



PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTA Awards Funds for Two San Clemente Water Quality Projects

October 30, 2024... San Clemente, California... Earlier this month, the Board of Directors of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) approved the award of \$2,828,000 in Measure M2 funding towards two critical water quality projects in San Clemente. The funding was awarded through the Environmental Cleanup Program (Project X), one of OCTA's Comprehensive Transportation Funding Programs, and is intended support solutions to transportation-generated sources of pollution. "The award of not one but two OCTA Environmental Cleanup Program grants this year is certainly an achievement for the City of San Clemente and a significant opportunity to fund important water quality projects," said David Rebensdorf, Public Works Director.

Poche Beach Water Reclamation Project

The larger of the two grant awards will provide \$2.5 million towards the construction of a new low-flow diversion project at Poche Beach, which has struggled for years to consistently meet the State's dry-weather bacteria standards due to urban runoff and groundwater transporting associated pollutants in the Prima Deshecha Watershed. An existing inflatable dam reroutes these low flows to the Poche Clean Beach Project for UV treatment, but cannot operate during high tide events. This new diversion will be constructed well inland of the mean high-tide line and virtually eliminate all dry-weather discharges that can transport bacteria to the beach. Instead, these nuisance flows will

initially be directed to the San Juan Creek Ocean Outfall, and eventually, to a local water reclamation plant to become an additional and sustainable supply of recycled water.

El Camino Real Vicinity Runoff Corridor Project

The second award of \$328,000 will support the installation of trash capture devices on 74 storm drain inlets, which will be the fourth phase of installations planned for a total of 559 catch basins located within the City's most heavily traveled roadways. These screens allow the City to trap and remove pieces of debris as small as a cigarette butt, before the trash can make its way down the storm drain and to the ocean. This project will bring the total number of retrofitted catch basins to 394, moving the City closer to compliance with the State's recent mandates to capture urban trash and minimize its impact on water quality downstream by 2030.

For more information on the City's water quality efforts, visit www.san-clemente.org/cleanocean or call (949) 361-8354.

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