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OC Development Services

OC Facilities Design & Construction Management

OC Facilities Maintenance & CUF

OC Fleet Services

OC Construction

OC Environmental Resources

OC Operations & Maintenance

OC Infrastructure Programs

OC Survey

Date: September 21, 2026

To: K.C. Roestenberg
Interim County Executive Officer, County of Orange

From: Kevin Onuma
Director/Orange County Public Works

Subject: Retroactive Request to Accept Award from the United States Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year 2025 – H2OC RainSmart Large Landscape Turf Upgrade Incentive Program

This memo is being submitted to provide justification for the retroactive approval request associated with ASR 26001775 on the November 17, 2026, Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda. Orange County Public Works (OPCPW) requests retroactive approval to accept this United States Bureau of Reclamation Water and Energy Efficiency Grant (WEEG) award in the amount of $500,000.

The Board authorized submittal of the grant application on December 3, 2024, and OCPW indicated it would return to the Board with a request to accept funding if the application was selected. OCPW received notification of selection on June 2, 2026. County policy requires that grant awards be brought to the Board for acceptance within 60 days of the award notification. By the time the notification was received and routed for departmental review, the Agenda Staff Report submittal deadline for the last Board meeting falling within the 60-day window had passed, and the Board was dark during the month of July 2026, which eliminated the remaining meeting dates in that window. The earliest available Board date therefore falls outside the 60-day timeframe, and retroactive approval is required.

The awarded grant funds will be used to lower barriers to participation by increasing incentives offered by pre-existing water use efficiency rebate programs facilitated by partner water agencies. The funds will go toward completion of large landscape turf upgrade projects with stormwater capture features through the H2OC RainSmart Rebates Program, converting approximately 500,000 square feet of turfgrass and conserving an estimated 67.5 acre-feet of water per year. These projects achieve water conservation and pollution reduction goals in line with State standards set by AB 1668/SB 606 and AB 1572, as well as the County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permit.

The required 50 percent non-federal cost share will be met through contributions from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, program participant contributions, and County cost-share funds that have been budgeted for this program. No additional County General Fund contribution is required.

If you have any questions about the grant, please contact Grant Sharp, Manager of the South OC Watershed Management Area, (714) 955-0633.

Thank you for your consideration,

Signed by:
Kevin Onuma
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Kevin Onuma

Orange County Public Works

Director