

Agenda Report

File #: 2021-1412, **Version:** 1

FROM: James D. Herberg, General Manager

SUBJECT:

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE FOR THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER 2020 THROUGH JANUARY 2021

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend to the Board of Directors to:

Receive and file the Legislative Affairs Update for the months of November 2020 through January 2021.

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 of the Sanitation District'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 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, a lack of engagement may result in missed funding opportunities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

State:

The Legislature returned to Sacramento on January 11, 2021 to start the first year of the current two-year legislative session. The Legislature will be focused on introducing bills prior to the February 19 bill introduction deadline. Topics that are expected to dominate the Legislature's time in Sacramento this year include COVID-19 relief and response, climate resiliency, housing, homelessness, social equity, and police reform.

Federal:

At the end of 2020, congressional leaders reached agreement on a massive omnibus spending bill, COVID-19 relief package, renewal of the Water Resources Development Act, and authorization of renewable energy mandates. It is expected that the next relief package will focus on core infrastructure needs and climate/environmental issues.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENT

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

- Federal Update - ENS Resources
- State Update - Townsend Public Affairs
- Grant Tracker 2021-2022