

Monsanto Class Action Settlement Funds



Background / Funding Recommendations

**County Administrator's Office
August 28, 2025**

Background

- **Monsanto manufactured PCBs between 1930s – 1977**
- **Class action initiated by City of Long Beach**
- **Municipalities asserted that caused various impairments to the environment, including water bodies**
 - **Pollutants present at sites/public properties/stormwater/water bodies**
- **Seeking compensatory damages/injunctive-equitable relief**

Background

- **\$550 million settlement**
- **Lake County eligible as a NPDES county MS4 permittee with urbanized, unincorporated boundaries within a watershed that contains a water body impaired by PCBs**
- **As a result, the County received a \$7.5 million allocation, the maximum allowed under the settlement**
 - **Settlement states this is “intended to compensate Settlement Class Members for restitution and remediation including mitigation of contaminated property, stormwater and/or stormwater systems...”**
 - **Settlement does not impose restrictions on use**

Background

- **Lake County received and appropriated the funds on November 7, 2023 without an intended use**
- **Staff researched options, and benchmarked other communities**
 - **Other communities using for stormwater infrastructure, environmental uses, educational initiatives, reserves**
- **Review of Strategic Plan**

Recommendations

- Reserve \$2 million for superfund site cleanup and costs related to site preparation for economic development opportunities
- Reserve \$5.5 million
 - Staff will come back with proposed process and plan at a future discussion



**Questions /
Discussion**