

Agenda Report

File #: 2019-722, **Version:** 1

FROM: James D. Herberg, General Manager

SUBJECT:

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2019

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION:

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

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 applying for a 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 application is due November 21.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENT

The following attachment(s) may be viewed on-line at the OCSD website (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
- PowerPoint Presentations Legislative & Public Affairs Committee 11/4/2019