

## Agenda Report

---

**File #:** 2020-940, **Version:** 1

---

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

**SUBJECT:**

### **LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2020**

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

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

Receive and file the Legislative Affairs Update for the month of February 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 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 missing out on funding opportunities.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Sanitation District signed onto a joint coalition letter with WateReuse California, along with other agencies, to request funding through California's Climate Bond(s). The ask is between \$750 million and \$1 billion for water recycling funding in whichever bond moves forward. Additionally, the letter requests that the funding be administered by the State Water Resources Control Board.

As part of our legislative outreach program, the Board Chairman and Vice-Chair, along with TPA and staff, will be conducting an advocacy day in Sacramento. The advocacy day will take place on Tuesday, March 31. Staff is also working to coordinate the Federal advocacy days in Washington D.C. for late spring.

## **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
- Grant Matrix