



Agenda Report

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FROM: James D. Herberg, General Manager

SUBJECT:

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2022

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION:

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

The 2022 Legislative Session bill introduction deadline was February 18. Bills have been coming in since the start of session however, most legislators wait until the final deadline week to introduce the bulk of their proposals. Both the Assembly and Senate introduced a total of 2,115 new bills. While the deadline for new bills has passed, legislators will still have the opportunity to amend or “gut and amend” existing bills into new legislation. Mid-March is the hard deadline for major amendments and amendments to “spot” legislation.

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