



## Agenda Report

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**FROM:** James D. Herberg, General Manager

**SUBJECT:**

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2019**

**GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION**

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend to the Board of Directors to:

Receive and file the Legislative Affairs Update for the month of September 2019.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Orange County Sanitation District's (Sanitation District) legislative affairs program includes advocating the Sanitation District'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 that the Sanitation District is more than a wastewater treatment plant - treating and sending water to the ocean.

The Sanitation District is an environmentally engaged organization which recycles more than 50 percent of its wastewater. Additionally, to help meet the goal of 100 percent recycling, the Sanitation District uses the byproducts from the wastewater treatment process to produce biosolids to fertilize crops and energy used to help power the two plants in Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach.

### **PROPOSED SOLUTION**

Continue to work with Local, State, and Federal officials to advocate the Sanitation District's legislative interests. Help to create/monitor legislation and grants that would benefit the Sanitation District, 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 D.C. and Sacramento.

## **TIMING CONCERNS**

N/A

## **RAMIFICATIONS OF NOT TAKING ACTION**

If we do not work with Local, State, and Federal elected officials, legislation could be passed that negatively affects the Sanitation District and the wastewater industry as a whole. Additionally, this could affect our chances of receiving grant funding.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Save the Date: Orange County Sanitation District's State of the District will be held on Friday, October 25 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Mile Square Golf Course in Fountain Valley. The event will host Local, State, and Federal dignitaries and provide an update on the Sanitation District, our accomplishments, and the future direction of the agency.

The Sanitation District has been awarded \$40,000 for the Mass Timber grant/competition by CalGov Ops for an educational display at the new Headquarters Building. The display is to highlight how mass timber was used in building the Headquarters Building and the overall benefit of mass timber for the environment.

The Sanitation District is looking into a newly released grant through CalRecycle's Organics Grant Program for the Food-Waste Co-Digestion facility at Plant No. 2 in Huntington Beach. The amount the Sanitation District would be eligible to receive is up to \$3 million. The grant is due November 7.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

N/A

## **ATTACHMENT**

*The following attachment(s) are included in hard copy and may also be viewed on-line at the OCSD website ([www.ocsd.com](http://www.ocsd.com)) with the complete agenda package:*

- Federal Update - ENS Resources
- Federal Legislative Matrix - ENS Resources
- State Update - Townsend Public Affairs
- State Legislative Matrix - Townsend Public Affairs
- Grant Matrix