

## Agenda Report

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**FROM:** James D. Herberg, General Manager  
Originator: Rob Thompson, Assistant General Manager

**SUBJECT:**

### **SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL WATER WEEK 2020 ATTENDANCE**

#### **GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend to the Board of Directors to:

Approve out-of-country travel to Singapore for Rob Thompson to participate in the Singapore International Water Week to present on water recycling, resource recovery, and resiliency, contingent on receipt of \$2,000 in scholarship funding to offset travel costs.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) is an opportunity for industry leaders across the world to come together to exchange ideas and discuss the future of water. SIWW is a global platform to share and co-create innovative solutions reinforcing a commitment to the global integration of sustainable water management strategies with urban planning processes. Addressing contemporary challenges, SIWW gathers global water leaders and practitioners from the public and private sectors to engage in discussion and debate, network with key industry players, showcase leading-edge technologies and best practices, and identify practical methodologies to address water issues.

In line with global water industry trends and opportunities, SIWW 2020 will feature discussions on three themes:

Climate Resilience  
Resource Efficiency  
SMART Utility

The Water Environment Federation (WEF), National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), and Water Research have partnered with SIWW to host a United States delegation of high-level utility managers. Participants in the U.S. Delegation will have access to all SIWW events, plus events planned together to provide special site visits and more intimate exchange opportunities.

A scholarship exists to fund international participation. By promoting international exchange, WEF, NACWA, and Water Research hope to breakdown international barriers, accelerate technology transfer, and create an understanding of innovative policy options to enable resource recovery. Scholarship recipients will be encouraged to write papers and make presentations about their

experience at SIWW and will be provided forums to disseminate this information through WEF, NACWA, and Water Research.

## **RELEVANT STANDARDS**

- Build brand, trust, and support with policy makers and community leaders
- Maintain collaborative and cooperative relationships with regulators, stakeholders, and neighboring communities
- Ensure the public's money is wisely spent

## **PROBLEM**

The Orange County Sanitation District (Sanitation District) has been offered the opportunity to participate in an international water forum to share our innovation and provide leadership to our industry, and to learn from other worldwide industry leaders to help expand technology options for the future.

## **PROPOSED SOLUTION**

By attending and participating in the scholarship program, the Sanitation District will gain the opportunity to share our extensive experience in water recycling, wastewater treatment, resource recovery, and resiliency. It will also allow us the opportunity to learn about new technologies and practices in the industry.

## **TIMING CONCERNS**

The conference is taking place in July, as such we would like to start the planning process for purchasing of airfare, lodging, etc. as soon as we receive word on if the Sanitation District has been selected as a scholarship recipient.

## **RAMIFICATIONS OF NOT TAKING ACTION**

If we do not take action now, we run the risk of increased cost of both airfare and lodging.

## **PRIOR COMMITTEE/BOARD ACTIONS**

N/A

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Assistant General Manager Thompson's participation in the SIWW Conference as a scholarship recipient will provide the opportunity to share the Sanitation District's extensive experience in water recycling, wastewater treatment, resource recovery, and resiliency, and allow him to learn from the other utility leaders and new available technologies in the world of resource recovery. The weeklong program is from July 5-9, 2020.

**CEQA**

N/A

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The Sanitation District is committing to pay approximately \$2,000 to cover half of the cost of attending the conference. A \$2,000 scholarship application was submitted to NACWA to help supplement the cost.

**ATTACHMENT**

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

N/A