheny Project one of the most cost-effective investments to meet system and supply reliability needs. The report prescribes the Doheny Project with the San Juan Watershed Project as the core reliability improvement strategy for South Orange County.

When it comes to affordability, nothing supplants reinforcing the conveyance of our supplies from the Delta. About half of the water used throughout Orange County comes from imported supplies. MWDOC's 2018 Reliability Study designated the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) the single most cost-effective project for long-term water supply reliability. Some may argue that inflation has eschewed the project's economics; when you consider the economies of scale, the DCP is still the most affordable way to ensure water flows reliably throughout the state. Desalination, recycling, storage, and other local projects are certainly part of the blueprint for long-term reliability. Without completion of the DCP, these options will not guarantee sufficient supplies.

Our future is bright. We will ensure a great future with continued investments into the development of the next generation of water stewards through our education and outreach programs and a sustainable, reliable, and affordable water supply portfolio that addresses the diverse needs and challenges throughout our beloved community. As we say, water is life, and as the lifeblood of our community, economy, and environment, it's our most precious resource that we're committed to protecting and preserving for generations to come. ○

Megan Yoo Schneider
MWDOC Board President
Division 7



Board Members



Al Netherhood
Division 1
Director



Larry D. Dick
Division 2
Director



Robert R. McVicker
Division 3
Vice President



Karl W. Seckel
Division 4
Director



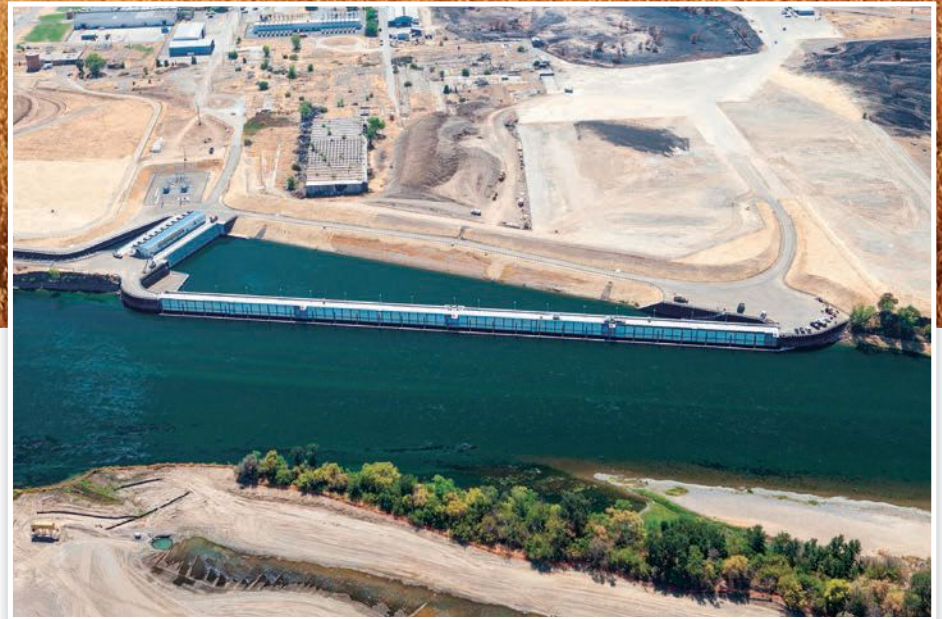
Sat Tamaribuchi
Division 5
Director



Jeffery M. Thomas
Division 6
Director

The Sites Reservoir Project will be situated on the west side of the Sacramento Valley, approximately 10 miles west of Maxwell, Calif., in Glenn and Colusa Counties.

Inset: Existing Infrastructure Fish Screens



Sites Reservoir

Is a Solution to California's Megadrought

When it comes to water, California continues to break records, and not the kind we like to brag about. According to a recent study by Nature Climate Change, the West Coast's drought **has worsened so much in one year**, that it is now the driest in at least 1,200 years and is a worst-case climate change scenario playing out live. In fact, it's being labeled as a "megadrought."

With January through March 2022 turning out to be the driest months on record, many water suppliers are leaning more on their stored water supplies.

In many ways, Sites is exactly what a state burdened by droughts and atmospheric rivers needs. Sites would capture and store water from the Sacramento River during high flows without hurting the river fishery — after all other water rights and regulatory requirements are met — and is made available to California's environment, communities, and farms when it's most needed — especially during times of drought. But Sites Reservoir is just part of the solution — we can and must utilize all the tools in our toolbox — recycling, conservation, desalination, groundwater replenishment, and more yes, more water storage.

Sites Reservoir does not dam any major river. The reservoir would be located off-stream and be situated in the Glenn and Colusa counties. Sites is designed to help the environment, not cause harm. And a large portion of the water saved in Sites is specifically set aside for fisheries and the environment during dry years. This is a first of its kind and a model for successful future water management.

If Sites had been in place prior to 2021, we could have captured and stored much of the excess prior years flood flows for use in what was a very dry year, and California would have had an additional 1 million acre-feet of water available

for use during 2021 when we it was badly needed. And a good portion of that water would have been held over for use in 2022 which is an equally bad or worse water year.

In summation, Sites can best be described as an insurance policy. And if the scientific projections are correct about the impacts of climate change, then having Sites Reservoir will mean we will be able to collect even more water in the reservoir for use during future extended droughts.

The Sites Authority is advancing Sites Reservoir because it's needed for the Sac Valley. And we're proud the project is supported by local water agencies, irrigation districts, and municipalities across California. We're also proud to have the State and Federal government investing in the project. This is a beneficiary pays project which is how future large water infrastructure will need to be implemented. Sites would cover the diverse needs of the entire state, and importantly, the foundation starts with support of local participants right in the proposed project area's backyard.

It's critical that we continue to invest in a broad range of solutions to ensure a resilient water future, and Sites Reservoir would increase water storage, help alleviate symptoms, and address the impacts of a megadrought. It's time to build Sites now. ○



www.sitesproject.org



Doheny Desalination Project Conceptual Renderings



Building a Fourth Aqueduct to Preserve our Quality of Life

The mission of the South Coast Water District (SCWD) is to provide available and affordable water for our customers while protecting our environment. Our magnificent beaches and coastline, combined with what many refer to as the best climate in the world, helps draw two million-plus visitors to our area annually.

For many decades, Southern California has gotten its water from three sources – the Los Angeles Aqueduct (which serves the City of Los Angeles), the California Aqueduct, and the Colorado River Water Aqueduct. The California and Colorado River Aqueduct serve Southern California and other regions.

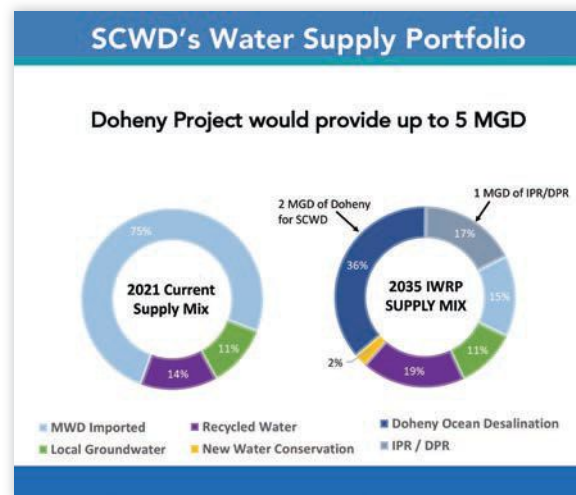
Cities pull in water from the groundwater basin managed by OCWD, where it is treated extensively, mixed with Santa Ana River water and further filtered through natural processes. Thanks to this resource, north and central Orange County receives 75 percent groundwater and just 25 percent via the Metropolitan Water District (MWD).

Unlike north and central Orange County, south County does not have a true and robust groundwater basin. Hence, roughly 90 percent of south Orange County relies on MWD to provide imported water.

SCWD (and MWDOC) has spent nearly two decades analyzing the feasibility of ocean desalination and, after multiple intensive studies and cost analyses, the SCWD Board believes a “fourth aqueduct” is how we may best meet our customers’ needs. Rather than a physical pipeline, though, it is a combination of efforts to ensure we have an affordable, clean, high-quality, safe, and local water supply.

SCWD has embraced a “one water” approach to a diversified water portfolio:

1. **Doheny Desal** – Our proposed ocean desalination facility is an essential element we can and should develop to meet our customers’ needs.
2. **Conservation** – Continued water efficiency levels of roughly 20 percent since 2013, the equivalent water use of 3,000 single family homes.



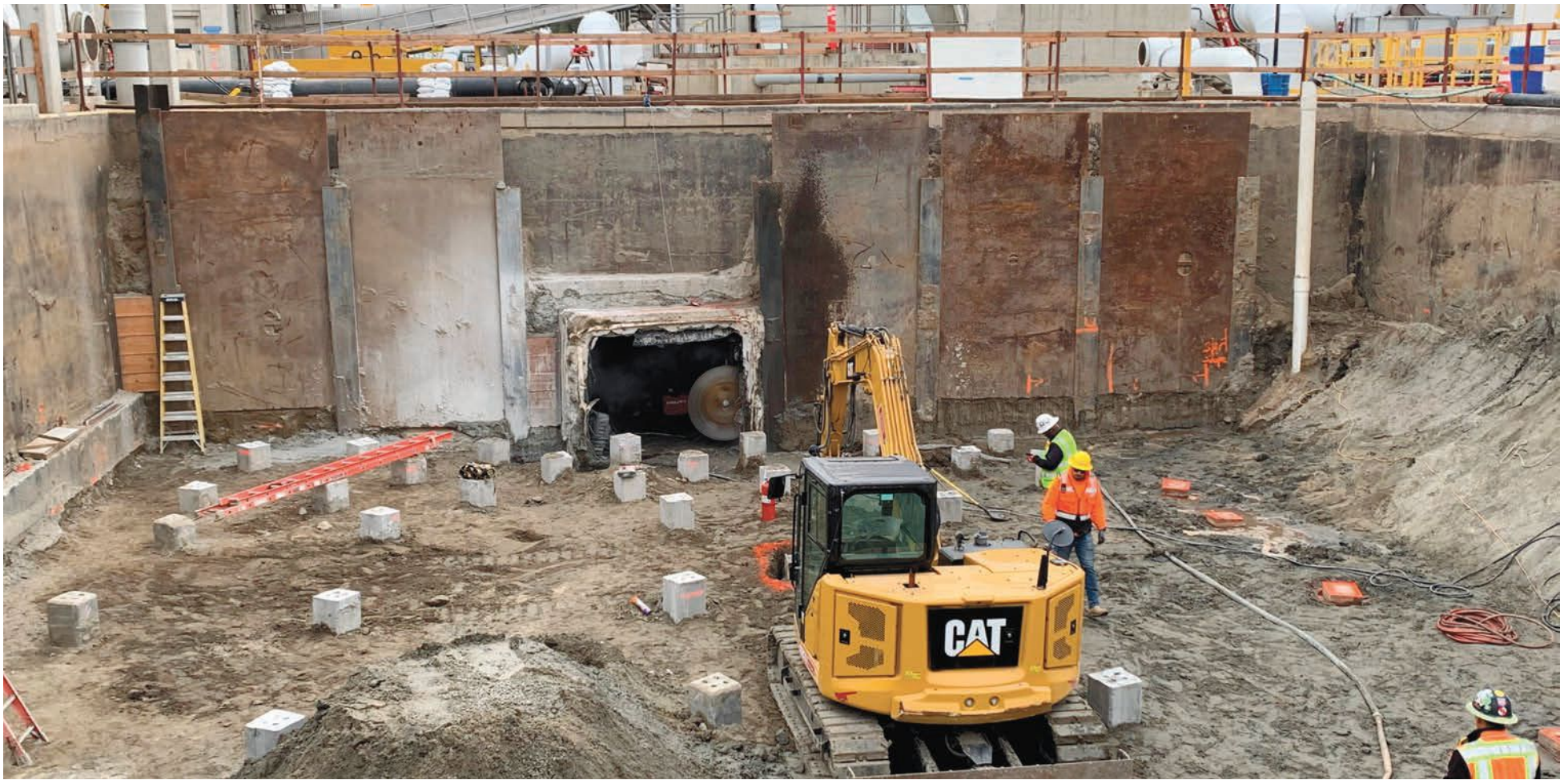
3. **Recycled Water for Landscapes** – Committing to significant recycled water infrastructure improvements and potable irrigation site conversions, working toward our goal of reusing 100 percent of our sewage sent to the Coastal Treatment Plant by 2035.
4. **Potential Indirect or Direct Potable Reuse** – The SCWD Board is exploring the potential for indirect and direct potable reuse for roughly 20 percent of its long-term portfolio.
5. **Groundwater Recovery** – Our brackish desalination facility can produce up to 15 percent of our total drinking water supply.
6. **MWD and MWDOC** – Continuing our long-time partnership on imported water.

Our proposed ocean desalination facility in Dana Point near Doheny State Beach will meet all State Ocean Plan requirements and will provide up to five million gallons per day of local, safe, drought-proof, and high-quality drinking water.

Thanks to bipartisan support, we have received \$32.4 million in grants from the State and Federal government. We want to thank U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla, Congressmembers Mike Levin and Michelle Steel, State Senator Pat Bates, Assemblymembers Cottie Petrie-Norris and Laurie Davies, and Supervisor Lisa Bartlett for their continued support.

This “fourth aqueduct” will enable SCWD to continue providing reasonably priced water during droughts, earthquakes, and other natural disasters. Preserving our economy and the quality of life we enjoy is a mission we can all share. ○





The Headworks facility construction will rehabilitate and replace aging infrastructure at OC San's Plant No. 1 in Fountain Valley. The goal of this project is to strengthen the reliability of the infrastructure, increase the lifespan of critical assets and improve plant-wide operations and services.

Orange County Sanitation District

Renewing our Regional Sewer Infrastructure



“Good planning and collaboration enables us to keep our facilities operating without interruption. It is the only way to be successful.”

John Withers
OC San Board Chairman

With carefully planned and executed projects, the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) is delivering essential wastewater services for today and the future. Our Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is designed to ensure resilient, reliable, and sustainable infrastructure to protect public health and the environment.

“Good planning and collaboration enables us to keep our facilities operating without interruption. It is the only way to be successful,” said OC San Board Chairman John Withers. “Our staff are highly qualified and knowledgeable. They understand the importance of planning for any eventuality. We are preparing for today, tomorrow and the future to ensure that we are able to continue to provide effective wastewater treatment.”

OC San provides regional wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling to 2.6 million people within a 480-square mile service area in central and northwest Orange County. OC San's two resource recovery and wastewater treatment facilities, located in Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach, treat an average daily wastewater flow of more than 180 million gallons per day from three separate sources— residential, commercial, and industrial. The majority of this treated water is recycled by our partners the Orange County Water District through the Groundwater Replenishment System, which uses advanced treatment processes to treat the water creating a new, reliable,



“OC San has been dedicated to our mission to protect public health and the environment for over 65 years. As we look into the future and move forward with our projects, we remain steadfast in our focus on ensuring innovative, sustainable, and reliable service for our generation and those to come.”

James D. Herberg
OC San General Manager

high-quality source of water. The remainder of the treated wastewater is safely released to the Pacific Ocean five miles offshore.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Ensuring reliable wastewater collection, treatment and recycling requires sound infrastructure. The CIP is OC San's long-term program to maintain and upgrade its infrastructure including the vast network of pipelines, pump stations and treatment facilities. OC San's CIP is engineered to provide reliable wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling services operating 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. The CIP is reviewed annually to validate and prioritize projects that will move forward. As many of OC San's existing facilities near the end of their useful lives, the main driver for many of the CIP projects today is rehabilitation and replacement. Over \$5.8 billion of CIP spending is projected over the next 20 years.

Despite the pandemic, OC San issued \$475 million of construction contracts for more than 20 capital projects during fiscal year 2020-21. The activities addressed a range of projects, with notable efforts on finalizing designs for significant multi-year construction projects such as the Headworks Rehabilitation (pictured to the left), which is a six-year project focused on upgrading major components of the wastewater treatment process.

Construction also began on our new Administrative Headquarters Complex across the street from Plant No. 1 in Fountain Valley. This will allow various administrative staff dispersed throughout the Fountain Valley facility to come together in a centralized location. Ten aging buildings and temporary trailers will be demolished, preserving space for future wastewater infrastructure. The three-story office building will include an educational center, public lobby, surface parking, and pedestrian bridge connecting the new building to Plant No. 1 across the street in Fountain Valley. The new building is slated for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification.

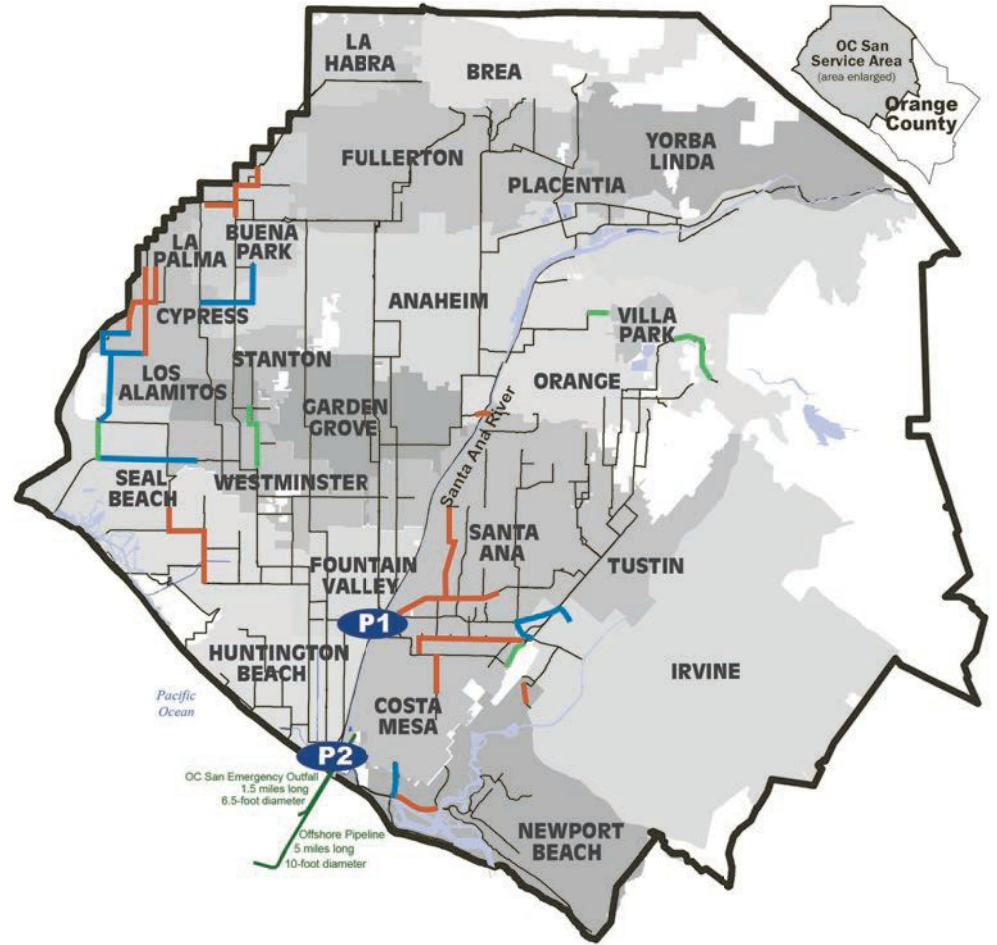
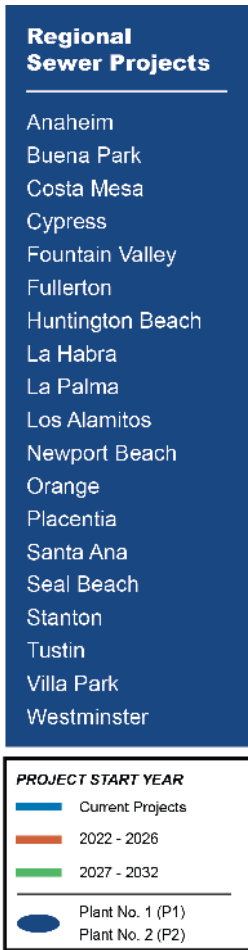
In addition to upgrades at our two plants, members of our community will notice construction in the streets. As part of the rehabilitation of the Western Regional Sewers, the Orange-Western Sub-Trunk & Los Alamitos Trunk Sewer Rehabilitation will continue in the cities of Anaheim, Buena Park, Cypress, Los Alamitos, Seal Beach, and the unincorporated area of Rossmore. Over eight miles of pipelines and 100 manholes will be either rehabilitated or replaced. ○



www.ocsan.gov | @OCSanDistrict



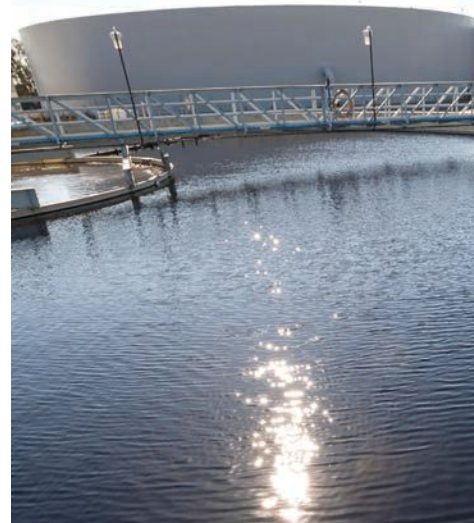
Ten Year Capital Improvement Program



OC San maintains 388 miles of regional pipelines in the collection system and 15 pump stations.

Construction activities include manhole repairs and replacement, upgrades at our two treatment facilities in Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley, pipeline repairs and replacement, and upgrades to pump stations.

We Want to Work With You



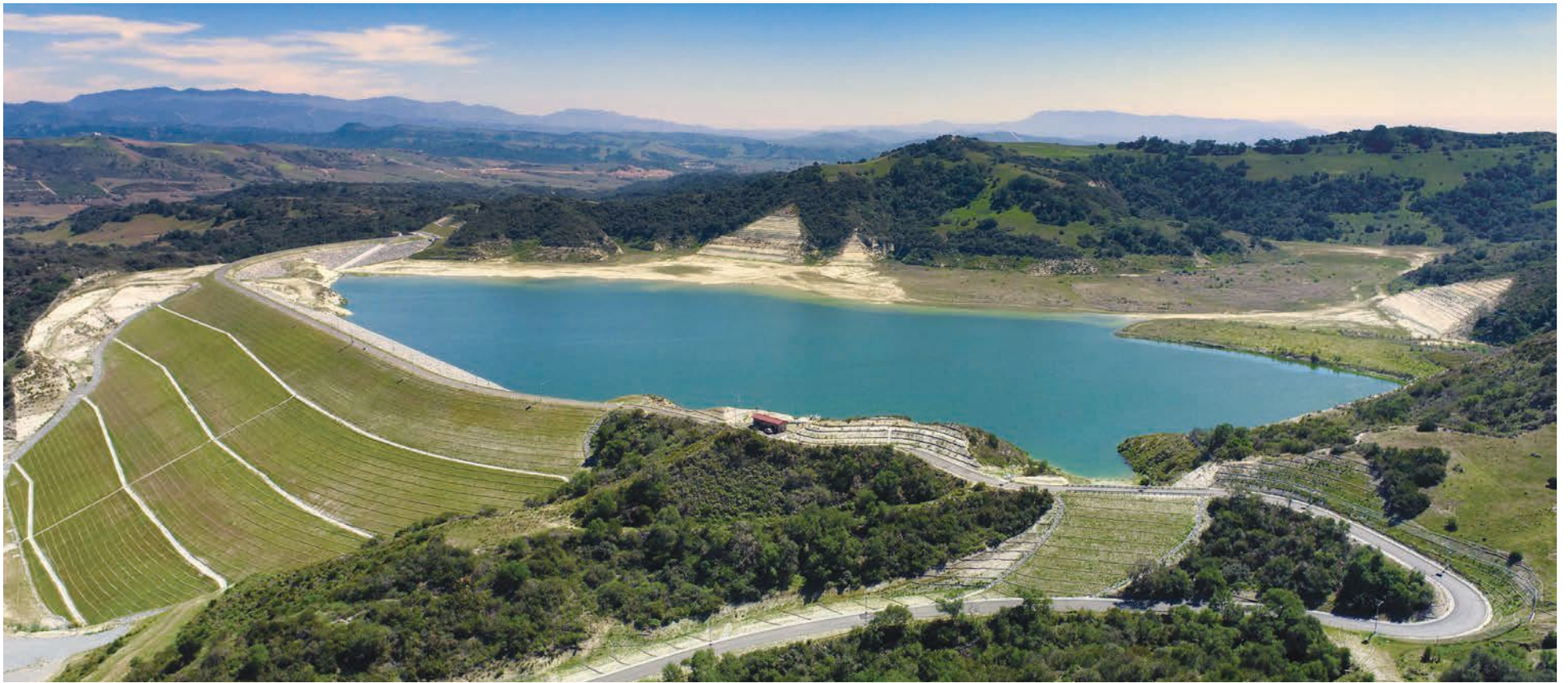
OC San is dedicated to serving the residents and businesses in our communities, and this extends to contracting with local vendors. Have a company that might fill our needs? Join us at one of our upcoming Vendor Workshops.

All workshops are Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

- Maintenance Services: **May 3**
- Professional Services, Goods, and Supplies: **July 12**
- Construction Services: **Sept. 13**
- Maintenance Services: **Nov. 8**

Interested in doing business with OC San go to:
www.ocsan.gov/doingbusiness

To learn more about OC San's CIP go to:
www.ocsan.gov/construction



Creating a Resilient, Local Water Supply

Santa Margarita Water District to Build Its First Drinking Water Treatment Plant

By Elizabeth Smilor
Special Sections Writer



“If we’re going to import water from Northern California or from the Colorado River, we feel it’s very important to use it as many times as we can.”

Dan Ferons
SMWD General Manager

As Santa Margarita Water District’s service area and population grows, it is expanding and improving local water supply and resiliency.

In the past year, the District completed the annexation of the city of San Juan Capistrano’s water and sewer utility that includes the San Juan Groundwater Plant, began filling Orange County’s largest recycled water reservoir at Trampas Canyon, and is ready to construct its first drinking water treatment plant, the Ranch Water Filtration Plant.

“When we tie the Ranch Filtration Plant into Trampas Reservoir, it will take water that would have otherwise been used once and lost to the ocean and put it back to beneficial use multiple times,” said General Manager Dan Ferons. “If we’re going to import water from Northern California or from the Colorado River, we feel it’s very important to use it as many times as we can.”

The District serves about 200,000 residents in Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Juan Capistrano, Coto de Caza, Wagon Wheel, Las Flores, Talega, Ladera Ranch, and Rancho Mission Viejo. It currently provides customers with roughly 9.8 billion gallons of drinking water per year, about five percent comes from the San Juan Groundwater Plant; the rest is imported. It recycles about 2.8 billion gallons of wastewater per year for irrigation, construction, and other uses.

The District’s board of directors set a goal to diversify its water supply by 2030 by accomplishing three objectives: create a local drinking water supply; recycle 100 percent of its wastewater; and establish a six-month supply of drinking water stored in the service area for an emergency.

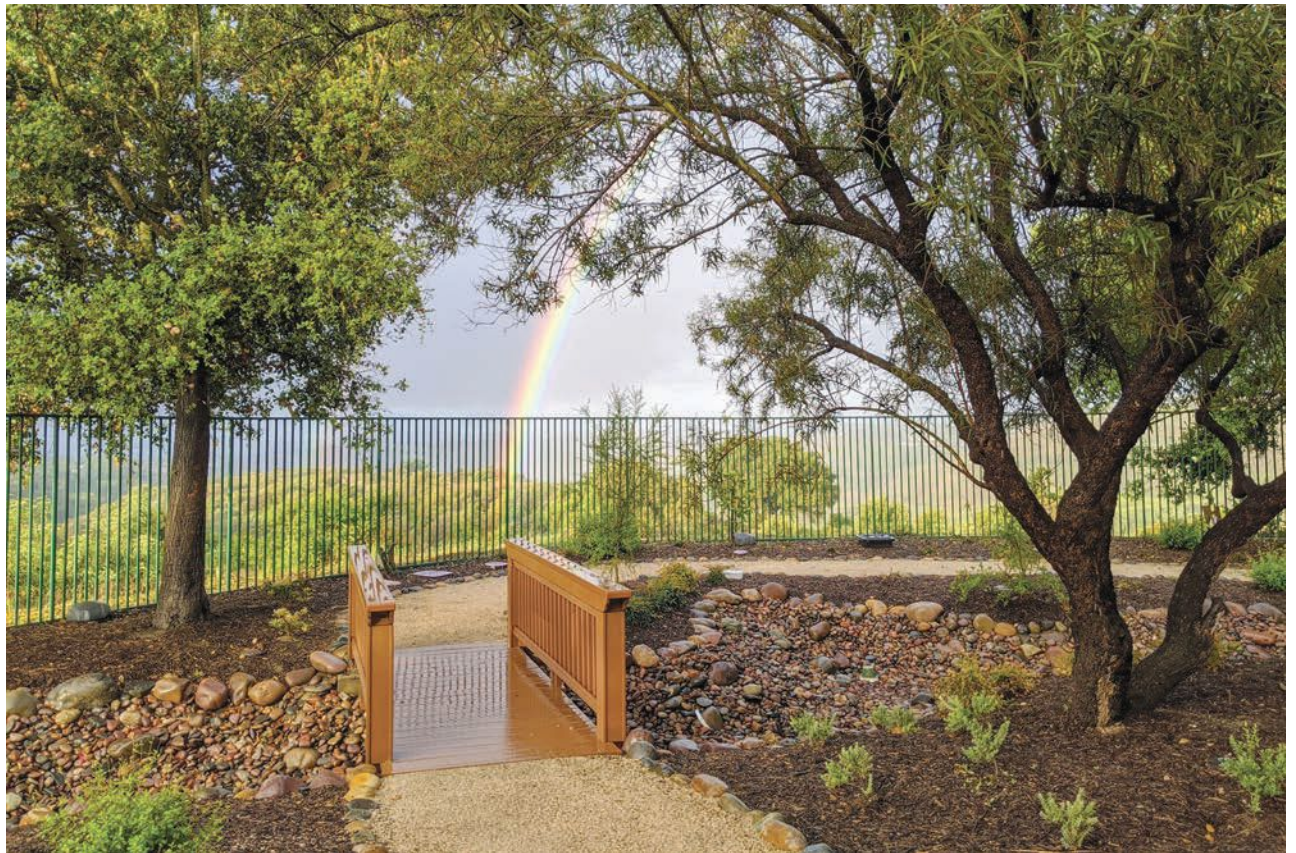
On the recycled water front, the District has put about 326 million gallons of recycled water into Trampas Reservoir since it was dedicated in October 2020. The reservoir has a storage capacity of 1.6 billion gallons of recycled water – enough to fill 2,500 Olympic-size swimming pools.

“Trampas really is an important piece in our water supply portfolio. The whole idea is to fill it and empty it as many times in a year as we can and put recycled water in there when it’s not needed for irrigation,” Ferons said. “It really is a great accomplishment of the District to have not only Trampas, but Upper Oso and Portola reservoirs, where we can store recycled water and draw it down when it’s needed.”

The San Juan Groundwater Plant on San Juan Creek (which the District acquired with the annexation of San Juan Capistrano’s water utility), currently provides about five percent of the District’s potable water demand. Work has begun to optimize the plant and double its production. The Ranch Filtration Plant will treat groundwater from the



At left, Trampas Canyon Reservoir was dedicated in October 2020 and began filling with recycled water last year. It is now at about one-fifth its capacity. Above, officials celebrate the annexation of the San Juan Capistrano water and sewer utility in November 2021. Santa Margarita Water District's WaterWorks Garden, at right, shows residents and businesses drought-tolerant landscape designs and irrigation methods.



San Juan Basin to supply some 1.6 billion gallons of drinking water per year to customers at full buildout. Additional infiltration and recharge basins along San Juan Creek will bring the District to its goal of local water supply for indoor use.

“The Ranch Filtration Plant is going to double our local capacity,” said Deputy General Manager Don Bunts. “In an all-out emergency we will ask our customers not to irrigate anything, but they will have the indoor water they need. We’re a third of the way there. Everything we build, the better off we are.”

The ongoing drought has made Santa Margarita’s efforts that much more important and timely.

“The public is aware of the drought situation and is more receptive to long-term projects,” said Bunts. “As we’re seeing continual drought, they are looking to us to make sure we’re demonstrating that we’re doing all we can to keep the water flowing.”

While the District focuses on local needs, Ferons pointed out how projects benefit the region and state as well. “During normal times, we’ll still be operating this new filtration plant and that will free up imported water that can go to a disadvantaged community or into regional storage,” Ferons said.

The other way local actions make a difference is through water use efficiency and conservation. To give customers an idea of what’s possible for efficient landscaping, the District has a demonstration garden at its headquarters with different styles of drought-tolerant landscaping, plants, and irrigation methods on display. The District team meets with customers to offer advice on specific things they can do in and around their homes that will save water both indoors and out. The District is also working with developers to create water-wise landscaping and water-efficient homes.

“We have a lot of new growth in our area, but water demand is not going up proportionally with the population,” said Bunts. In fact, said Ferons, current water use is less than it was 10 years ago despite the growth.

Santa Margarita Water District is proud of its investments in water resilience and sustainability and will work to continue to provide a safe, reliable water supply to the growing south Orange County area. ○



The Water Festival is Back!

A free, family-friendly water awareness event that includes: bus tours of Orange County’s largest recycled water reservoir, Trampas Canyon; walks through the WaterWorks Garden to learn about drought-friendly plants and garden designs; information from garden professionals, water experts, and dozens of exhibitors; children’s activities; live music; food trucks and more.

WHEN: Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WHERE: SMWD Headquarters at the corner of Oso Parkway and Antonio Parkway (26111 Antonio)

For more information, go to www.smwd.com/Festival



10 TOP TIPS FROM FEMALE LEADERS IN WATER

By Kayla Harris

Southern California is home to many incredible women leaders in the water industry. Read about 10 inspiring women working in California water today who offer advice to newcomers and talk about things they wish they knew when they started.

Their reflections on their careers, their support for one another, and their advice for other women pursuing a future in water are nothing short of inspiring. Each woman serves as a member of the Southern California Water Coalition Board of Trustees and several also chair or co-chair its task forces.



PATTY CORTEZ

Patty Cortez, Mayor for City of Covina, SCWC board member, and co-chair of the SCWC Legislative Task Force, encourages new professionals to learn as much as they can and not be afraid to ask questions. She reflected on moments at the beginning of her career when she was intimidated by others' titles and expertise. "Over time, I found that the water industry is a very supportive community across all levels," said Cortez. "I wish I had taken those early moments to ask questions and increase my knowledge in the field."

Cortez herself brings tremendous expertise and experience that benefits the water field, including a background in public relations, work as a district staffer for a member of Congress, and public affairs and legislative project management for an energy utility.

"I truly believe every position I had prepared me to be where I am today," said Cortez. "My background helped me realize that my passion was working in government and communicating to the public. Thankfully I have been fortunate enough to combine the two into my position today."



HEATHER DYER

Looking back on the beginning of her career, Heather Dyer, the CEO and general manager of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, never imagined that the top job at a water district was in her professional future. "I am an endangered species biologist by training," said Dyer. "If I could give myself advice when I was new to the water industry, it would be to take off your blinders and let yourself imagine what is possible and what path you might take."

Dyer discovered that her skill set was applicable across many aspects of her work throughout her career. "At the beginning, I never fully understood my 'why.' My why is complex problem solving to make the world a better place. I wish I had figured that out earlier." She encourages young women just entering their field to figure out their "why," too. "That will drive your future to do work that you love."



ALLISON FEBBO

For Allison Febbo, the general manager of the Mojave Water Agency, inspiration to pursue a career in water started with the female role models throughout her life. "I had a science teacher in high school who went out of her way to acknowledge and support my interest and abilities in the subject," said Febbo, who also chairs SCWC's Delta Issues Task Force. "And later, a college professor and scientist guided my development and was a great role model." More recently, Febbo was encouraged by a colleague at the Mojave Water

Agency. "Laura King Moon, the assistant general manager of State Water Contractors, made regular efforts to advise and support me through my career development," added Febbo.

She considers herself fortunate to have been motivated by several influential women throughout her education and career and hopes to do the same for young women looking to enter the water industry today. "I would advise young women to expose themselves to as many networking, training, and leadership experiences as possible throughout their career, including finding a trusted mentor to help with guidance and advice," said Febbo. "Find a comfortable work/life balance. We must develop and honor ourselves as whole individuals to make sustained contributions to water."



CAROL LEE GONZALES-BRADY

Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady, the Board President of the Rancho California Water District and co-chair of SCWC's Legislative Task Force, was inspired by prominent water rights attorney and Laguna Beach County Water District Commissioner Susan Trager to pursue and persist in her work in the water industry. "I had the honor and pleasure of counting her as a dear friend for years," said Gonzales-Brady.

When one is just starting out in their career, it can be easy to get caught up with worries about what other people think. But the best advice that she'd give those starting out is to not to try too hard to please everyone. "There will always be those who may not like you or may even work against you for a variety of reasons," said Gonzales-Brady. "But respect is more important than popularity, so make sure you focus on producing high-quality work."



SANDY KERL

Sandy Kerl, general manager of the San Diego County Water Authority and chair of SCWC's Colorado River Task Force, found inspiration from a female water veteran of her district who pioneered innovation. "Maureen Stapleton, SDCWA's retired general manager, helped to create water reliability through innovation and creativity in the San Diego region that had never been done before and is standing the test of time during this historic drought in California." It's these dynamic approaches that Kerl hopes to see more women bringing to the future of water.

As one who spent her entire career in public service, starting as an intern and working her way up, Kerl knows a thing or two about professional growth and development. "Avail yourself to all opportunities to learn and engage," Kerl advised all newcomers to the water industry. "Seize opportunities to attend webinars, training, conferences, mentorships, and new assignments for which you will have to stretch to achieve the desired outcome."



JOONE KIM-LOPEZ

As a former police officer, Joone Kim-Lopez is unafraid to stand up for those who can't speak for themselves. "I can't sit by and see injustice," said Kim-Lopez, who is now the general manager of the Moulton Niguel Water District. "I hope that women will be more impactful in establishing justice because when you talk about diversity and inclusion, what it comes down to is justice." She hopes that her leadership will continue to inspire regional inclusion efforts and keep moving water in the direction of equity.

There were many women in water that Kim-Lopez looked up to when she entered the public leadership. "Environmentalism Frances Spivy-Weber, Orange County-based water leaders Cathy Green and Pam Tobin, and San Bernardino County-based water leader Kathy Tiegs all spoke up and stuck up for others," said Kim-Lopez. "I admired that." She went on to articulate her hope for the water industry's future to include more perspectives from different backgrounds. "We have the ability to make things better for the people of California," said Kim-Lopez. "Find your calling. Get involved in your community."



KRIS MURRAY

Kris Murray, Chair of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board and president of KLM Strategies, a women-owned consulting firm advancing sustainable projects, encourages women's involvement in the water industry. "Women are still underrepresented despite many rewarding career paths within the water industry," said Murray. She recommends that women entering the sector identify mentors to guide them and to join associations and industry groups that will help them develop their skills, broaden their contacts, and open opportunities for leadership.

"The future of water must include a comprehensive focus on the nexus between climate change, sustainability of our natural resources, water quality and supply," said Murray, who also chairs SCWC's Water Energy Efficiency Task Force. "I look forward to watching women in water innovate new ways to resolve these issues and secure the long-term resiliency of our industry."



JANICE RUTHERFORD

Janice Rutherford, SCWC Board Chair and the Second District Supervisor of the County of San Bernardino, is continually inspired by women's hard work, expertise, and contributions to the water sector. Her shoutout is to Debby Cherney, who served as the Eastern Municipal Water District's Deputy General Manager.

"Debby impresses me with her work ethic as well as her desire to expand her knowledge of policy and government issues," said Rutherford. "She is dedicated to helping other women succeed in their career paths, and I admire her commitment to excellence in public service."



KATHY J. TIEGS

Kathy J. Tiegs, former SCWC Board Chair and longtime director of Cucamonga Valley Water District, was motivated by another strong leader in water. "Pat Mulroy, the retired general manager of Southern Nevada Water Authority, inspired me throughout my career," said Tiegs. "In a male-dominated industry, she encouraged women to get involved in water issues and pursue leadership and elected positions. I am forever grateful to Ms. Mulroy for the example she set in blazing the path for women in the water industry."

Tiegs also had a welcoming statement for young women entering the water industry. "You are the next generation of women water leaders to protect our most vital resource: water," said Tiegs. "The water industry provides you with the opportunity to achieve your long-term goals, take on leadership roles, work with a diverse multidisciplinary group of professionals, meet interesting people, influence collaboration and outcomes, and most importantly, have your voice heard as more and more women get involved in water issues."



EUNICE ULLOA

Mayor Eunice Ulloa of the City of Chino grew up in the hub of the citrus and dairy industry, making her keenly aware of the importance of water from a young age. When she served as the executive director of the Chino Basin Water Conservation District, she was excited to see many young women entering the water industry.

Ulloa, who has served on the Chino City Council since 1984, recounted a time that she felt re-inspired by one of her hires: "I hired a young woman with a doctorate in Water Science and Management to lead our education programs. Her passion for her work, her knowledge and understanding of the science of water, and the art of educating others about water were infectious. Her energy and creativity in teaching students about water by getting them out in the field, experiencing the complexity firsthand, and passing along those skills to educators were exciting and inspiring. When she spoke, you could see lightbulbs turning on in the room. I think that for those of us who have been in the water industry a long time, it is important to look at the issues from new perspectives."





What Matters
Water TV & Podcast



HEAR FROM TOP WATER LEADERS

EPISODES

#1 | **Adel Hagekhalil**, General Manager, Metropolitan Water District

#2 | **Joaquin Esquivel**, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board, and **Karla Nemeth**, Director, California Dept. of Water Resources

#3 | **Ellen Hanak**, Public Policy Institute of California; **Newsha Ajami**, then with Stanford University's Water in the West; **Faith Kearns**, author, Getting to Heart of Science Communications

#4 | **Senator Henry Stern** and **Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia**

#5 | **Martha Guzman**, head of US EPA Pacific Southwest; **Felicia Marcus**, fellow, Stanford University Water in the West

www.socalwater.org/podcast/ or
anywhere you download podcasts

Southern California Voices Need to Be Heard on Water Investment

As the state of California continues to experience drought conditions, water infrastructure investment has become a top priority for many organizations.

The Southern California Water Coalition is just one of the groups that has called on state leaders to use budget surplus funds to invest in additional water infrastructure. SCWC has joined with eleven other organizations to call for more funding for projects that will help to increase local and regional water supply development, fix aging infrastructure, improve water quality and investment in new and existing water storage projects.

The coalition has also called for investment in water recycling and reuse projects that will help to stretch our limited supplies by allowing us to use each drop of water more than once. With the right investment, these organizations hope that California can begin to address its chronic water woes.

- Local and regional water resilience investments – \$2.5 billion
 - o Large-scale regional water recycling
 - o Investments in local recycled water projects
 - o Investments in additional local and regional water supply development and water use efficiency initiatives
- State Water Project subsidence repairs – \$585 million
- Treatment for drinking water constituents of emerging concern – \$500 million
- Water storage – \$1 billion
 - o Supplemental funding for Proposition 1 surface and groundwater storage projects
 - o Investments in dam safety projects
 - o Investments in groundwater storage and related infrastructure





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LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

Administration Building
10844 Ellis Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 593-7433

Agenda Report

File #: 2022-2296

Agenda Date: 5/9/2022

Agenda Item No: 3.

FROM: James D. Herberg, General Manager

SUBJECT:

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020-2022 YEAR-END REPORT

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend to the Board of Directors to:

Receive and file the Public Affairs Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2020 - 2022 Year-End Report.

BACKGROUND

The Orange County Sanitation District's (OC San) Public Affairs Office is responsible for creating, organizing, and disseminating all internal and external communication. The primary objective of the Public Affairs team is to deliver messages that are accurate, transparent, and designed to foster trust and confidence. Results from the Communications Audit presented in March 2020 were used in the development of the Strategic Plan. The Communications Audit helped clarify the path moving forward and identify opportunities for the Public Affairs Office to explore. An integrated Public Affairs Strategic Plan is essential to effectively manage the variety of audiences served.

RELEVANT STANDARDS

- Build brand, trust, and support with policy makers and community leaders
- Maintain collaborative and cooperative relationships with regulators, stakeholders, and neighboring communities
- Make it easy for people to understand OC San's roles and value to the community
- Maintain influential legislative advocacy and a public outreach program

PROBLEM

There are various initiatives and messages that the Public Affairs Office must share with internal and external stakeholders for the continued operation and efficiency of OC San. The messaging must be consistent, concise, and thoroughly planned to be efficient and effective.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

The current Public Affairs Strategic Plan includes goals, objectives, strategies, and tactics to execute the various messages and efforts set forth by OC San. The two-year plan will be completed in June

2022, with updates that have been provided to the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee every six months since adoption in July 2020.

PRIOR COMMITTEE/BOARD ACTIONS

February 2022 - Received and filed the Public Affairs Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year 2020-2022 Mid-Year Update.

July 2021 - Received and filed the Public Affairs Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-2022 Year End Update.

February 2021 - Received and filed the Public Affairs Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-2022 Mid-Year Update.

July 2020 - Approved the Public Affairs Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-2022.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Year-End Public Affairs Highlights (July 2021 - April 2022):

- Launched the OC San Connection Newsletter - published three electronic newsletters.
- Partnered with the Heritage Museum of Orange County to develop virtual content for local schools and content for in-person tours.
- Developed the Organizational Advocacy and Outreach Policy for inclusion in OC San's 2021 Strategic Plan.
- Over 550 internal posts on The San Box.
- Hosted 23 tours.
- 89 website posts.
- 10 speaking engagements reaching over 6,000 people.
- Received four awards.
- Over 371 posts on multiple social media platforms.
- Distributed four Outreach Toolkits to OC San's Member Agencies to help with OC San messaging.
- Distributed 16 construction notifications reaching nearly 74,000 people.
- Updated the 2022 Legislative & Regulatory Plan.
- Published the OC San Annual Report

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

All items included in the Public Affairs Strategic Plan FY 2020-2022 are included in the FY 2020-2022 Budget.

ATTACHMENT

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

- Public Affairs Strategic Plan FY 2020-2022
- Presentation



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

STRATEGIC PLAN

Fiscal Years 2020-21 and 2021-2022



Introduction

The Orange County Sanitation District's (OCSD) Public Affairs Office (PAO) is responsible for creating, organizing, and disseminating all internal and external communication. The primary objective of our Public Affairs team is to deliver messages that are accurate, transparent, and designed to foster public trust and confidence. An integrated Public Affairs Strategic Plan is essential to deal effectively with the variety of audiences we serve.

The Public Affairs staff provides services and tools and implements programs to meet the communication needs of several audiences for OCSD. This includes planning and implementing media relations; website and intranet site content; construction outreach; elected officials, and government relations; internal communications, education, and outreach; and graphic development.

The Public Affairs Office has created a Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2020 - 2022. This Plan is developed based upon the principles of OCSD's Mission of protecting public health and the environment and will support the implementation of OCSD's Strategic Plan. This Plan offers a vision to unify our communication efforts and focus resources to achieve the greatest impact and greatest results.

This plan was created amidst the COVID-19 pandemic thus resulting in modifications to the goals and objectives. Much of what is planned and created by this group is based on external factors and therefore outside of our control. The Public Affairs Office will follow the guidance set forth by Management and the Board of Directors to carry out OCSD's messaging and support our member agencies.

Background Information

The Orange County Sanitation District represents 20 cities, 4 special districts and a portion of the unincorporated County of Orange. This area represents a community of 2.6 million people with approximately 550,000 customer accounts.

Unlike most public agencies where there is direct contact with customers, at the Orange County Sanitation District, billing occurs through the County of Orange property tax bills. Therefore, the Sanitation District, must work through other means to communicate with the public and the rate payers.

We have a 25-member Board of Directors, and over 600 employees within six departments with various goals and objectives. While these groups work independently on a variety of projects, the goal of the Public Affairs Office is to provide support and messaging that is consistent throughout the agency so that we are one voice, representing the same overall goals, and portraying the same brand.

While there are many challenges with serving such a large and diverse customer base, there are also great opportunities working through the strategies laid out in this Plan.

Public Affairs Team

The division is staffed with six full-time employees and overseen by the Manager.

Jennifer Cabral, Administration Manager

Daisy Covarrubias, Principal Public Affairs Specialist

Rebecca Long, Senior Public Affairs Specialist

Kelly Newell, Public Affairs Specialist

Belen Carrillo, Public Affairs Specialist

Gregg Deterding, Graphics Designer

Cheryl Scott, Administrative Assistant

Each of these staff members carry out specific functions to meet the communication goals and objectives laid out in this Plan.

Situation Analysis

- There is a global pandemic occurring which has shifted the way we operate and perform our mission of protecting public health and the environment. As we learn to navigate the recovery phase and move into new social distancing norms, our communication efforts will be modified accordingly to meet the needs of the agency, community, and workforce.
- Due to COVID-19, close to 50 percent of staff is working remotely. The uncertainty of the pandemic creates unknown future work conditions for staff. These circumstances impact the ability and method of communicating and reaching employees, thus alternative communication techniques must be explored and implemented.
- OCSD is in the third year of a five-year rate program, with a scheduled 1.2 percent increase in fees to take effect July 1. Due to the economic impacts of COVID-19 the rate increase for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 will be delayed with no significant financial impacts to OCSD operations.
- There could potentially be a significant turnover of board members in 2020. Succession management and onboarding for the board members is critical for the success of this agency.

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, OCSD has sustained its operational, planning, and preparation efforts to ensure there is no lapse in service today or in the future. As an essential service, OCSD has continued to execute the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to keep the regional projects on schedule that are enhancing our entire service area. In Fiscal Year 2020-2021 OCSD is on track to bid and issue \$500 million of construction contracts for over 35 projects.

Mission

The Public Affairs Office is committed to communicating information about OCSD in a timely, accurate and accessible way to the employees, the Board of Directors, our member agencies, the public, and the news media.

- We are committed to open, honest, clear, and respectful two-way communication with our audiences.
- We are dedicated to informing others about how OCSD serves the public and protects the environment.
- We are committed to outstanding customer service by responding to requests quickly and efficiently.
- We are dedicated to teamwork and collaboration as well as being creative and taking the initiative to be out in front of issues.

Audiences

This Public Affairs Plan focuses largely on four primary audiences.

- Internal
 - Board of Directors
 - Executive Management Team
 - Employees
 - Retirees
- The Public
 - Ratepayers
 - Member Agencies
 - Residents, Businesses, Commuters Impacted by OCSD Construction
 - OCSD Neighbors in Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach
 - Schools and Students
 - Tour Groups

- Industry
 - Water/Wastewater Agencies
 - Trade Organizations
 - Trade Media

- Influential Public
 - Local, State, and Federal Elected Officials
 - Environmental Groups
 - Local Media

Agency Key Messages

- OCSD is committed to protecting public health and the environment by providing effective wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling.

- OCSD is more than a wastewater treatment facility, we are a resource recovery facility making use of all our byproducts.

- OCSD is dedicated to exceeding wastewater quality standards used for resource recovery.

- OCSD is committed to proper planning to ensure that the public's money is wisely spent.

- OCSD's assets are monitored and evaluated regularly to ensure top performance and timely replacement.

- OCSD values communicating our mission and strategies with those we serve and all other stakeholders.

- OCSD will provide reliable, responsive, and affordable services in line with our customer needs and expectations is a top priority for OCSD.

- OCSD focuses on creating the best possible workforce where safety, productivity, customer service, and training are a top priority.

- OCSD has worked very hard to create an integrated planning environment which begins with the expectations of its Board of Directors and flows down to the work product of each employee. We have worked hard to assure our staff members are communicating and providing transparent services to each other in support of the plan.

- OCSD has developed an integrated Planning/Asset Management system that allows for intentional, thoughtful decision making to maintain current operations while adding resilience and meeting new challenges.
- OCSD has an organizational structure with informal relationships between employees that allow for collaboration toward common goals.

Public Affairs' Goals for Fiscal Year 2020/21 and 2021/22

1. Optimize communication with our internal audience including those operating in the field with limited time to access online communication.
2. Continue to build OCSD's reputation as infrastructure leaders in the wastewater and resource recovery industry.
3. Cultivate relationships with traditional and social media journalists and influencers to promote OCSD's programs and initiatives.
4. Enhance OCSD's image and branding by utilizing proper messaging in external communication pieces such as OCSD's website, presentation, digital media, and advertising. Maintain a positive experience and image for our visitors.
5. Identify and implement avenues for education and outreach within OCSD's service area to further promote OCSD as a resource recovery agency, promote OCSD's mission and promote career opportunities within the wastewater industry.
6. Develop and implement outreach programs that will engage the communities affected by OCSD construction projects.
7. Participate in proactive engagement in legislative advocacy efforts that could impact OCSD and the wastewater industry.
8. Monitor, track, and apply for grants available and that make business sense to OCSD.
9. Ensure that local elected officials, member agencies, stakeholders, and OCSD Board Members are actively engaged in the work of OCSD.
10. Ensure the Public Affairs Office serves as the primary spokesperson for OCSD during normal business and crisis scenarios and facilitates the dissemination of information.
11. Ensure the General Manager and Assistant General Managers are supported with information necessary to communicate to the varied OCSD audiences.

To achieve these goals, the Public Affairs Office presents the following strategies and tactics, along with the primary staff assigned to that area. While individual staff members are the key contacts for each of the goals, the team works collectively and collaboratively, reflecting our core values. Our staff recognizes the key role we play at OCSD, not only communicating

information, but also teaching and consulting others and serving as a resource to our Board of Directors, employees, the wastewater industry, and our member agencies.

As we navigate through the pandemic recovery efforts, the team will follow this plan, and make necessary modifications to effectively communicate OCSD's strategic direction. Flexibility is implemented into this plan to deal with the dynamic situation we are all in.

Public Affairs Strategies and Tactics

1. Category: Employee Communications

Program Manager: Rebecca Long,

Program Coordinator/Support: Kelly Newell, Belen Carrillo, Gregg Deterding, and Cheryl Scott

Goal (what): Optimize communication with our internal audience including those operating in the field with limited time to access online communication.

Objective (measure): Create employee engagement by utilizing the identified communication methods to share agency wide messages. Increase the availability of employee communications by five percent based on previous plan's goals.

Strategy (why): We value open and honest communication with our employees. PAO is committed to various efforts aimed at keeping OCSD employees informed about important topics, increasing the overall quality of communications to our employees while tying the business aspects of the agency with the human-interest side.

Tactics (how):

- Keep information on MyOCSD homepage current, relevant, and useful for OCSD employees by working with the various Departments to gather information that should be shared.
- On a regular basis, staff will continue to support various departments with their communication and outreach needs.
- PAO will produce six *Pipeline* newsletters per year with a goal of circulation by the third week of the publication month.
- PAO will track Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) points for all participating employees and coordinate the VIP appreciation celebration.
- Create employee recognition and celebratory events throughout the year that comply with new social distancing guidelines, may include small in-person gatherings and virtual events. To include but not limited to the Annual Holiday Lunch, the Harvest Festival, and VIP Celebration, etc.

- Continue with the Honor Walk program which acknowledges retired staff and past Board Members for their contribution to OCSD. The recognition event will be hosted every other year starting in 2021.
- Write and coordinate the *3 Things to Know* email blast to be distributed to all staff each Monday.
- Produce monthly *Digester* bulletin.
- Coordinate and produce two Town Hall meetings (live and/or pre-recorded) to keep employees informed and engaged.
- Host organizational awareness lunch-n-learns monthly to keep staff informed about agency programs and initiatives.
- Research and identify an agency-wide digital message system to provide messages in staff areas across both plants and the Mt. Langley office space. Implementation to occur in Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

2. Category: Industry Experts

Program Manager: Daisy Covarrubias

Program Coordinator/Support: Kelly Newell, Gregg Deterding, and Cheryl Scott

Goal (what): Establish and solidify OCSD's reputation as infrastructure leaders in the wastewater and resource recovery industry.

Objective (measurable): Increase participation in strategic organizations through conferences, networking activities and awards by five percent.

Strategy (why): To build positive public perception and confidence among our various audiences.

Tactics (how):

- Encourage participation and presentation in conferences.
- Encourage and support award application submittals.
- Publicize and coordinate award acceptance logistics.
- Track all awards won by OCSD by keeping a master list.
- Track and promote staff abstract's and publications.

3. Category: Media Relations

Program Managers: Daisy Covarrubias and Rebecca Long

Program Coordinators: Kelly Newell, Belen Carrillo, Gregg Deterding, and Cheryl Scott

Goal (what): Cultivate relationships with traditional and social media journalists and influencers.

Objective (measurement): Increase media coverage with positive stories about OCSD.

Strategy (why): While a presence in the community is important to putting a face on our agency, media (traditional and social) is equally important with a broader reach and a more direct line of communication.

Tactics (how):

- Annually update media list to stay current and fresh.
- Develop a press kit to be online and interactive.
- Build a calendar of news release topics of interest to the public and stakeholders.
- Invite media for a facility tour (virtual or small group).
- Develop media strategies for important events, decisions, or actions.
e.g. CIP Campaign (see details in Category 6: Capital and Maintenance Outreach)
- Conduct media training for Board leadership, EMT and key staff members.
- Generate weekly (3-5 times) social media posts about the good things happening at OCSD with focus on OCSD's accomplishments and mission.
- Continue with social media campaigns #OCSDatWork, #What2Flush, and those currently supporting ongoing efforts.

4. Category: Agency Branding and Messaging

Program Manager: Daisy Covarrubias

Program Coordinators/Support: Gregg Deterding, Kelly Newell, and Cheryl Scott

Goal (what): Enhance OCSD's image and branding by utilizing proper messaging in external communication pieces such as OCSD's website, presentations, digital media and advertising, which includes maintaining a positive experience for OCSD visitors.

Objective (measure): Launch a rebranding campaign for a new logo and a modified name over the next two fiscal years. Update collateral material, signage, website, social media accounts, and promotional material as appropriate and as it is used. Include in messaging that OCSD's official name remains Orange County Sanitation District. Maintain the lobby(s) current and informative with relevant information, i.e. displays, awards case, etc.

Strategy (why): A cohesive voice, message, look, and feel are critical to the public perception that an organization holds with its community. A positive and pleasant in-person experience reinforces OCSD's culture and Core Values as well as showcasing OCSD as industry leaders, and a well-run organization, leaving behind the stigma of typical government agencies.

Tactics (how):

- Update and maintain the corporate identity manual to provide guidance on use of the logo, name, use of fonts, and graphics.
- Keep website current with informative news stories posted weekly.
- Provide presentations, consultation, and advice on the branding and image of OCSD.
- Develop new key messages focused on new branding logo and name.
- Develop new collateral materials around the key messages.
- Incorporate OCSD's messaging and branding into all external presentations.
- Explore advertising options to inform public of agency efforts and role in economic development.
- Fulfill all requests for graphics, photos, and logos.
- Conduct second phase of community poll to determine name recognition and reach.
- Develop an online community newsletter for digital distribution within our service area to increase awareness of OCSD, our programs, and initiatives.
- Develop a branding plan for the new Headquarters Building.
- Maintain the lobby wall in the Administration Building at Plant No. 1 and the Operations Center at Plant No. 2 with OCSD's current branding and messaging.
- Rotate flags on light poles along Street Parkway on a biennial basis.
- Keep the award display cabinet up to date by rotating awards.
- Keep the retiree display in the Administration Building hallway up to date. On an annual basis collect the names of the retirees and update the display board.
- Maintain and coordinate the installation of Honor Walk bricks on a biennial basis.
- Display collateral material in a neatly and organized manner displayed with current and relevant information.

5. Category: Educational Outreach

Program Manager: Rebecca Long

Program Coordinators/Support: Kelly Newell, Belen Carrillo, Gregg Deterding, and Cheryl Scott

Goal (what): Identify and implement avenues for education and outreach within OCSD's service area to promote OCSD's mission and vision.

Objective (measurement): Create and identify new educational opportunities including virtual events and webinars to promote and educate the community on OCSD's work and the essential service provided.

Strategies (why): To further promote OCSD as a resource recovery agency, promote OCSD's mission and promote career opportunities within the wastewater industry.

Tactics (how):

- Execute the Inside the Outdoors contract for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 to continue OCSD's educational program including the Sewer Science program to 500 students within Orange County and introduce them to OCSD's pilot virtual tour program.
- Implement virtual tour program in lieu of physical tours of the plant which are temporarily suspended due to COVID-19. An estimated 1,000 participants will take part in the virtual tour program per year.
- Evaluate the participation of community events due to COVID-19 restrictions. Once events are rescheduled within OCSD's service area, participation will be evaluated to determine safety for staff, and overall impact and reach.
- Continue to encourage and promote the Volunteer Incentive Program to have a pool of staff that volunteer for events and speaking engagements that OCSD participates in.
- Expand OCSD's speaker's bureau to provide a wider set of speakers available.
- Create a Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest – work with local colleges and high schools in our service area to create a promotional PSA for OCSD on a biennial basis. Obtain a minimum of 20 individual and/or group entries.
- Implement a Wastewater 101 Academy for our ratepayers, fellow agencies, and influential public to showcase OCSD operations and initiatives. Host a minimum of four (4) sessions per cycle.
- Research and obtain a Mobile Educational Unit utilize at public events that helps generate greater understanding of the wastewater process and OCSD's messaging.

6. Category: Capital and Maintenance Outreach

Program Managers: Daisy Covarrubias and Tanya Chong from Engineering,
Program Coordinators/Support: Belen Carrillo, Kelly Newell, Gregg Deterding, and Cheryl Scott

Goal (what): Develop and implement outreach programs that will engage the communities affected by OCSD construction projects.

Objective (measurement): Develop, implement, and provide outreach support for over 20 capital projects scheduled to break ground in fiscal years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 within 12 cities.

Strategy (why): Form a positive presence in the community prior to the start of construction projects or maintenance activities that is personal and proactive. Provide impacted community with information ahead of construction activities. Inform them of the benefits and need for the project to gain support and understanding of the necessary construction.

Tactics (how):

- Proactively offer briefings and community meetings to impacted neighborhoods, civic groups, businesses, schools, churches, and other institutions within the project area on an as needed basis.
- Launch CIP Campaign to highlight the efforts of the program and the financial contributions to the local economy.
- Explore the option of placing advertising pieces in communities/areas impacted by construction.
- Respond to inquiries within a 24-hour period.
- Provide project description and notifications to impacted residents at least two weeks before construction begins.
- Update collateral materials, fact sheets and website with current construction information on an as needed basis.
- Maintain ongoing communications with city staff and Board Members on current and upcoming construction outreach projects in affected cities.
- Maintain ongoing communications with impacted residents within the project area through collateral material (e.g., flyers, door hangers, emails, text alerts, social media posts, etc.).
- Measure customer satisfaction through a construction outreach survey to be distributed at the close of construction programs.

7. Category: Legislative Affairs

Program Manager: Rebecca Long

Program Coordinator/Support: Kelly Newell, Gregg Deterding, and Cheryl Scott

Goal (what): Proactive engagement in legislative advocacy efforts that could impact OCSD and the wastewater industry.

Objective (measure): Continue positive relationships with local, state, and federal officials through facility tours, meetings, and bill tracking as stated in the Legislative Plan.

Strategy (why): Legislative advocacy is an important aspect of our business. Having relationships and being actively involved, providing input and OCSD's perspective on potential legislature can and does directly affect OCSD and our business.

The Public Affairs Office is responsible for executing the Board approved Legislative Plan, which is updated on an annual basis. In addition, staff is responsible for tracking state and federal legislation, managing the Sanitation District's legislative advocates, and seeking appropriations and grants.

Tactics (how):

- Develop and implement Annual Legislative Plan in the second quarter of each fiscal year.
- Track bills and maintain a priority list of key legislation.
- Provide regular updates to the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee on state and federal matters.
- Host legislative tours.
- Engage in Advocacy Days in Sacramento and Washington DC twice a year.
- Take positions on bills that could affect OCSD or the industry.
- Work with industry organizations on state and federal issues to ensure OCSD's positions are communicated.
- Partner with industry organizations to co-host virtual events and activities.
- Manage the legislative advocates' contracts and facilitate regular communication between lobbyists, staff, and the Board of Directors.

8. Category: Grants Coordination

Program Manager: Rebecca Long

Program Coordinator/Support: Kelly Newell, Gregg Deterding, and Cheryl Scott

Goal (what): Monitor, track, and apply for grants available to OCSD.

Objective (measure): Apply and obtain grants for qualified OCSD projects and programs.

Strategy (why): Outside funding is important in moving OCSD projects and programs forward. With ongoing attention to government spending, it is vital for OCSD to apply for and secure grants to offset costs when available.

Tactics (how):

- Apply for two grants a year based on availability.
- Develop Grant Policy during fiscal year 2020-2021.
- Research grant opportunities and report out to the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee.
- Seek appropriations and grants and provide support to other divisions seeking grant funding.
- Secure letters of support.
- Publicize grant awards received.
- Create and measure outcomes.

9. Category: Local Government Affairs

Program Manager: Daisy Covarrubias

Program Coordinators/Support: All PAO staff

Goal (what): Ensure that local elected officials, member agencies, stakeholders, and OCSD Board Members are actively engaged in the work of OCSD.

Objective (measure): Provide at least two communication tools per month.

Strategy (why): Keeping OCSD's influential public engaged in OCSD's projects and accomplishments are critical to the support and success of our agency.

Tactics (how):

- Provide Board of Director's with speaking points following every OCSD board meeting that can be used when reporting back to their respective councils and community groups.
- Facilitate an orientation for new Board members.
- Develop and keep a current list of monthly informational presentations.
- Maintain an informational presentation video library for the Board of Directors on key agency topics.
- Provide regular reports to the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee.
- Develop OCSD's Annual Report.
- Publish a *Five Minutes Per Month*, each month.
- Coordinate presentations to each member agency.
- Participate in government affairs committees.
- Invite new council members within OCSD's service area to take a tour of OCSD.
- Create and distribute quarterly outreach tool kits for member agency PIOs to help them easily share and disseminate information about OCSD.
- Host a "State of the District" event for influential leaders throughout the infrastructure and water/wastewater industry, including virtual option.

10. Category: Crisis Management

Program Manager: Rebecca Long

Program Coordinators/Support: All PAO Staff

Goal: Ensure the Public Affairs Office serves as the primary spokesperson for OCSD during normal business and crisis scenarios and facilitates the dissemination of information.

Objective: Ensure that the PIOs in the PAO can respond in a crisis. Provide a crisis communication training course every two years by an outside consultant and an annual refresher course by staff.

Strategy: It is imperative during a crisis that OCSD be proactive and provide clear and effective messaging to employees, public, and the media.

Tactics (how):

- Maintain an updated crisis communication plan including regular briefings with staff to identify possible issues and responses.
- Maintain and update PAO's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).
- Work with Risk and Safety Management on Public Affairs' role in an emergency, including our role via the Integrated Emergency Response Plan.
- Ensure proper procedures are in place for Board, employees, and public notification.
- Maintain updated contact lists for resource, member, and partnering agencies to coordinate and assist during crisis.
- Develop protocols on everyday PAO tasks to facilitate the operations of the group in a time of crisis.

11. Category: General Manager Support

Program Manager: Daisy Covarrubias

Program Coordinators/Support: All PAO Staff

Goal: Ensure the General Manager and Assistant General Managers are supported with information necessary to communicate to the varied OCSD audiences.

Objective: Develop monthly communication pieces on behalf of the General Manager. Ensure General Manager (or designee) is participating and involved in promoting OCSD's initiatives.

Strategy: Collaborate with the General Manager to prepare communication and messaging that reflects the mission and vision of OCSD.

Tactics (how):

- Assist the General Manager and the Assistant General Managers with keeping the Board Members informed and up to date with OCSD activities.
- Assist in the development of the General Manager's Monthly Report.
- Develop talking points for Board and Committee meetings.
- Develop material and speaking points for presentations and speaking engagements.
- Support the development of the OCSD Strategic Plan.
- Assist in the development of the General Managers Annual Work Plan.

- Manage *Ask the GM* questions submitted.
- Coordinate and support VIP tours guided by General Manager and Assistant General Managers.

Closing Comments

This plan is a broad outline of the Public Affairs Office program. As new issues arise, new functions and duties will evolve as well. The role of the Public Affairs Office is to stay ahead of issues, be responsive and flexible to meet the needs of the agency. We will adjust our program accordingly.

Appendix

- A. Highlights of Performance Results from Fiscal Years 2018/2019 -2019/2020
- B. Public Affairs Portfolio Fiscal Year 2019/2020

Appendix A: Highlights of Performance Results from FY 2018/2019 and 2019/2020

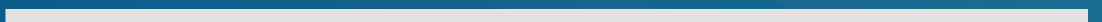
- Over 75 construction outreach pieces distributed regarding specific CIP projects reaching over 155,0000 people
- 800 internal communications publications: 3 Things to know email, Digester, Pipeline and MyOCSD
- 11 internal events
- 18 published news releases
- Over 30 articles mentioning and/or focusing on OCSD
- 1,350 Social Media posts reaching over 400,000 people
- 85 Website posts
- 17 Community Events reaching nearly 12,000 people
- 54 Speaking Engagements (8 career days)
- 283 Tours reaching approximately 4,534 guests
- 1,700 students reached via Sewer Science Program
- 22 Agency Awards Received
- 2 State of the District events reaching 215 guests
- 2 grants were successfully applied for and received totaling \$42,000 for Headquarters Project and Tour Signage
- 40 legislative bills monitored and tracked
- 4 Federal Position letters and 12 State Position letters issued
- Governor agreed with 2 of our bills/positions:
 - SB 212: Jackson. Solid waste: pharmaceutical and sharps waste stewardship.
 - SB 1440: Hueso. Energy: biomethane: biomethane procurement

New Tactics Introduced

- Member Agency Outreach Toolkit
- Board Member Speaking Points
- Virtual Town Hall
- Orange County Polling
- Communications Audit
- Paid Advertisement – OC Register Water Insert
- Regional Outreach Program (CIP)
- Tour signage



Public Affairs Division
10844 Ellis Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708



Public Affairs Year-End Report

July 2021 – April 2022

Presented by:

*Daisy Covarrubias,
Pr. Public Affairs
Specialist*

*Legislative and Public
Affairs Committee*

May 9, 2022



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Public Affairs Staff

Jennifer Cabral, Administration Manager

- Daisy Covarrubias, Principal Public Affairs Specialist
- Rebecca Long, Senior Public Affairs Specialist
- Kelly Newell, Public Affairs Specialist
- Belen Carrillo, Public Affairs Specialist
- Gregg Deterding, Graphic Designer
- Cheryl Scott, Administrative Assistant
- Interns

Extension of Our Team

- Tanya Chong, Principal Staff Analyst (Engineering)
- Jennifer Wein, Staff Analyst (Engineering)
- VIPs

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Recommendation

Recommend to the Board of Directors to:

- Receive and File the Public Affairs Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2020- 2022 Year-End Report

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Questions



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LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

Administration Building
10844 Ellis Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 593-7433

Agenda Report

File #: 2022-2281

Agenda Date: 5/9/2022

Agenda Item No: 4.

FROM: James D. Herberg, General Manager

SUBJECT:

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2022

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend to the Board of Directors to:

Receive and file the Legislative Affairs Update for the month of April 2022.

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

FEDERAL:

- The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) continues to move forward with its rulemaking effort to designate Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) under Superfund. Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), PFAS is pending final review within the Administration. It is thought that during the month of April/May a proposal could be published in the Federal Register seeking to list PFAS as hazardous.
- The Administration has submitted its FY 2023 budget request to Congress. The USEPA request is at a record level of funding at \$11.3 billion. Within the request is \$4 billion for the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) program and \$200 million to support the agency's ongoing PFAS regulatory roadmap.

STATE:

- The month of March saw amendments to hundreds of bills, the introduction of numerous legislative proposals with major budget impacts, and the Legislature returning to its full pace as it works to consider the 2,115 bills introduced during the 2022 legislative session.
- February marked the deadline for new bill vehicle introductions, it did not mark the deadline for new legislative language. Assembly and Senate leadership set hard mid-late March deadlines for major amendments and amendments to "spot" legislation to be submitted. The month of March featured hundreds of major amendments to existing legislation, many of which completely altered the scope and intent of the previous versions.

ATTACHMENT

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

- ENS Resources Legislative Update
- Federal Legislative Matrix - ENS Resources
- Presentation - ENS Legislative Update
- Townsend Public Affairs (TPA) Legislative Update
- State Legislative Matrix - TPA
- Presentation - TPA Legislative Update
- Grant Matrix 2022



TO: Rebecca Long
FROM: Eric Sapirstein
DATE: April 15, 2022
SUBJECT: Washington Update

The past month of congressional actions centered on budget matters and preparing for mark up of a Water Resources Development Act of 2022 in both the House and Senate. The markup is anticipated in May. Because of the Easter and Passover Recess, Congress is out of session for the latter half of the month.

- ***Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Request***
The Administration transmitted its FY 2023 budget request to Congress. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency request is notable for the record level of funding at \$11.3 billion. Within the request is \$4 billion for the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) program and \$200 million to support the agency's ongoing PFAS regulatory roadmap. Notably the proposed increase would support the priority to increase the number of enforcement officials at the agency by at least 100 staff. The request set in motion consideration of Community Project requests by Member offices. OC San submitted a request for such assistance to those Orange County Congressional Delegation Members that are supporting such requests (Steel, Lowenthal, Kim, Correa). Assuming that the request is approved, the Members will submit the project request to the Committees on Appropriations for consideration and incorporation into any final fiscal year spending bill. Any final decisions are unlikely before late fall.
- ***Environmental Equity Plan Issued by USEPA Administrator Regan***
As part of the Administration's effort to target federal resources and polices to disadvantaged and underserved communities, Administrator Regan released a plan of action to ensure that the agency's internal operations align with the White House's Justice 40 Initiative.

This initiative seeks to ensure that 40 percent of federal infrastructure investments' benefits support such communities. The plan would direct the agency to take actions to support enhanced community engagement and projects, work with other federal agencies, and generally improve communications on how the initiative will improve environmental equity.

The plan can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/equity-action-plan>

- ***PFAS Legislation to Address Cleanups and Liability***

Senate action on legislation that would mandate new controls on PFAS, and any related site cleanups remains to be scheduled in the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. The expectation that a draft bill would be available in the past several weeks has failed to be realized. In part, this is attributable to opposition to imposing CERCLA (Superfund) liability for PFAS contamination. Instead, efforts are being made to develop an approach that would focus on increased funding of research and treatment technologies to ensure that the appropriate science-based approaches are designed and that cleanup technologies are available. However, at the same time, United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) continues to move forward with its rulemaking effort to designate PFAS under Superfund. Currently, a proposal to designate PFAS under CERCLA is pending final review within the Administration. It is speculated that within weeks, a proposal could be published in the Federal Register seeking to list PFAS as hazardous. Should this occur, pressure may increase upon Congress to take action to place a legislative hold on the effort. The basis of such possible action is a desire for further data to support the protection of public health from PFAS threats as well as the consequences of potential Superfund liability being imposed on wastewater agencies that might have wastewaters or biosolids containing such chemicals.



Federal Legislative Report - April 2022

Bill Id	US S 3956
Location	United States
Title	WIPPES Act
Summary	Directs Federal Trade Commission to require manufacturers to print "Do Not Flush" labels on non-flushable wipes product packaging and mirrors labeling requirements that are law in California. It also directs U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to establish a grants program to assist states, utilities, non-profits, and public-private partnerships in education and outreach activities to educate ratepayers on the new label and proper disposal methods. The bill includes a preemption clause requiring states to enact identical labeling practices for covered products. Bill is the companion legislation to House bill H.R. 4602.
Status	Introduced
Last Action	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.. March 30, 2022

Bill Id	US HR 6591
Location	United States
Title	PIPES Act
Summary	Codifies International Water Services Flushability Group's "(PAS)101: 2020 Criteria for Recognition as a Flushable Product" and require wipes manufacturers to demonstrate and certify with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) that their wipes product(s) comply with the criteria to be able to market the wipes as "flushable" and/or "sewer and septic safe." The PIPES Act is complementary to the WIPPES Act (HR 4602) that requires wipes manufacturers to label synthetic wet wipes as "Do Not Flush."
Status	Introduced
Last Action	Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.. February 03, 2022
Priority	High
Position	Support

Bill Id [US HR 3684](#)

Location Title	United States Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
Summary	Comprehensive infrastructure investment package that provides the biggest infusion of U.S. federal spending on infrastructure in decades, including \$55 billion for water infrastructure. The bill also includes a Western Water Infrastructure Title to address U.S. Bureau of Reclamation water infrastructure funding programs. Enacted into law on November 15, 2021. Became Public Law No: 117-58.
Status	Passed
Last Action	Became Public Law No: 117-58.. November 15, 2021
Priority	High
Position	Monitor

Bill Id	US HR 1917
Location	United States
Title	Hazard Eligibility and Local Projects Act
Summary	<p>\$540 million for the Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMG) program; \$249 million for the Predisaster Mitigation (PDM) program; and, \$175 million for the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program.</p> <p>Would expedite the approval of grants for certain property acquisition and relocation projects that are funded by those programs. The bill would require FEMA to approve grants for all applications submitted under those programs—including those submitted after January 1, 2016—if a project satisfies the following two conditions:</p> <p>The project is for acquisition or relocation of a vulnerable property, regardless of whether the applicant initiated planning or construction before or after applying for assistance; and</p> <p>The project is exempt from environmental review requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).</p>
Status	Considering
Last Action	Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.. November 15, 2021
Priority	High
Position	Monitor

Bill Id	US HR 4443
Location	United States
Title	COMPOST Act
Summary	Creates a new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administered grant program for state, local, tribal, and territorial governments and for nonprofits, which would offer three types of grants: planning grants, measurement grants, and reduction grants. Program would be authorized at \$200 million for each of the fiscal years 2021-2031.
Status	Introduced
Last Action	Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.. August 11, 2021
Position	Monitor

Bill Id	US HR 4602
Location	United States
Title	WIPPES Act
Summary	<p>Pulled out of the Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act. Not later than 2 years after enactment, directs FTC, with consultation from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), to require manufacturers of single-use wet wipes print a "Do Not Flush" label notice on wipes product packaging. Below is a summary of the WIPPES Act's key provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Not later than 2 years after date of enactment, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), in consultation with USEPA, will issue regulations to require wipes manufacturers to print clear and visible "Do Not Flush" label notices on non-flushable wet wipes product packaging.- Prohibition on the representation or marketing of flushable attributes, performance, or efficacy benefits for non-flushable wipes products.- FTC may bring penalty fines of not more than \$2,500 for each day a manufacturer fails to comply with labeling requirements. Total fine amount may not exceed \$100,000 for a single violation.- FTC will develop guidance for manufacturers to conduct education and outreach campaigns on new labeling requirements and provide consumers with the following information: presence of the new label notice on product packaging, what products have the new label notice, intended effects of label notice on consumer behavior regarding the disposal of the products, and outreach may not promote, advocate, or depict wipes other than the wipes products defined by legislation.
Status	Introduced
Last Action	Referred to the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.. July

22, 2021
Priority High
Position Support

Bill Id [US HR 2467](#)
Location United States
Title PFAS Action Act of 2021
Summary Addresses the public health and environmental risks posed by PFAS contamination, including addressing, monitoring, and treating for PFAS contamination in water supplies. Includes directive for USEPA to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA, also known as Superfund law, within one year after enactment of the bill and within five years determine whether to designate all PFAS substances as hazardous under CERCLA. Also includes other regulatory measures to detect, monitor, and treat for PFAS in water supplies.
Status Considering
Last Action Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.. July 22, 2021
Priority High
Position Oppose

Bill Id [US HR 3622](#)
Location United States
Title Clean Water Standards for PFAS Act of 2021
Summary Require the U.S.Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to develop effluent limitations guidelines and standards and water quality criteria for PFAS under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and authorize \$200 million in Federal grants to publicly owned treatment works to implement such guidelines and standards. Specifically, the Clean Water Standards for PFAS Act would do the following:

- Require USEPA to develop water quality criteria under the Clean Water Act for all measurable PFAS chemicals within two years of bill's enactment and develop effluent limitations guidelines and standards for all measurable PFAS chemicals within four years, including establishing pretreatment standards to prevent introduction of PFAS into POTWs and stopping PFAS at the source prior to contaminating municipal water systems.
- Identifies nine priority industry categories of industries that USEPA must

establish standards for.

- Authorizes \$200 million in grants per year through fiscal years 2022-2026 to assist POTWs with implementation of developed limitations and standards.

Status Introduced

Last Action Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.. June 01, 2021

Priority High

Position Monitor

Bill Id [US S 1907](#)

Location United States

Title Clean Water Standards for PFAS Act of 2021

Summary Companion bill to H.R. 3622. The bill would require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to develop effluent limitations guidelines and standards and water quality criteria for PFAS under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and provide Federal grants to publicly owned treatment works to implement such guidelines and standards. Specifically, the Clean Water Standards for PFAS Act would do the following:

- Require USEPA to develop water quality criteria under the Clean Water Act for all measurable PFAS chemicals within two years of bill's enactment and develop effluent limitations guidelines and standards for all measurable PFAS chemicals within four years, including establishing pretreatment standards to prevent introduction of PFAS into POTWs and stopping PFAS at the source prior to contaminating municipal water systems.
- Identifies nine priority industry categories of industries that USEPA must establish standards for.
- Authorizes \$200 million in grants per year through fiscal years 2022-2026 to assist POTWs with implementation of developed limitations and standards.

Status Introduced

Last Action Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.. May 27, 2021

Priority High

Position Monitor

Bill Id [US HR 3404](#)

Location United States

Title	FUTURE Western Water Infrastructure and Drought Resiliency Act
Summary	<p>The FUTURE Western Water Act is a comprehensive package that aims to address western water infrastructure and drought response needs, including: infrastructure development, improved technology and data, water job training and education, and ecosystem protection and restoration. Among the provisions, the legislation includes provisions from Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act (H.R. 1015), which increases the authorization level for the Title XVI program to \$500 million from the current \$50 million. CASA supports H.R. 1015. The bill's the four major policy components.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructure Development: authorizes \$750 million for sustainable, multi-benefit water storage projects, authorizes \$500 million for water recycling and reuse projects, authorizes \$260 million for innovative water desalination projects, and establishes process to authorize new major water storage projects owned or supported by USDOJ. - Improved Technology and Data: invests in water data and technology to improve water management and reducing energy and water waste - types of investments include expanded water technology "X-Prize" to support new stream gages and the development and deployment of emerging technologies to help manage and improve water supply availability. - Water Job Training and Education: Federal support for water education activities, collaborative water management efforts and training, and professional development support for water sector workforce. - Ecosystem Protection and Restoration: To reverse fish and wildlife species decline, eligible measures include new voluntary incentives for farmers to provide waterbird habitats, expanded watershed health project funding, support wildlife refuges, multi-benefit water storage projects that provide benefits for water supply and wildlife, and improved drought planning efforts to protect biodiversity.
Status	Introduced
Last Action	Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.. May 21, 2021
Priority	High
Position	Support

Bill Id	US HR 1563
Location	United States
Title	To extend the authorities under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 providing operational flexibility, drought relief, and other benefits to the State of California.

Status	Introduced
Last Action	Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife.. April 21, 2021
Priority	High
Position	Oppose

Bill Id [US HR 2238](#)

Location United States

Title Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2021

Summary Would reduce plastic production, increase recycling, and protect frontline and fenceline communities from the burden of toxic emissions from plastic waste by changing the incentives of the industry. The bill shifts the burden of cleanup to the corporations that produced the plastics. Would direct the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to establish regulations to require covered manufacturers, as defined by the bill, to print clear and visible "Do Not Flush" labeling notice on product packaging. Eligible labeling protocol mirrors the protocols outlined in the state bill. As with the state bill, the "Do Not Flush" symbol is defined by the INDA and EDANA Guidelines for Assessing the Flushability of Disposable Nonwoven Products (Edition 4; May 2018).

BFFPPA addresses pollution caused by microfibers from textiles and general microplastics through the water waste stream. The bill would establish a new grants program to support projects that reduce microfiber pollution through either improving industry and manufacturing best practices to reduce the generation of textile-based microfiber pollution or improve the filtration technology for textile-based microfiber pollution in washing machines and at wastewater treatment plants. The bill does not define an authorization amount for the program.

The legislation would also create a separate USEPA pilot program to study the efficacy and cost effectiveness of tools, technologies, and techniques used to remove and prevent the release of microplastics into the environment. Under the program, studies will be conducted to test natural and green infrastructure, and mechanical removal systems and filtration technologies. The bill identifies eligible locations to carry out testing studies to include wastewater treatment facilities, stormwater systems, and drinking water systems. The bill does not define an authorization amount for this new pilot program.

Status Introduced

Last Action Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change.. March 29, 2021

Priority High
Position Support

Bill Id [USS 984](#)

Location United States

Title Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2021

Summary Would reduce plastic production, increase recycling, and protect frontline and fenceline communities from the burden of toxic emissions from plastic waste by changing the incentives of the industry. The bill shifts the burden of cleanup to the corporations that produced the plastics. Would direct the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to establish regulations to require covered manufacturers, as defined by the bill, to print clear and visible "Do Not Flush" labeling notice on product packaging. Eligible labeling protocol mirrors the protocols outlined in the state bill. As with the state bill, the "Do Not Flush" symbol is defined by the INDA and EDANA Guidelines for Assessing the Flushability of Disposable Nonwoven Products (Edition 4; May 2018).

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Status Introduced


Last Action Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.. March 25, 2021

Priority High

Position Support

Bill Id	US HR 1881
Location	United States
Title	To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to permitting terms, and for other purposes.
Summary	Extends the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to up to, but not exceeding, 10 years from the current 5 years, for a municipality.
Status	Introduced
Last Action	Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.. March 15, 2021
Priority	High
Position	Monitor

Bill Id	US HR 1015
Location	United States
Title	Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act
Summary	Increases the authorization level for the Title XVI Program to \$500 million from the current \$50 million and makes it a permanent program. The bill strikes requirement that projects must be in drought or disaster areas and strikes the requirement that the projects need to be designated in an appropriations legislation.
Status	Introduced
Last Action	Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife.. March 15, 2021
Priority	High
Position	Support




OC SAN
ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

FEDERAL UPDATE

May 9, 2022

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THE ISSUES

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FISCAL YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS

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- Community Project Request Status—House Delegation
- Senate Community Project Status
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PFAS UPDATE

- Water Sector Joint Position
- Congress:
 - ❑ Senate Committee On Environment and Public Works Legislative Initiative Pending
 - ❖ Research and Development
 - ❖ Destruction Technology Support
 - ❖ Opposition To Liability Designation Strong
- USEPA Issues Update:
 - ❑ NPDES/Effluent Limitations
 - ❑ Toxicity Assessments
 - ❑ Drinking Water Standard

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BUILD AMERICA/BUY AMERICA

- Office of Management and Budget Buy America Guidance Released to Agencies to Meet 5/14/2022

- USEPA Implementation Procedures Imminent
 - ❑ All Manufactured Products Captured
 - ❑ Adjustment Period of 6 Months Expected
 - ❑ Potential Off-Ramps
 - ❖ 55 percent Domestic Content
 - ❖ Waivers
 - ✓ Cost
 - ✓ Availability
 - ✓ Public Interest
 - ❑ Applies only to FY 2022 Funding and Future

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Questions



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MEMORANDUM

To: Orange County Sanitation District
From: Townsend Public Affairs
Date: April 14, 2022
Subject: Monthly Legislative Report

State Legislative Update

The month of March saw amendments to hundreds of bills, the introduction of numerous legislative proposals with major budget impacts, and the Legislature returning to its full pace as it works to consider the 2,115 bills introduced during the 2022 legislative session. Below is an overview of notable legislative happenings in the past month.

While February marked the deadline for new bill vehicle introductions, it did not mark the deadline for new legislative language. Assembly and Senate leadership set hard mid-late March deadlines for major amendments and amendments to “spot” legislation to be submitted, meaning the month of March featured hundreds of major amendments to existing legislation – many of which completely altered the scope and intent of their previous versions.

Governor Newsom Issues Executive Order to Bolster Drought Response

Following the driest first three months of a year in the state’s recorded history, this month Governor Gavin Newsom took steps to drive water conservation at the local level, calling on local water suppliers to move to Level 2 of their Water Shortage Contingency Plans, which require locally appropriate actions that will conserve water across all sectors, and directing the State Water Resources Control Board to consider a ban on the watering of decorative grass at businesses and institutions.

Governor Newsom signed an [Executive Order](#) that directs the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to evaluate the adoption of regulations banning irrigation of “non-functional” turf (or grass), such as decorative grass adjacent to large industrial and commercial buildings. The ban would not include residential lawns or grass used for recreation, such as school fields, sports fields and parks. The Department of Water Resources estimates this ban alone will result in potential water savings of several hundred thousand acre-feet. An acre-foot of water serves the needs of approximately three households for a year.

In addition to the water supplier conservation measure, the Order includes a number of key directives for local governments:

- *New Local Well Permitting Requirements.* Local governments may not approve a permit for a new groundwater well or alteration of an existing well in a basin with a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (medium- or high-priority) without first obtaining written verification from the managing Groundwater Sustainability Agency; and must determine that the groundwater will is not likely to interfere with nearby wells and/or cause subsidence that may damage nearby infrastructure. This excludes small and domestic wells.
- *Certain Water Hauling Ordinances Suspended.* Suspends all local prohibitions on hauling of water for human consumption, cooking, or sanitation out of a water basin of origin, or public agency jurisdiction.
- *Groundwater Recharge Projects Expedited.* Expedites and reduces permitting requirements for groundwater recharge projects to support future flood-flows.
- *Expanded Illegal Diversion Enforcement.* Expands State Water Board inspections for illegal diversions and/or waste and unreasonable use of water.
- *Funding Requests for State Agencies.* Requests state agencies to submit proposals for drought mitigation by April 15, 2022 for inclusion in the Governor’s May Revision budget.

COVID-19 Updates

- *Assembly Member Buffy Wicks Announced she will not move forward with vaccine Mandate legislation* - This month, Assembly Member Wicks announced she will hold [AB 1933](#) during the 2022 session. The bill would have mandated vaccines for workplaces (for both employees and independent contractors) and require employers to verify that their workers are immunized. New hires would need to have at least one shot by their first day — and the second within 45 days. Assembly Member Wicks cited strong public safety union opposition and the decline in COVID-19 cases as reasons for holding the bill. AB 1933 constituted the most comprehensive push for vaccine mandates/reform as it pertained to the COVID-19 pandemic. Other legislation, like Senator Scott Wiener’s SB 866, which would allow minors aged 12 years and older to consent to a vaccine without parental oversight, is still active.
- *Legislators consider, and vote to not repeal the COVID-19 state of emergency* – This month, the Senate Committee on Governmental Organization considered the merits of SCR 5 (Melendez), which would end the COVID-19 State of Emergency and all of the current Executive Orders related to the emergency if passed by both houses. It was the first hearing the bill received since Senator Melendez introduced the bill in 2020. The measure failed on a 4-8 party line vote. However, it was granted reconsideration to allow Senator Melendez to bring it forward at a later date.

During the bill’s discussion, proponents iterated that the existing State of Emergency constituted a violation of the separation of powers doctrine and that the decline in COVID-19 should lead to the end of the emergency.

Opponents of the measure noted that the State of Emergency allows for the coordination of aid and resources across federal, state, and local agencies and provides for the stability of existing Executive Orders relating to COVID-19, such as remote meeting flexibility. Representatives from the California Professional Firefighters Association and the California Hospital Association spoke in opposition to the measure, citing concerns that ending the Emergency could impact hospital and public safety staffing, and the ability for emergency services to respond.

Multiple Proposals Emerge to Offset High Gas Prices

This past month featured multiple proposals to help offset the cost of soaring gas prices, which include issuing hard-cash rebates to Californians, foregoing the gas tax, and combinations of both. Below is an overview of each proposal:

- Governor Newsom champions “gas tax holiday,” then adds cash rebates for all drivers – Governor Newsom expanded on his original “gas tax holiday” proposal and released details for a more comprehensive rebate plan. This plan includes \$11 billion in budget surplus funds for the following programs:
 - \$400 debit cards to every CA vehicle owner, which will be distributed via DMV records to cover those who don’t earn enough to pay taxes. Owners of electric vehicles and individuals who lease cars will also be eligible,
 - \$750 million to provide three months of free public transit throughout the state,
 - Up to \$600 million to pause the diesel sales tax for one year; and
 - \$523 million to pause the gas inflation adjustment, set to become effective July 1, 2022.

Ultimately, this proposal will require legislative approval. Assembly and Senate leadership have signaled that they are against pausing the gas inflation adjustment, which they say is a critical component to financing transportation infrastructure improvements throughout the state.

- Democratic Legislators Announce Gas Rebate Plan for all tax-paying Californians – Assembly Member Petrie-Norris and other members of the Assembly Democratic Caucus unveiled a new legislative proposal to offer all *tax-paying* Californians a \$400 tax rebate to offset high gas and goods prices. The proposal would dedicate approximately \$9 billion of the state’s budget surplus toward providing \$400 rebates to all Californians who pay state income taxes, regardless of their income.

The proposal framework was in response to the rising price of gas and presents an alternative solution to Governor Newsom’s proposal to issue a “gas tax holiday” before the gas price inflation readjustment period on July 1.

This proposal differs from the Governor’s plan in that it would be extended to all tax-paying Californians – regardless of car ownership status. It also does not include a gas tax suspension.

Eviction Protections Legislation Signed into Law

On March 31, Assembly Bill 2179 (Grayson and Wicks) was signed into law. The bill extends the date on which landlords may initiate eviction proceedings from April 1 to July 1, as long as an application is submitted by March 31 to a rent relief program. The legislation is designed to allow struggling tenants and the state another three months to finish sending out rental relief payments. The measure includes an urgency clause, meaning its provisions are effective immediately.

The state's eviction moratorium was scheduled to expire without intervention on March 31. For the last two years, lawmakers have negotiated legislation to protect renters against eviction if they have faced pandemic-related hardship. California received a total of \$5.2 billion in federal funds to establish a rent relief program last year to help alleviate the burden of debt for renters and landlords. However, these programs have been oversubscribed and backlogged in the distribution of sought relief payments.

In February, legislators approved an early action [budget bill](#) to free up state funds and expedite the backlog of applications, which also eased restrictions on who could qualify for the relief.

AB 2179 was expedited through the legislative process, following the introduction of the bill's language only a week prior to its signing into law. Notably, Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis signed the bill into law because Governor Newsom was vacationing out of state until April 12. She is the first woman to sign a bill into law in the state of California.

**OC San
State
Bills of Interest**

BILL	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	LATEST ACTION	OC SAN POSITION	LEGISLATIVE PLAN	OTHER POSITIONS
Proposed Legislation 2022						
AB 1001	C. Garcia [D]	Amends the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to 1) require mitigation to compensate for adverse air or water quality impacts in a disadvantaged community (DAC) to mitigate those impacts directly in the affected community and 2) require all public agencies implementing CEQA to give consideration to the principles of environmental justice by ensuring the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins.	Currently in the Senate waiting to be assigned to committees	Watch	Legislative and Regulatory Policies: Air Quality - Support measures that maintain and enhance local decision-making authority, where appropriate, in the development and implementation of air quality attainment strategies.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - Disapprove CSDA - Oppose ACWA - Oppose
AB 1240	Ting [D]	Requires the Air Resources Board (ARB) to prepare an updated report on specified issues related to indoor air quality. Requires ARB, on or before January 1, 2025, to submit to the Legislature an addendum updating its prior indoor air quality report. Requires ARB to consider updates on potential health effects from ozone-emitting consumer products, natural gas sources, and per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).	Currently in the Senate waiting to be assigned to committees	Watch	Legislative and Regulatory Policies: Air Quality - Support measures that maintain and enhance local decision-making authority, where appropriate, in the development and implementation of air quality attainment strategies.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - NYC CSDA - NYC ACWA - NYC
AB 1724	Stone [D]	Current law, to protect public health and water quality, regulates a broad range of consumer products and processes, including water softeners, water treatment devices, and backflow prevention devices, among others. This bill would require, on or before January 1, 2024, that all washing machines sold as new in California contain a microfiber filtration system. The bill would also require all state-owned washing machines to contain a microfiber filtration system.	Referred to the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee	Support	State Priorities: Support legislation or regulations that restrict the use of microplastics and chemicals of emerging concern in any product that is disposed of through the sewer system.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - Support CSDA - NYC ACWA - Watch
AB 1774	Seyarto [R]	This bill would require the Judicial Council to adopt rules of court applicable to actions or proceedings brought to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul the certification or adoption of an environmental impact report for water conveyance or storage projects, or the granting of project approvals, including any appeals to the court of appeal or the Supreme Court, to be resolved, to the extent feasible, within 270 days of the filing of the certified record of proceedings with the court to an action or proceeding seeking judicial review of the lead agency's action related to those projects.	Referred to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee and the Assembly Judiciary Committee	Support	Legislative and Regulatory Policies: Special Districts - Oppose further state regulations that adversely impact special district financing, operations, and administration.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - NYC CSDA - Watch ACWA - Watch
AB 1817	Ting [D]	Would prohibit, beginning January 1, 2024, any person from distributing, selling, or offering for sale in the state any textile articles that contain regulated PFAS, and requires a manufacturer to use the least toxic alternative when replacing regulated PFAS in textile articles to comply with these provisions.	Currently on the Assembly Floor	Watch	State Priorities: Monitor state legislation as well as State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regulatory activity related to PFAS.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - Support CSDA - Support ACWA - Favor

**OC San
State
Bills of Interest**

BILL	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	LATEST ACTION	OC SAN POSITION	LEGISLATIVE PLAN	OTHER POSITIONS
AB 1944	Lee [D]	Current law, the Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency, as those terms are defined, be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. Current law, until January 1, 2024, authorizes a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with those specified teleconferencing requirements in specified circumstances when a declared state of emergency is in effect, or in other situations related to public health. This bill would specify that if a member of a legislative body elects to teleconference from a location that is not public, the address does not need to be identified in the notice and agenda or be accessible to the public when the legislative body has elected to allow members to participate via teleconferencing.	Referred to the Assembly Local Government Committee	Watch	Legislative and Regulatory Policies: Special Districts - Oppose further state regulations that adversely impact special district financing, operations, and administration.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - Watch CSDA - Watch ACWA - Watch/Amend
AB 1985	Rivas [D]	Current law requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), in consultation with the state board, to adopt regulations to achieve these organic waste reduction goals, including a requirement intended to meet the goal that not less than 20% of edible food that is currently disposed of be recovered for human consumption by 2025. This bill would require CalRecycle to compile and maintain on its internet website a list, organized by ZIP Code, of information regarding persons or entities that produce and have available state organic waste products and update the list at least every 6 months.	Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee	Watch	Legislative and Regulatory Policies: Biosolids, Organics, and Biogas - Support compost associations and local cities and agencies in education, market expansion activities, and meeting mandates to buy-back compost and other organics diverted from landfill.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Support CASA - Support if Amended CSDA - NYC ACWA - NYC
AB 2026	Friedman [D]	Would prohibit an online retailer that sells or offers for sale and ships purchased products in or into the state from using single-use plastic packaging that consists of shipping envelopes, cushioning, or void fill to package or transport the products, on and after January 1, 2024, for large online retailers, as defined, and on and after January 1, 2026, for small online retailers, as defined. The bill would prohibit a manufacturer, retailer, producer, or other distributor that sells or offers for sale and ships purchased products in or into the state from using expanded or extruded polystyrene packaging to package or transport the products, except as provided.	Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee	Watch	State Priorities: Support legislation or regulations that restrict the use of microplastics and chemicals of emerging concern in any product that is disposed of through the sewer system.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - NYC CSDA - NYC ACWA - NYC
AB 2041	E. Garcia [D]	Would require the State Water Resources Control Board to take specified actions if the state board adopts a primary drinking water standard with a compliance period for which public water systems are given a designated period of time to install necessary measures, including, but not limited to, installation of water treatment systems, to comply with the primary drinking water standard without being held in violation of the primary drinking water standard. Those actions would include, among other actions, developing a financial plan to assist public water systems that will require financial assistance in procuring and installing the necessary measures.	Referred to the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee	Watch	State Priorities: Monitor state legislation as well as State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regulatory activity related to PFAS.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - NYC CSDA - NYC ACWA - Watch

**OC San
State
Bills of Interest**

BILL	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	LATEST ACTION	OC SAN POSITION	LEGISLATIVE PLAN	OTHER POSITIONS
AB 2247	Bloom [D]	This bill would require the Department of Toxic Substances Control to work with the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse to establish, on or before January 1, 2024, a publicly accessible reporting platform to collect information about PFAS and products or product components containing regulated PFAS, as defined, being sold, offered for sale, distributed, or offered for promotional purposes in, or imported into, the state. This bill would require a manufacturer to provide, within 30 days, a certificate attesting that the manufacturer's PFAS or product or product component containing PFAS complies with certain requirements. The bill would subject a manufacturer who violates this requirement to civil penalties not to exceed \$2,500 per day, up to a maximum of \$100,000 for each violation.	Referred to the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee and the Assembly Judiciary Committee	Support	State Priorities: Monitor state legislation as well as State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regulatory activity related to PFAS.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - Co-Sponsor CSDA - NYC ACWA - Favor
AB 2374	Bauer-Kahan [D]	Under current law, the dumping of commercial quantities of waste, as defined, is punishable as a misdemeanor and also includes escalating fines. This bill would increase the maximum fine for the dumping of commercial quantities of waste from \$3000 to \$5000 for the first conviction, from \$6000 to \$10,000 for the second conviction, and from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for the third and any subsequent convictions.	Passed the Public Safety Committee and is currently in the Assembly Business and Professions Committee	Watch	Legislative and Regulatory Policies: Biosolids, Organics, and Biogas - Support compost associations and local cities and agencies in education, market expansion activities, and meeting mandates to buy-back compost and other organics diverted from landfill	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - Support CSDA - NYC ACWA - NYC
AB 2387	E. Garcia [D]	Would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$7,430,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs. This bill contains other related provisions.	Passed the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee and is currently in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee	Watch	Guiding Priorities: Support legislation or regulations that restrict the use of microplastics and chemicals of emerging concern in any product that is disposed of through the sewer system.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - Support if Amended CSDA - NYC ACWA - Favor if amended
AB 2428	Ramos [D]	The Mitigation Fee Act, requires a local agency that establishes, increases, or imposes a fee as a condition of approval of a development project to, among other things, determine a reasonable relationship between the fee's use and the type of development project on which the fee is imposed. The Mitigation Fee Act also imposes additional requirements for fees imposed to provide for an improvement to be constructed to serve a development project, or which is a fee for public improvements, as specified, including that the fees be deposited in a separate capital facilities account or fund. This bill would require a local agency that requires a qualified applicant, as described, to deposit fees for improvements, as described, into an escrow account as a condition for receiving a conditional use permit or equivalent development permit to expend the fees within 5 years of the deposit.	Referred to the Assembly Local Government Committee and the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee	Watch	Legislative and Regulatory Policies: Special Districts - Oppose further state regulations that adversely impact special district financing, operations, and administration.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - Watch CSDA - NYC ACWA - NYC

**OC San
State
Bills of Interest**

BILL	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	LATEST ACTION	OC SAN POSITION	LEGISLATIVE PLAN	OTHER POSITIONS
AB 2449	Rubio [D]	Current law, until January 1, 2024, authorizes a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with specified teleconferencing requirements in specified circumstances when a declared state of emergency is in effect, or in other situations related to public health. This bill would authorize a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with those specified teleconferencing requirements if at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular location clearly identified on the agenda that is open to the public and situated within the local agency's jurisdiction. The bill would impose prescribed requirements for this exception relating to notice, agendas, the means and manner of access, and procedures for disruptions. The bill would require the legislative body to implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with federal law.	Referred to the Assembly Local Government Committee	Watch	Legislative and Regulatory Policies: Special Districts - Oppose further state regulations that adversely impact special district financing, operations, and administration.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - Support CSDA - NYC ACWA - Support/Amend
AB 2536	Grayson [D]	Current law requires a local agency that conducts an impact fee nexus study to follow certain standards and practices, as specified. Current law also requires a local agency to hold at least one open and public meeting prior to levying a new fee or service charge, as specified. This bill would, on and after January 1, 2023, require a local agency that imposes fees for water connections or sewer connections, or imposes capacity charges, as provided, and that conducts a study to support the estimate of the reasonable cost of providing the service to follow certain standards and practices, as defined and specified.	Referred to the Assembly Local Government Committee	Oppose	Legislative and Regulatory Policies: Special Districts - Oppose further state regulations that adversely impact special district financing, operations, and administration.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - Oppose CSDA - Oppose ACWA - Oppose unless amended
AB 2647	Levine [D]	The Ralph M. Brown Act requires the meetings of the legislative body of a local agency to be conducted openly and publicly, with specified exceptions. Current law makes agendas of public meetings and other writings distributed to the members of the governing board disclosable public records, with certain exceptions. Current law requires a local agency to make those writings distributed to the members of the governing board available for public inspection at a public office or location that the agency designates. This bill would instead require a local agency to make those writings distributed to the members of the governing board available for public inspection at a public office or location that the agency designates or post the writings on the local agency's internet website in a position and manner that makes it clear that the writing relates to an agenda item for an upcoming meeting.	Referred to the Assembly Local Government Committee and the Assembly Judiciary Committee	Watch	Legislative and Regulatory Policies: Special Districts - Oppose further state regulations that adversely impact special district financing, operations, and administration.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Sponsor CASA - Support CSDA - NYC ACWA - Favor

**OC San
State
Bills of Interest**

BILL	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	LATEST ACTION	OC SAN POSITION	LEGISLATIVE PLAN	OTHER POSITIONS
AB 2771	Friedman [D]	Would prohibit a person or entity from manufacturing, selling, delivering, holding, or offering for sale in commerce any cosmetic product that contains perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances PFAS.	Passed the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee and is currently in the Assembly Health Committee	Support	State Priorities: Monitor state legislation as well as State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regulatory activity related to PFAS.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - Support CSDA - NYC ACWA - NYC
AB 2787	Quirk [D]	The Microbeads Nuisance Prevention Law prohibits a person from selling or offering for promotional purposes in the state any personal care products containing plastic microbeads that are used to exfoliate or cleanse in a rinse-off product, including, but not limited to, toothpaste. This bill would, on and after specified dates that vary based on the product, ban the sale, distribution in commerce, or offering for promotional purposes in the state of designated products, such as leave-in cosmetics products and waxes and polishes, if the products contain intentionally added microplastics, as defined. The bill would exclude from this ban products consisting, in whole or in part, of specified substances or mixtures containing microplastics. The bill would make a violator liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,500 per day for each violation.	Referred to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee and the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee	Support	Guiding Priorities: Support legislation or regulations that restrict the use of microplastics and chemicals of emerging concern in any product that is disposed of through the sewer system.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - Support CSDA - NYC ACWA - NYC
AB 2811	Bennett [D]	This bill would require, commencing January 1, 2024, all newly constructed nonresidential buildings with a total gross floor area of 100,000 square feet or more be constructed with dual plumbing to allow the use of nonpotable water sources for all applicable nonpotable water demands and provide for the collection, onsite treatment, and reuse of available onsite rainwater, graywater, and foundation drainage. The bill would establish exemptions to these requirements, including waiver by the board on a project-by-project basis if the board finds that strict compliance would have a significant adverse impact on public health, downstream water rights, water quality, operation of a sewer collection or treatment system, or plant life, fish, or wildlife.	Currently in the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee	Watch	Legislative and Regulatory Policies: Special Districts - Oppose further state regulations that adversely impact special district financing, operations, and administration.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - NYC CSDA - Oppose Unless Amended ACWA - Not Favor
SB 45	Portantino [D]	This bill directs CalRecycle to, in consultation with ARB, to provide assistance to local jurisdictions, including, but not limited to, any funding appropriated by the Legislature in the annual Budget, to help them comply with SB 1383 regulations.	Currently in the Assembly waiting to be assigned to committees	Watch	Legislative and Regulatory Policies: Biosolids, Organics, and Biogas - Support compost associations and local cities and agencies in education, market expansion activities, and meeting mandates to buy-back compost and other organics diverted from landfill.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - Support if amended CSDA - Support if amended ACWA - NYC

**OC San
State
Bills of Interest**

BILL	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	LATEST ACTION	OC SAN POSITION	LEGISLATIVE PLAN	OTHER POSITIONS
SB 54	Allen [D]	This bill would establish the Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility Act, which would prohibit producers of single-use, disposable packaging or single-use, disposable food service ware products from offering for sale, selling, distributing, or importing in or into the state such packaging or products that are manufactured on or after January 1, 2032, unless they are recyclable or compostable.	Currently in the Assembly waiting to be assigned to committees	Watch	State Priorities: Support legislation or regulations that restrict the use of microplastics in any product that is disposed of through the sewer system.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Support in Concept CASA - NYC CSDA - Watch ACWA - NYC
SB 230	Portantino [D]	Would require the State Water Resources Control Board to establish, maintain, and direct an ongoing, dedicated program called the Constituents of Emerging Concern Program to assess the state of information and recommend areas for further study on, among other things, the occurrence of constituents of emerging concern (CEC) in drinking water sources and treated drinking water. The bill would require the state board to convene, by an unspecified date, the Science Advisory Panel to review and provide recommendations to the state board on CEC for further action, among other duties. The bill would require the state board to provide an annual report to the Legislature on the ongoing work conducted by the panel.	Currently in the Assembly waiting to be assigned to committees	Watch	State Priorities: Monitor state legislation as well as State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regulatory activity related to PFAS.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - Watch CSDA - Support ACWA - Favor
SB 891	Hertzberg [D]	The bill extends the Stormwater Quality Improvement Act's requirement for businesses to demonstrate enrollment with stormwater discharge permits to not just business licenses, but also equivalent instruments or permits. The bill provides that a business license or equivalent instrument or permit issued for the sole purpose of raising revenue must also comply. SB 891 also prohibits cities and counties from developing their own process for determining whether the IGP covers a facility. When a city or county transfers compliance information to the State Water Board, the bill requires those records be subject to the CPRA.	Passed the Senate Governance and Finance Committee and is currently in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee	Watch	Legislative and Regulatory Policies: Special Districts - Oppose further state regulations that adversely impact special district financing, operations, and administration.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - NYC CSDA - NYC ACWA - NYC
SB 892	Hurtado [D]	Would require the Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) to develop, propose, and adopt reporting requirements applicable to companies and cooperatives in the food and agriculture industry if they identify a significant and verified cyber threat or active cyberattack. The bill would require a water and wastewater systems sector entity serving more than 3,300 people to report their risk assessments and emergency response plan required by the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 to the California Cybersecurity Integration Center, the Department of Water Resources, and the State Water Resources Control Board.	Currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee	Watch	Legislative and Regulatory Policies: Security - Support funding for the hardening of essential regional facilities such as water recycling and sewer collection and recycling sites.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - NYC CSDA - Oppose Unless Amended ACWA - Oppose Unless Amended
SB 991	Newman [D]	This bill, until January 1, 2033, authorizes local agencies, defined as any city, county, city and county, or special district authorized by law to provide for the production, storage, supply, treatment, or distribution of any water from any source, to use the progressive design-build process for public works projects in excess of \$5,000,000, similar to the progressive design-build process authorized for use by the Director of General Services. The bill would require specified information to be verified under penalty of perjury.	Currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee	Support	Legislative and Regulatory Policies: Special Districts - Oppose further state regulations that adversely impact special district financing, operations, and administration.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - Support CSDA - NYC ACWA - Favor

**OC San
State
Bills of Interest**

BILL	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	LATEST ACTION	OC SAN POSITION	LEGISLATIVE PLAN	OTHER POSITIONS
SB 1157	Hertzberg [D]	Existing law, until January 1, 2025, establishes 55 gallons per capita daily as the standard for indoor residential water use. Existing law establishes, beginning January 1, 2025, the greater of 52.5 gallons per capita daily or a standard recommended by the department and the board as the standard for indoor residential water use, and beginning January 1, 2030, establishes the greater of 50 gallons per capita daily or a standard recommended by the department and the board as the standard for indoor residential water use. The bill would instead require that from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2030, the standard for indoor residential water use be 47 gallons per capita daily and beginning January 1, 2030, the standard be 42 gallons per capita daily.	Passed the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee	Oppose Unless Amended	Legislative and Regulatory Policies: Water Quality and Supply - Support legislation and regulation that promote improved water use efficiency through state assistance in evaluating and implementing new programs and technologies and increasing public awareness of water use efficiency.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - Oppose Unless Amended CSDA - NYC ACWA - Oppose Unless Amended
SB 1345	Ochoa-Bogh [R]	This bill revises various provisions in the Dig Safe Act related to operator and excavator responsibilities when preparing for and conducting excavations. The Dig Safe Act excludes non-pressurized sewer lines, storm drains, and drain lines from the definition of "subsurface installations." SB 1345 repeals that exclusion. The Dig Safe Act also exempts Caltrans, as an operator of subsurface installations, from being a member of, participating in, and sharing in the costs of a regional notification center (RNC). SB 1345 repeals that exemption on January 1, 2025.	Referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee	Watch	Legislative and Regulatory Policies: Special Districts - Oppose further state regulations that adversely impact special district financing, operations, and administration.	ACC-OC - NYC LOCC - Watch CASA - Oppose CSDA - Oppose Unless Amended ACWA - NYC

Legend:
ACC-OC - Association of California Cities, Orange County
LOCC - League of California Cities
NYC - Not Yet Considered
CASA - California Association of Sanitation Agencies
ACWA - Association of California Water Agencies
CSDA - California Special Districts Association

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OC SAN
ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT

**Legislative And
Public Affairs
Committee Update**

May 9, 2022


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Sacramento General Overview 2022

- Senate and Assembly Policy Committees first-house deadlines passed
- Senate and Assembly Appropriations Suspense File Hearing expected to be May 19
- Social distancing requirements being lifted throughout Legislative public spaces



OC San LaPA: Legislative Update: May 9, 2022 Page 2

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Key Proposals in Sacramento

Gas Tax Rebate Update

Conservatorship – CARE Court

May Revise

Legislature’s Budget Priorities

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Senate Budget Priority Proposal

\$7.5 billion – Water and Drought

- \$1.5 billion for recycling, stormwater capture, and groundwater cleanup
- \$2 billion to rebalance state water supply and water rights
- \$1.5 billion for new CA Water Trust to acquire lands with senior water rights from willing sellers
- \$1.5 billion to ensure all Californians have safe drinking water

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2022 Priority Legislation of Interest

Bill	Author	Description	Status
AB 1724	Stone [D]	Requires all state-owned washing machines to contain a microfiber filtration system with a mesh size of 100 microns or smaller	Currently in Asm. Appropriations Committee
AB 2247	Bloom [D]	Require manufacturers of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) or products containing PFAS to disclose the presence of PFAS in those products in a publicly accessible database	Currently in the Asm. Appropriations Committee
AB 2536	Grayson [D]	Recently amended to reinforce existing requirements for fee studies and require evidence to support that the fee or capacity charge does not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing service. CASA no longer opposing.	Heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee on May 4
AB 2771	Friedman [D]	Would prohibit any person from distributing, selling, or offering for sale in the state any textile articles that contain intentionally added regulated PFAS. Requires least toxic alternative	Currently on the Assembly Floor

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2022 Priority Legislation of Interest

Bill	Author	Description	Status
AB 2787	Quirk [D]	Would establish a Constituents of Emerging Concern Program to recommend areas for further study on the occurrence of CECs in drinking water	Currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee
SB 991	Newman [D]	Allows local agencies that provide for the production, storage, supply, treatment, or distribution of water to use <u>progressive design-build</u> for projects over \$5 million	Currently on the Senate Floor
SB 1157	Hertzberg [D]	This bill would change the change the standards for indoor residential water use, to reflect those recommended by DWR and the SWRCB.	Passed the Senate and is currently in the Assembly

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Thank You

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Name of Grant/Loan	Synopsis of Grant/Loan	Amount of Grant/Loan	Amount Applying for	Applying Y/N	Project/Program	Reason	Match	Deadline	Category	Rcvd Grant/Financing Y/N
FEDERAL										
The Water Infrastructure Improvements Act (WIIN)	The Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects funding opportunity allows for sponsors of water reclamation and reuse projects that are congressionally authorized or are eligible under section 4009(c) of the WIIN Act to request cost-shared funding for planning, design and/or construction of those Projects. Water reclamation and reuse projects provide improved efficiency, flexibility during water shortages and diversifies the water supply.	Reclamation is making up to \$20 million available for those projects authorized under the WIIN Act.	\$3 million	No	Final Expansion of GWRS Headworks (P2-122)	The Sanitation District developed a proposal in 2019 that could be used as a basis for a new submittal.	\$20 million or 25% of project costs whichever is less.	6/28/2019	Water/ Infrastructure	N/A
STATE										

Name of Grant/Loan	Synopsis of Grant/Loan	Amount of Grant/Loan	Amount Applying for	Applying Y/N	Project/Program	Reason	Match	Deadline	Category	Rcvd Grant/Financing Y/N
Organics Grant Program (CalRecycle)	The grant program is to lower overall greenhouse gas emissions by expanding existing capacity or establishing new facilities in California to reduce the amount of California-generated green materials, food materials, and/or Alternative Daily Cover being sent to landfills.	TBD if FY 2022 Grant Applications will be available. It is possible that other organics related applications will also be available.	TBD	TBD	Food-Waste Co-Digestion facility at Plant No.2 in Huntington Beach to accept up to 150 wet tons per day (wtpd) of pre-processed source separated organics.	We will review the possible funding opportunity to determine if it is a fit for the Sanitation District.	TBD	TBD	Energy/Recycling	Pending NOFA
Proposition 1 IRWM Grant	The Proposition 1 IRWM Grant Program, administered by DWR, provides funding for projects that help meet the long-term water needs of the state, including: Assisting water infrastructure systems adapt to climate change; Providing incentives throughout each watershed to collaborate in managing the region's water resources and setting regional priorities for water infrastructure; and Improving regional water self-reliance, while reducing reliance on Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.	Due to negotiations between OC stakeholders and the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA), \$7.18 Million from the Santa Ana IRWM Project Funding Area designated for North and Central Orange County.	TBD	TBD	TBD No Projects Currently Identified	We will review the possible funding opportunity to determine if it is a fit for the Sanitation District.	TBD	TBD	Water	TBD



LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Administration Building
10844 Ellis Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 593-7433

Agenda Report

File #: 2022-2272

Agenda Date: 5/9/2022

Agenda Item No: 5.

FROM: James D. Herberg, General Manager

SUBJECT:

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2022-2024

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Information Item.

BACKGROUND

The Orange County Sanitation District's (OC San) Public Affairs Office is responsible for creating, organizing, and disseminating all internal and external communication. The primary objective of the Public Affairs team is to deliver messages that are accurate, transparent, and designed to foster trust and confidence. An integrated Public Affairs Strategic Plan is essential to effectively manage the variety of audiences we serve. Staff will provide an overview of the Draft Strategic Plan and request feedback for incorporation, and present the final Plan for approval in July.

RELEVANT STANDARDS

- Build brand, trust, and support with policy makers and community leaders
- Maintain collaborative and cooperative relationships with regulators, stakeholders, and neighboring communities
- Make it easy for people to understand OC San's roles and value to the community
- Maintain influential legislative advocacy and a public outreach program

PROBLEM

There are various initiatives and messages that the Public Affairs Office must share with our internal and external stakeholders for continued operation and efficiency of OC San. The messaging must be consistent, concise, and thoroughly planned to be efficient and effective.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

The proposed Public Affairs Strategic Plan includes goals, objectives, strategies, and tactics to execute the various messages and efforts set forth by OC San. The plan will be in place for two years, with updates provided every six months to the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee.

PRIOR COMMITTEE/BOARD ACTIONS

N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

All items included in the Public Affairs Draft Strategic Plan FY 2022-2024 are included in the proposed FY 2022-2024 Budget.

ATTACHMENT

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

- Public Affairs Draft Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2022-2024
- Presentation

Public Affairs Strategic Plan FY 2022-2024

Introduction

The Orange County Sanitation District's (OC San) Public Affairs Office (PAO) is responsible for creating, organizing, and disseminating all internal and external communication. The primary objective of the PAO is to deliver messages that are accurate, transparent, and designed to foster public trust and confidence. An integrated Public Affairs Strategic Plan is essential to deal effectively with the variety of audiences we serve.

The PAO staff provides services and tools and implements programs to meet the communication needs of several audiences for OC San. This includes planning and implementing media relations; website and intranet site content; construction outreach; elected officials and government relations; internal communications, education, and outreach; and graphic development.

The PAO has created a Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2022 - 2024. This Plan is developed based upon the principles of OC San's Mission of protecting public health and the environment and will support the implementation of OC San's Strategic Plan. This Plan offers a vision to unify our communication efforts and focus resources to achieve the greatest impact and greatest results.

This plan was created as we are in the process of recovering and moving into our new normal post the COVID-19 pandemic. At the creation of the previous PAO Strategic Plan, it was impossible to project the length of time that COVID-19 would impact our lives and operations, as such some items are carrying over to this new plan. Because much of what is planned and created by this group is based on external factors and therefore outside of our control, flexibility and fluidity is integrated into the plan. The PAO will follow the guidance set forth by management and the Board of Directors to carry out OC San's messaging and support our member agencies.

Background Information

OC San represents 20 cities, 4 special districts and a portion of the unincorporated County of Orange. This area represents a community of 2.6 million people with approximately 550,000 customer accounts.

Unlike most public agencies where there is direct contact with customers, at OC San, billing occurs through the County of Orange property tax bills. Therefore, OC San must work through other means to communicate with the public and the rate payers.

We have a 25-member Board of Directors, and over 600 employees within six departments with various goals and objectives. While these groups work independently on a variety of projects, the goal of the PAO is to provide support and messaging that is consistent throughout the agency so that we are one voice, representing the same overall goals, and portraying the same brand.

While there are many challenges with serving such a large and diverse customer base, there are also great opportunities working through the strategies laid out in this Plan.

Public Affairs Team

The division is staffed with six full-time employees and overseen by a manager.

Jennifer Cabral, Administration Manager

Daisy Covarrubias, Principal Public Affairs Specialist

Rebecca Long, Senior Public Affairs Specialist

Kelly Newell, Public Affairs Specialist

Belen Carrillo, Public Affairs Specialist

Gregg Deterding, Graphics Designer

Cheryl Scott, Administrative Assistant

Each of these team members carry out specific functions to meet the communication goals and objectives laid out in this Plan.

Situation Analysis

- The world is attempting to recover from a pandemic and return to a sense of normalcy, though identifying what - that remains to be seen. However, OC San has been able to continue with its operations and meet the mission of protecting public health and the environment.
- While operations continue for OC San, the business functions have been modified to meet the health and safety guidelines established.
- To ensure the safety of our critical on-site staff, approximately 50 percent of staff have been working remotely for the last two years. As stability with the health crisis is reached, telecommuting staff is beginning to return on-site. Communication methods have and will continue to address the varied audiences, work schedules and work environments to maintain open and transparent communications.

- OC San is concluding a five-year rate program, with a rate study about to begin. Public communication must factor in the financial impacts to the OC San rate payers as decisions and communication is made regarding proposed fees for the next five years.
- OC San has seen a high number of retirements this year resulting in significant personnel movement and new hires. Communicating OC San's culture and reinforcing the importance in relationships are essential to the effectiveness and functionality of the agency.
- OC San experienced high turnover in the Board of Directors in 2021. Continuous engagement with the Board Members is critical for the success of this agency.
- As an essential service, OC San has continued to execute the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to keep the regional projects on schedule that are enhancing the regional sewer system throughout the service area. In the next two fiscal years, OC San plans to award 28 construction contracts worth a total of \$400 million.
- In partnership with the Orange County Water District, OC San is constructing facilities to complete the final expansion of the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS). Once completed, OC San will be able to recycle 100 percent of the reclaimable flow and allow GWRS to produce enough water for 1 million people.
- OC San is constructing a new administrative headquarters building in the City of Fountain Valley across the street from Plant No.1. The project will allow OC San to consolidate administrative staff into one building thus creating additional space for process facilities in the plant. The building is designed to be welcoming and inviting to the public. The main entry plaza will feature educational exhibits highlighting OC San's mission of protecting public health and environment.

Mission

The Public Affairs Office is committed to communicating information about OC San in a timely, accurate and accessible way to the employees, the Board of Directors, our member agencies, the public, and the news media.

- We are committed to open, honest, clear, and respectful two-way communication with our audiences.
- We are dedicated to informing others about how OC San serves the public and protects the environment.
- We are committed to outstanding customer service by responding to requests quickly and efficiently.
- We are dedicated to teamwork and collaboration as well as being creative and taking the initiative to be out in front of issues.

Audiences

This Public Affairs Plan focuses largely on four primary audiences.

- Internal
 - Board of Directors
 - Executive Management Team
 - Employees
 - Retirees

- The Public
 - Ratepayers
 - Member Agencies
 - Residents, Businesses, Commuters Impacted by OC San Construction and Maintenance
 - OC San Neighbors near our facilities (plants and pump stations)
 - Schools and Students
 - Tour Groups

- Industry
 - Water/Wastewater Agencies
 - Trade Organizations
 - Trade Media

- Influential Public
 - Local, State, and Federal Elected Officials
 - Environmental Groups
 - Local Media

Agency Key Messages

- OC San is committed to protecting public health and the environment by providing effective wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling.
- OC San is more than a wastewater treatment facility; we are a resource recovery facility making use of all our byproducts.
- OC San is dedicated to exceeding wastewater quality standards used for resource recovery.
- OC San is committed to proper planning to ensure that the public's money is wisely spent.

- OC San's assets are monitored and evaluated regularly to ensure top performance and timely replacement.
- OC San values communicating our mission and strategies with those we serve and all other stakeholders.
- Providing reliable, responsive, and affordable services in line with our customer needs and expectations is a top priority for OC San.
- OC San focuses on creating the best possible workforce where safety, productivity, customer service, and training are a top priority.
- OC San has worked very hard to create an integrated planning environment which begins with the expectations of its Board of Directors and flows down to the work product of each employee. We have worked hard to assure our staff members are communicating and providing transparent services to each other in support of the plan.
- OC San has developed an integrated Planning/Asset Management system that allows for intentional, thoughtful decision making to maintain current operations while adding resilience and meeting new challenges.
- OC San has an organizational structure with informal relationships between employees that allow for collaboration toward common goals.

Public Affairs' Goals for Fiscal Year 2022/23 and 2023/24

1. Optimize communication with our internal audience including those operating in the field.
2. Continue to build OC San's reputation as infrastructure leaders in the wastewater and resource recovery industry.
3. Cultivate relationships with traditional and social media journalists and influencers to promote OC San's programs and initiatives.
4. Enhance OC San's image and branding by utilizing proper messaging in external communication pieces such as OC San's website, presentation, digital media, and advertising. Maintain a positive experience and image for our visitors.
5. Identify and implement avenues for education and outreach within OC San's service area to further promote OC San as a resource recovery agency, promote OC San's mission and promote career opportunities within the wastewater industry.

6. Develop and implement outreach programs that will engage the communities affected by OC San's construction projects.
7. Ensure proactive engagement in legislative advocacy efforts that could impact OC San and the wastewater industry.
8. Monitor, track, and apply for grants available and that make business sense to OC San.
9. Ensure that local elected officials, member agencies, stakeholders, and OC San Board Members are actively engaged in the work of OC San.
10. Ensure the Public Affairs Office serves as the primary spokesperson for OC San during normal business and crisis scenarios and facilitates the dissemination of information.

To achieve these goals, the PAO presents the following strategies and tactics, along with the primary staff assigned to that area. While individual staff members are the key contacts for each of the goals, the team works collectively and collaboratively, reflecting our core values. Our staff recognizes the key role we play at OC San, not only communicating information, but also teaching and consulting others and serving as a resource to our Board of Directors, employees, the wastewater industry, and our member agencies.

As we navigate through the pandemic recovery efforts, the team will follow this plan, and make necessary modifications to effectively communicate OC San's strategic direction. Flexibility is implemented into this plan to deal with the dynamic situation we are all in.

Public Affairs Strategies and Tactics

1. Category: Employee Communications

Program Manager: Rebecca Long,

Program Coordinator/Support: Kelly Newell, Belen Carrillo, Gregg Deterding, and Cheryl Scott

Goal (what): Optimize communication with our internal audience including those operating in the field.

Objective (measure): Create employee engagement by utilizing the identified communication methods to share agency wide messages.

Strategy (why): We value open and honest communication with our employees. PAO is committed to various efforts aimed at keeping OC San employees informed about important topics, increasing the overall quality of communications to our employees while tying the business aspects of the agency with the human-interest side.

Tactics (how):

- Keep information on The San Box homepage current, relevant, and useful for OC San employees by working with the various departments to gather information that should be shared.
- On a regular basis, staff will continue to support various departments with their communication and outreach needs.
- PAO will produce six *Pipeline* newsletters per year with a goal of circulation by the third week of the publication month.
- PAO will track Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) points for all participating employees and coordinate the VIP appreciation celebration.
- Create employee recognition and celebratory events throughout the year that comply with health guidelines, this may include small in-person gatherings and virtual events. To include but not limited to the Annual Holiday Lunch, the Harvest Festival, and VIP Celebration, etc.
- Commemorate OC San's achievement of reusing 100 percent of the reclaimable flow upon completion of the Groundwater Replenishment System's Final Expansion. Celebrate the milestone and acknowledge the accomplishment with staff and stakeholders.
- Continue with the Honor Walk program which acknowledges retired staff and past Board Members for their contribution to OC San. The recognition event will be hosted every other year starting in 2023.
- Write and coordinate the *3 Things to Know* email blast to be distributed to all staff each Monday.
- Produce monthly *Digester* bulletin.
- Support and promote OC San "U", OC San's training program.

2. Category: Industry Experts

Program Manager: Daisy Covarrubias

Program Coordinator/Support: Kelly Newell, Gregg Deterding, and Cheryl Scott

Goal (what): Establish and solidify OC San's reputation as infrastructure leaders in the wastewater and resource recovery industry.

Objective (measurable): Increase participation in strategic organizations through conferences, networking activities and awards by five percent.

Strategy (why): To build positive public perception and confidence among our various audiences.

Tactics (how):

- Encourage participation and presentation in conferences
- Encourage and support award application submittals
- Publicize and coordinate award acceptance logistics
- Track all awards won by OC San by keeping a master list
- Track and promote staff abstracts, and publications

3. Category: Media Relations

Program Managers: Daisy Covarrubias and Rebecca Long

Program Coordinators: Kelly Newell, Belen Carrillo, Gregg Deterding, and Cheryl Scott

Goal (what): Cultivate relationships with traditional and social media journalists and influencers.

Objective (measurement): Increase media coverage with positive stories about OC San.

Strategy (why): While a presence in the community is important to putting a face to our agency, media (traditional and social) is equally important with a broader reach and a more direct line of communication.

Tactics (how):

- Annually update media list to stay current and fresh.
- Develop a press kit to be online and interactive.
- Build a calendar of news release topics of interest to the public and stakeholders
- Invite media for a facility tour (virtual or small group). Rolling over to new plan as unable to complete due to COVID—19 restrictions.
- Develop media strategies for important events, decisions, or actions.
e.g. CIP Campaign (see details in Category 6: Capital and Maintenance Outreach)
- Conduct media training for Board leadership, EMT and key staff members. Rolling over to new plan as unable to complete due to COVID—19 restrictions.
- Weekly (3-5 times) social media posts about the happenings at OC San with focus on OC San's accomplishments and mission.
- Continue with social media campaigns #OCSanAtWork, #What2Flush, and those currently supporting ongoing efforts.

4. Category: Agency Branding and Messaging

Program Manager: Daisy Covarrubias

Program Coordinators/Support: Gregg Deterding, Kelly Newell, and Cheryl Scott

Goal (what): Enhance OC San's image and branding by utilizing proper messaging in external communication pieces such as OC San's website, presentations, digital media, advertising, which includes maintaining a positive experience for OC San visitors.

Objective (measure): Continue with OC San's branding campaign including updating collateral material, signage, and promotional material as appropriate and as it is used. Maintain the lobby(s) current and informative with relevant information, i.e., displays, awards case, etc.

Strategy (why): A cohesive voice, message, look, and feel are critical to the public perception that an organization holds with its community. A positive and pleasant in-person experience reinforces OC San's culture and core values as well as showcasing OC San as industry leaders, and a well-run organization, leaving behind the stigma of typical government agencies.

Tactics (how):

- Develop new website to better meet the information, transparency and usability needs of our visitors while meeting accessibility standards.
- Maintain website accuracy, relevancy and timeliness with new stories posted weekly.
- Provide presentations, consultation, and advice on the branding and image of OC San.
- Develop new collateral materials around the key messages.
- Explore advertising options to inform the public of agency efforts and role in enhancing the local economy.
- Fulfill all requests for graphics, photos, and logos.
- Continue with online community newsletter. Increase reach and distribution list.
- Develop a branding plan for the new Headquarters Building.
- Develop an educational display in the headquarters building to illustrate OC San's reuse and recycling efforts in support of the environment and public health. Display to be revealed when new building is unveiled.
- Maintain the lobby wall in the administration building at Plant No. 1 and the Operations Center at Plant No. 2 with OC San's current branding and messaging.
- Rotate flags on light poles at Plant No. 1 and at Plant No. 2 on a biennial basis.
- Keep the award display cabinet up to date by rotating awards.
- Keep the retiree display in the Administration Building hallway up to date. On an annual basis collect the names of the retirees and update the display board.
- Maintain and coordinate the installation of Honor Walk bricks on a biennial basis.
- Display collateral material in a neatly and organized manner displayed with current and relevant information.
- Develop a video library of OC San programs to utilize as educational and promotional tools.
- Promote the development and implementation of OC San's permittee awards program that recognizes industries for improving their adherence to excellent standards.

- Support and promote the development of an awards program for biosolids truck drivers.
- Develop a campaign to showcase OC San's diversity to be launched internally and externally.

5. Category: Educational Outreach

Program Manager: Rebecca Long

Program Coordinators/Support: Kelly Newell, Belen Carrillo, Gregg Deterding, and Cheryl Scott

Goal (what): Identify and implement avenues for education and outreach within OC San's service area to promote OC San's mission and vision.

Objective (measurement): Create and identify new educational opportunities including virtual events and webinars to promote and educate the community on OC San's work and the essential service provided.

Strategies (why): To further promote OC San as a resource recovery agency, promote OC San's mission and promote career opportunities within the wastewater industry.

Tactics (how):

- Execute the Inside the Outdoors contract for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 to continue the educational partnership that includes the Sewer Science program to 500 students within Orange County and introduce them to OC San's virtual tour program.
- Reinstate physical plant tours and continue offering the virtual tour to increase the reach of OC San's tour program.
- Identify 10-12 community event opportunities for OC San to participate in to inform and educate the community on the important role OC San plays in public health and the environment.
- Continue to encourage and promote the Volunteer Incentive Program to have a pool of staff that volunteer for events and speaking engagements that OC San participates in.
- Expand OC San's speaker's bureau to provide a wider set of speakers available.
- Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest – work with high schools in our service area to create a promotional PSA for OC San on a biennial basis. Obtain a minimum of 20 individual and/or group entries.
- Continue hosting Wastewater 101 Citizen Academy for our ratepayers, and influential public to showcase OC San operations and initiatives. Host a minimum of four (4) series per year.
- Support the Heritage Museum of Orange County's educational efforts by supplying material to be used for virtual and in-person teaching of OC San's key messages.

6. Category: Capital and Maintenance Outreach

Program Managers: Daisy Covarrubias and Tanya Chong from Engineering,
Program Coordinators/Support: Belen Carrillo, Kelly Newell, Gregg Deterding, Cheryl Scott, and Jennifer Wein from Engineering

Goal (what): Develop and implement outreach programs that will engage the communities affected by OC San construction and maintenance activities.

Objective (measurement): Develop, implement, and provide outreach support for over 15 capital projects scheduled to break ground in fiscal years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 in more than 10 cities.

Strategy (why): Form a positive presence in the community prior to the start of construction projects or maintenance activities that is personal and proactive. Provide impacted community with information ahead of construction activities. Inform them of the benefits and need for the project to gain support and understanding of the necessary construction.

Tactics (how):

- Proactively offer briefings and community meetings to impacted neighborhoods, civic groups, businesses, schools, churches, and other institutions within the project area on an as needed basis.
- Explore the option of placing advertising pieces in communities/areas impacted by construction.
- Respond to inquiries within a 24-hour period.
- Provide project description and notifications to impacted residents at least two weeks before construction begins.
- Update collateral materials, fact sheets and website with current construction information on an as needed basis.
- Maintain ongoing communications with city staff and Board Members on current and upcoming construction outreach projects in affected cities.
- Maintain ongoing communications with impacted residents within the project area through collateral material (e.g., flyers, door hangers, emails, text alerts, social media posts, etc.).
- Measure customer satisfaction through a construction outreach survey to be distributed at the close of construction programs.
- Support the Vendor Outreach Program to promote OC San business opportunities with local businesses.

7. Category: Legislative Affairs

Program Manager: Rebecca Long

Program Coordinator/Support: Kelly Newell, Gregg Deterding, and Cheryl Scott

Goal (what): Proactive engagement in legislative advocacy efforts that could impact OC San and the wastewater industry.

Objective (measure): Continue positive relationships with local, state, and federal officials through facility tours, meetings, and bill tracking as stated in the Legislative Plan.

Strategy (why): Legislative advocacy is an important aspect of our business. Having relationships and being actively involved, providing input and OC San's perspective on potential legislature can and does directly affect OC San and our business.

The PAO is responsible for executing the Board approved Legislative Plan, which is updated on an annual basis. In addition, staff is responsible for tracking state and federal legislation, managing OC San's legislative advocates, and seeking appropriations and grants.

Tactics (how):

- Develop and implement Annual Legislative Plan in the second quarter of each fiscal year.
- Track bills and maintain a priority list of key legislation.
- Provide regular updates to the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee on state and federal matters.
- Host legislative tours.
- Engage in Advocacy Days in Sacramento and Washington DC once a year.
- Take positions on bills that could affect OC San or the industry.
- Work with industry organizations on state and federal issues to ensure OC San's positions are communicated.
- Partner with industry organizations to co-host virtual events and activities.
- Manage the legislative advocates' contracts and facilitate regular communication between lobbyists, staff, and the Board of Directors.

8. Category: Grants Coordination

Program Manager: Rebecca Long

Program Coordinator/Support: Kelly Newell, Gregg Deterding, and Cheryl Scott

Goal (what): Monitor, track, and apply for grants available to OC San.

Objective (measure): Apply and obtain grants for qualified OC San projects and programs.

Strategy (why): Outside funding is important in moving OC San projects and programs forward. With ongoing attention to government spending, it is vital for OC San to apply for and secure grants to offset costs when available.

Tactics (how):

- Apply for two grants a year based on availability.
- Ensure Grant Policy is updated and current.
- Research grant opportunities and report out to the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee.
- Seek out available grant funding opportunities for OC San and its various divisions
- Secure letters of support.
- Publicize grant awards received.
- Create and measure outcomes.

9. Category: Local Government Affairs

Program Manager: Daisy Covarrubias

Program Coordinators/Support: All PAO staff

Goal (what): Ensure that local elected officials, member agencies, stakeholders, and OC San Board Members are actively engaged in the work of OC San.

Objective (measure): Provide at least two communication tools per month

Strategy (why): Keeping OC San's influential public engaged in OC San's projects and accomplishments are critical to the support and success of our agency.

Tactics (how):

- Provide Board of Directors with speaking points following every OC San board meeting that can be used when reporting back to their respective councils and community groups.
- Support an orientation (as needed) for new Board members.
- Develop and keep a current list of monthly informational presentations.
- Maintain an informational presentation video library for the Board of Directors on key agency topics.
- Provide regular reports to the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee.
- Develop OC San's Annual Report.
- Publish a *Five Minutes Per Month*, each month.
- Participate in government affairs committees.

- Invite new council and board members within OC San's service area to take a tour of OC San and offer presentations to their respective agencies on OC San programs and efforts.
- Create and distribute quarterly outreach tool kits for member agency PIOs to help them easily share and disseminate information about OC San.
- Host a "State of the District" event for influential leaders throughout the infrastructure and water/wastewater industry, including virtual option.
- Develop an outreach program for member agencies regarding inflow and infiltration issues within their sewer systems. The program will aim to educate, inform, and reduce inflow and infiltration affecting the local and regional sewer system.

10. Category: Crisis Management

Program Manager: Rebecca Long

Program Coordinators/Support: All PAO Staff

Goal: Ensure the PAO serves as the primary spokesperson for OC San during normal business and crisis scenarios and facilitates the dissemination of information.

Objective: Ensure that the PIOs in the PAO can respond in a crisis. Provide the necessary tools and material to follow established protocols and support the situation as needed.

Strategy: It is imperative during a crisis that OC San be proactive and provide clear and effective messaging to employees, public, and the media.

Tactics (how):

- Maintain an updated crisis communication plan including regular briefings with staff to identify possible issues and responses.
- Maintain and update PAO's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).
- Work with Risk and Safety Management on Public Affairs' role in an emergency, including our role via the Integrated Emergency Response Plan.
- Ensure proper procedures are in place for Board, employees, and public notification.
- Maintain updated contact lists for resource, member, and partnering agencies to coordinate and assist during crisis.
- Develop protocols on everyday PAO tasks to facilitate the operations of the group in a time of crisis.

11. Category: General Manager Support

Program Manager: Daisy Covarrubias

Program Coordinators/Support: All PAO Staff

Goal: Ensure the General Manager and Assistant General Managers are supported with information necessary to communicate to the varied OC San audiences.

Objective: Develop monthly communication pieces on behalf of the General Manager. Ensure General Manager (or designee) is participating and involved in promoting OC San's initiatives.

Strategy: Collaborate with the General Manager to prepare communication and messaging that reflects the mission and vision of OC San.

Tactics (how):

- Assist the General Manager and the Assistant General Managers with keeping the Board Members informed and up to date with OC San activities.
- Assist in the development of the General Manager's Monthly Report.
- Develop talking points for Board and Committee meetings.
- Develop material and speaking points for presentations and speaking engagements.
- Support the development of the OC San Strategic Plan.
- Assist in the development of the General Managers Annual Work Plan, including mid-year and end of year reports.
- Manage Ask the GM questions submitted.
- Coordinate and support VIP tours guided by General Manager and Assistant General Managers.
- Coordinate and produce two Town Hall meetings (live and/or pre-recorded) to keep employees informed and engaged.

Closing Comments

This plan is a broad outline of the Public Affairs Office program. As new issues arise, new functions and duties will evolve as well. The role of the Public Affairs Office is to stay ahead of issues, be responsive and flexible to meet the needs of the agency. We will adjust our program accordingly.

New Tactics Introduced

- Vendor Outreach Program
- Inflow/Infiltration Member Outreach Campaign

- New Five-Year Rate Structure
- OC San Website Development
- Biosolids Driver Rewards Program
- Permittee Awards
- Diversity Campaign
- Heritage Museum Educational Program
- Video Library

DRAFT



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Current Situation

- Operations
- Employees / OC San Culture
- Community
- Post COVID-19
- 100 percent reclaimable flow
- Sewer Rate Study
- Capital Improvement Program
 - GWRS Final Expansion
 - Headquarters Building
- Board Members

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PAO Strategic Plan

EMPLOYEES



- Internal Communication
- 100% Rec. flow
- Honor Walk

EXPERTS



- Speaking engagements
- Awards

MEDIA



- Social Media campaigns
- Press Kit
- Media Training
- News Release Calendar

BRANDING



- New website
- Headquarters Branding Plan
- Advertising
- Video Library
- Awards (permittees/drivers)
- Diversity Campaign

EDUCATION



- In-person tours
- Community Events
- PSA Contest
- WW 101
- VIP

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PAO Strategic Plan

CONSTRUCTION



- Community Briefings & Mtgs
- City Briefings
- Paid Advertisement

LEGISLATIVE



- Legislative Plan
- Track & monitor
- Letters of support/oppose

GRANTS



- Policy
- Monitor & Apply

GOVT AFFAIRS



- State of the District
- Outreach Toolkits
- Inflow/Infiltration Outreach
- Council Member(s) Tour
- Speaking Points

CRISIS



- Response Plan
- Develop Protocols

GM SUPPORT



- GM Monthly Report
- GM Work Plan
- Strategic Plan
- Presentations
- Town Halls

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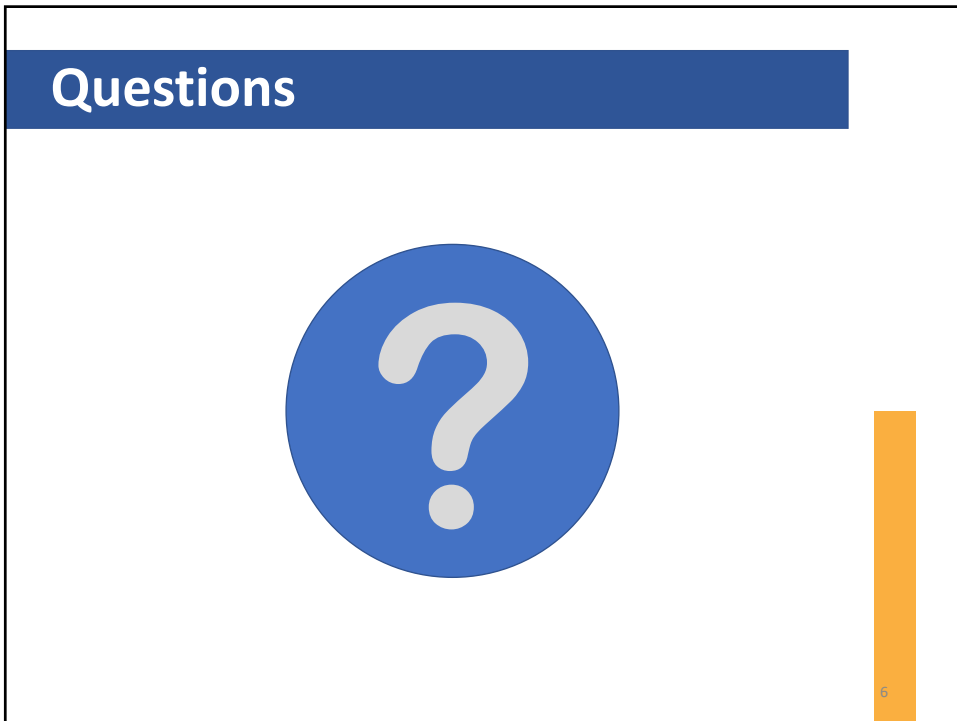
Next Steps

- LaPA Review
- Adoption of Plan in July 2022
- Implementation

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Questions



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ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT COMMON ACRONYMS

ACWA	Association of California Water Agencies	LOS	Level Of Service	RFP	Request For Proposal
APWA	American Public Works Association	MGD	Million Gallons Per Day	RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
AQMD	Air Quality Management District	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	SARFPA	Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency
ASCE	American Society of Civil Engineers	NACWA	National Association of Clean Water Agencies	SARI	Santa Ana River Interceptor
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act	SARWQCB	Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
CARB	California Air Resources Board	NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations	SAWPA	Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
CASA	California Association of Sanitation Agencies	NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	SCADA	Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television	NWRI	National Water Research Institute	SCAP	Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act	O & M	Operations & Maintenance	SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
CIP	Capital Improvement Program	OCCOG	Orange County Council of Governments	SOCWA	South Orange County Wastewater Authority
CRWQCB	California Regional Water Quality Control Board	OCHCA	Orange County Health Care Agency	SRF	Clean Water State Revolving Fund
CWA	Clean Water Act	OCSD	Orange County Sanitation District	SSMP	Sewer System Management Plan
CWEA	California Water Environment Association	OCWD	Orange County Water District	SSO	Sanitary Sewer Overflow
EIR	Environmental Impact Report	OOBS	Ocean Outfall Booster Station	SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
EMT	Executive Management Team	OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration	TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency	PCSA	Professional Consultant/Construction Services Agreement	TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
FOG	Fats, Oils, and Grease	PDSA	Professional Design Services Agreement	TSS	Total Suspended Solids
gpd	gallons per day	PFAS	Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances	WDR	Waste Discharge Requirements
GWRS	Groundwater Replenishment System	PFOA	Perfluorooctanoic Acid	WEF	Water Environment Federation
ICS	Incident Command System	PFOS	Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid	WERF	Water Environment & Reuse Foundation
IERP	Integrated Emergency Response Plan	POTW	Publicly Owned Treatment Works	WIFIA	Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act
JPA	Joint Powers Authority	ppm	parts per million	WIIN	Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act
LAFCO	Local Agency Formation Commission	PSA	Professional Services Agreement	WRDA	Water Resources Development Act

ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACTIVATED SLUDGE PROCESS – A secondary biological wastewater treatment process where bacteria reproduce at a high rate with the introduction of excess air or oxygen and consume dissolved nutrients in the wastewater.

BENTHOS – The community of organisms, such as sea stars, worms, and shrimp, which live on, in, or near the seabed, also known as the benthic zone.

BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND (BOD) – The amount of oxygen used when organic matter undergoes decomposition by microorganisms. Testing for BOD is done to assess the amount of organic matter in water.

BIOGAS – A gas that is produced by the action of anaerobic bacteria on organic waste matter in a digester tank that can be used as a fuel.

BIOSOLIDS – Biosolids are nutrient rich organic and highly treated solid materials produced by the wastewater treatment process. This high-quality product can be recycled as a soil amendment on farmland or further processed as an earth-like product for commercial and home gardens to improve and maintain fertile soil and stimulate plant growth.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) – Projects for repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of assets. Also includes treatment improvements, additional capacity, and projects for the support facilities.

COLIFORM BACTERIA – A group of bacteria found in the intestines of humans and other animals, but also occasionally found elsewhere, used as indicators of sewage pollution. E. coli are the most common bacteria in wastewater.

COLLECTIONS SYSTEM – In wastewater, it is the system of typically underground pipes that receive and convey sanitary wastewater or storm water.

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION (COP) – A type of financing where an investor purchases a share of the lease revenues of a program rather than the bond being secured by those revenues.

CONTAMINANTS OF POTENTIAL CONCERN (CPC) – Pharmaceuticals, hormones, and other organic wastewater contaminants.

DILUTION TO THRESHOLD (D/T) – The dilution at which the majority of people detect the odor becomes the D/T for that air sample.

GREENHOUSE GASES (GHG) – In the order of relative abundance water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone gases that are considered the cause of global warming (“greenhouse effect”).

GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT SYSTEM (GWRS) – A joint water reclamation project that proactively responds to Southern California’s current and future water needs. This joint project between the Orange County Water District and OCSD provides 70 million gallons per day of drinking quality water to replenish the local groundwater supply.

LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS) – Goals to support environmental and public expectations for performance.

N-NITROSODIMETHYLAMINE (NDMA) – A N-nitrosamine suspected cancer-causing agent. It has been found in the GWRS process and is eliminated using hydrogen peroxide with extra ultra-violet treatment.

NATIONAL BIOSOLIDS PARTNERSHIP (NBP) – An alliance of the NACWA and WEF, with advisory support from the EPA. NBP is committed to developing and advancing environmentally sound and sustainable biosolids management practices that go beyond regulatory compliance and promote public participation to enhance the credibility of local agency biosolids programs and improved communications that lead to public acceptance.

PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) – A large group (over 6,000) of human-made compounds that are resistant to heat, water, and oil and used for a variety of applications including firefighting foam, stain and water-resistant clothing, cosmetics, and food packaging. Two PFAS compounds, perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) have been the focus of increasing regulatory scrutiny in drinking water and may result in adverse health effects including developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy, cancer, liver damage, immunosuppression, thyroid effects, and other effects.

PERFLUOROCTANOIC ACID (PFOA) – An ingredient for several industrial applications including carpeting, upholstery, apparel, floor wax, textiles, sealants, food packaging, and cookware (Teflon).

PERFLUOROCTANESULFONIC ACID (PFOS) – A key ingredient in Scotchgard, a fabric protector made by 3M, and used in numerous stain repellents.

PLUME – A visible or measurable concentration of discharge from a stationary source or fixed facility.

PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS (POTW) – A municipal wastewater treatment plant.

SANTA ANA RIVER INTERCEPTOR (SARI) LINE – A regional brine line designed to convey 30 million gallons per day of non-reclaimable wastewater from the upper Santa Ana River basin to the ocean for disposal, after treatment.

SANITARY SEWER – Separate sewer systems specifically for the carrying of domestic and industrial wastewater.

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SCAQMD) – Regional regulatory agency that develops plans and regulations designed to achieve public health standards by reducing emissions from business and industry.

SECONDARY TREATMENT – Biological wastewater treatment, particularly the activated sludge process, where bacteria and other microorganisms consume dissolved nutrients in wastewater.

SLUDGE – Untreated solid material created by the treatment of wastewater.

TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS) – The amount of solids floating and in suspension in wastewater.

ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT GLOSSARY OF TERMS

TRICKLING FILTER – A biological secondary treatment process in which bacteria and other microorganisms, growing as slime on the surface of rocks or plastic media, consume nutrients in wastewater as it trickles over them.

URBAN RUNOFF – Water from city streets and domestic properties that carry pollutants into the storm drains, rivers, lakes, and oceans.

WASTEWATER – Any water that enters the sanitary sewer.

WATERSHED – A land area from which water drains to a particular water body. OCSD's service area is in the Santa Ana River Watershed.