RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
November 17, 2026

WHEREAS, a goal of OC Public Works is to protect and enhance water resources through collaborative water conservation and watershed management programs; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation administers the WaterSMART Grants Program to support projects that improve water conservation, water use efficiency, and long-term water supply reliability in communities facing increasing drought and water scarcity challenges; and

WHEREAS, the H2OC RainSmart Large Landscape Turf Upgrade Incentive Program promotes water conservation and watershed protection by providing financial incentives and technical assistance to homeowner associations to replace non-functional turf with climate-appropriate, low water-use landscaping; and

WHEREAS, OC Public Works submitted an application to the Bureau of Reclamation for grant funding under the WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year 2025 to support implementation of the H2OC RainSmart Large Landscape Turf Upgrade Incentive Program; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation subsequently awarded the County of Orange grant funding in the amount of $500,000 for implementation of the H2OC RainSmart Large Landscape Turf Upgrade Incentive Program; and

WHEREAS, the total project budget includes $500,000 in federal grant funds and a required 50 percent non-federal cost share totaling $2,105,000, to be fulfilled through contributions from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, program participant contributions, and County cost-share funds already designated for the program; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of the grant award will allow the County of Orange to leverage federal and regional funding to convert approximately 500,000 square feet of non-functional turf, reduce water demand, improve water quality through reduced runoff, increase regional drought resilience, and conserve approximately 67.5 acre-feet of water annually in South Orange County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board does hereby:

1. Authorize the Director of OC Public Works, or designee, to retroactively accept the award of $500,000 for 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 and delegate authority to the Director of OC Public Works, or designee, to negotiate and execute a Financial Assistance Agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation and to approve minor amendments and minor modifications to the Grant Agreement, as needed.