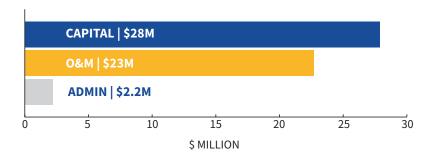


# YOUR VALUES. YOUR BUDGET. Fiscal Year 2021-2022



# **OVERVIEW**

This year, SOCWA celebrates its 20th anniversary and two decades of protecting South Orange County's oceans, canyons and creeks. The agency's Fiscal Year 2021/22 budget reflects this mission by funding major infrastructure reliability projects while successfully moving forward from the challenges of COVID-19. SOCWA's Capital budget will invest nearly \$28M across SOCWA facilities and focus on operational efficiencies.



# **BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**



Approximately \$25M of direct capital investments into SOCWA's three major treatment plants – Regional, Coastal and JB Latham



Funding to complete necessary operational upgrades



Completing critical multiyear environmental permitting, including NPDES permits, for member agencies and municipalities



Required payments toward pension obligations to ensure long-term fiscal health





# **CAPITAL BUDGET: CONTINUING PROGRESS ON INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES**

Each year, SOCWA invests in its assets to ensure sustainable, safe and efficient operations. These budgets reflect capital plans reviewed and approved by member agencies through project committees. This Fiscal Year will initiate and complete projects that have completed planning and design phases. More than 95 percent of these investments are designated for major projects at the three core treatment facilities. The balance is for the outfalls or "small capital" across SOCWA facilities.

# FY 2021/22: A YEAR OF CONTINUING INVESTMENT

### COASTAL

Export Sludge Force Main Upgrade

Aeration Design and Diffuser Upgrade

Facility Improvements, including completion of basin upgrades and major electrical improvements

# **REGIONAL**

Aeration System Upgrade

Lighting Upgrades

Energy Building Improvements

**SCADA System Upgrades** 

# **JB LATHAM**

Energy Building and Effluent Pump Upgrades

Drainage Pump Station Reconstruction

Facility Upgrades, including Restoration of Facilities for Solids Handling

# **ADDITIONAL**

Trail Bridge and Air Valve Replacements (PC 21)

Air Valves (PC 21)

Techite ETM Replacement Design (PC 24)

# WHY DO ANNUAL CAPITAL BUDGETS CHANGE FROM YEAR-TO-YEAR?

Capital budgets fluctuate each year based on multi-year capital plans approved by the project committees. In many cases, capital investments are deferred until a project is deemed absolutely necessary or repairs become more costly than replacement. Today, approximately two-thirds of SOCWA's assets are fully depreciated and/or have aged beyond their useful life. As a result, this budget invests in numerous projects that have been deferred or otherwise postponed, in many cases for several years. This has helped provide maximum value to member agencies while ensuring facilities perform to optimal standards to achieve SOCWA's mission.



# **FUTURE CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES**

### **PENSION**

Lower financial rate of return for Calpers Investments and corresponding increased costs

Actuary estimates and adjustments

Implementation of state requirements for all local governments (e.g. PEPRA)

### **REGULATION**

Future efforts to limit or eliminate ocean discharges

Increased permitting costs

Cost of proposed regulatory actions & Future Laboratory Upgrades

### **UPCOMING**

Retirements and recruitment of new employees

Continuing strong safety record

New regulatory permits

# CORE AREAS & COST DRIVERS OF SOCWA'S BUDGET



### **CAPITAL**

Project Engineering
Project Construction
Materials & Labor



# **OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE**

Chemicals
Energy & Utilities

Biosolids Management & Disposal



### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

Service Center to All Departments

**Human Resources & IT** 

**General Fund Expenses** 

Accounts Payable

Financial & Use Audits

Statutory Reporting

Contracts & Procurement

Budget Development & Management

Draft document: information is approximate and subject to change based on vote by SOCWA Board of Directors

# **ABOUT SOCWA**

SOCWA was formed in 2001 as a Joint Powers Authority to consolidate efforts and provide stronger operational efficiency in wastewater treatment and water recycling in the South Orange County region. Through collaborative partnerships with member agencies, shared facilities and efficient use of resources and water recycling programs, SOCWA protects the environment and maintains the public's health.