



## Agenda Report

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File #: 2020-924, Version: 1

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

**SUBJECT:**

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2020**

**GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION**

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the Legislative Affairs Update for the month of January 2020.

### **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**

To assist our committee and staff with key legislative message points, staff has created a 2020 Legislative Priorities Key Message Card. The card, which is the size of a business card, will be distributed to the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee at the February 10 meeting. The card is meant to have short, key messages that will provide a highlight of our State and Federal priorities to be used when talking to member agencies, city representatives, and legislative officials.

The Sanitation District signed onto a joint coalition letter with the Bioenergy Association of California and the California Association of Sanitation Agencies, along with other agencies, to request funding from Senator Ben Allen, Chairman of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. The funding request is for organic waste diversion and recycling in the pending climate resilience bond legislation.

## **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
- Coalition Letter for Bond Funding
- Grant Matrix
- Presentations from 02/10/2020 LaPA Committee Meeting