

## **Measure M: Environmental Cleanup Funds**

The impetus behind this part of Measure M is two fold:

- The fund will add to existing transportation-related water quality programs; and
- It will assist jurisdictions meet the federal Clean Water Act standards for urban runoff.

### **Program Description**

Funds will be awarded to the highest priority programs that improve water quality, keep our beaches and streets clean, and reduce transportation-generated pollution along Orange County's scenic coastline.

The Environmental Cleanup monies may be used for water quality improvements related to both existing and new transportation infrastructure, including capital and operations improvements such as:

- Catch basin screens, filters and inserts;
- Roadside bioswales and biofiltration channels;
- Continuous Deflective Separation (CDS) units;
- Maintenance of catch basins and bioswales; and
- Other street-related "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) for capturing and treating urban runoff.

### **Program Requirements**

The Environmental Cleanup program is subject to the following requirements:

- Development of a comprehensive countywide capital improvement program for transportation related water quality improvements.
- A competitive grant process to award funds to the highest priority, most cost-effective projects.
- A matching requirement to leverage other federal, state and local funds for water quality improvements.
- A maintenance of effort requirement to ensure that funds augment, not replace existing water quality programs.
- Annual reporting on actual expenditures and an assessment of the water quality benefits provided.
- A strict limit on administrative costs and a requirement to spend funds within five years of receipt.
- Penalties for misuse of any of the Environmental Cleanup funds.

### **Cost**

Two hundred thirty seven million dollars are allocated to this Program. New freeway, road and transit projects funded by Measure M will include \$165 million for mitigating water quality impacts. This means a total of \$402.2M is generated to improve OC's water quality.

### **Concerns**

Several concerns about the Program include:

- The implementation of BMPs must include new water treatment technologies;
- A high standard must be set for road improvement projects through the use of vegetated swales and natural treatment of runoff;
- Green landscaping should be incorporated instead of hard impervious surfaces;
- The system for fund allocation should remain in the control of OCTA;
- Allocation of funds remain on a competitive basis and not distributed to each city carte blanche; and
- Funds should be accounted for by OCTA or a designated Committee.