



TO: Orange County Sanitation District

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: September 30, 2024

SUBJECT: Local Legislative Report

The month of September was marked by a week-long heat wave and wildfires that burned tens of thousands of acres and stretched resources at dozens of agencies. Following is a few of the more notable developments and issues of the month:

- The Orange County Board of Supervisors received a presentation of its Preliminary Climate Action Plan, which provides a base document for the continuation of development of the final Climate Action Plan and a status update on progress made during the last six months. The report includes input received during seven forums held throughout the County, from the formal public review and comment period, from stakeholders and from internal departments. Measures contained within the document will be further evaluated to determine specific emission reductions and cost-effectiveness and the document will also go through a full evaluation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) with the goal of reducing the cost and time associated with the process on a project-by-project basis.
- National Public Radio (NPR) profiled the Yorba Linda Water District and its PFAS treatment plant, noting it is the largest of its kind in the United States, surpassing the City of Anaheim's facility for that distinction. The NPR report quoted Board members and Todd Colvin, chief water system operator for the district, and highlighted that every gallon of water pumped from the district's wells now passes through a few of the 22 polymer bead-filled tanks at the site for treatment before going to the homes and businesses of the 80,000 residents YLWD serves.
- Several cities are considering membership in the Orange County Power Authority (OCPA), the community choice energy joint powers authority which has served the cities of Buena Park, Fullerton, and Irvine for the past two years. The Costa Mesa City Council voted this summer to release its energy usage data to the JPA, which saw original members Huntington Beach and the County of Orange withdraw last year, and the Fountain Valley City Council directed its staff in early September to prepare the necessary documentation and resolution to have OCPA provide services to its residents and businesses. OCPA was recently recognized for having the second highest "green power" sales in the country.

- The Orange County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to censure First District Supervisor Andrew Do. The Board's action comes amidst federal investigation into the County's allocation of several million dollars to a non-profit organization that has failed to provide an accounting of expenditure of the funds and at which the Supervisor's daughter was employed.
- In the ongoing response to public outcry over alleged corruption within local government, the City of Anaheim introduced its first Ethics Officer, who will oversee issues related to potential conflicts of interest, and the Irvine City Council voted to substantially tighten its lobbyist registration program, revising the definition of and threshold for lobbyists working in the city.

As part of our scope of work, Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors (WPAA) has monitored the various City Council agendas of each of the agency members and highlighted issues and items of relevance to OC San. We also monitored activities at the South Coast Air Quality Management District, including the ongoing consideration of Proposed Rule 1133.3, which will seek to reduce VOC and ammonia emissions from green waste and organics composting.

It is a pleasure to work with you and to represent the Orange County Sanitation District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Whittingham".

Peter Whittingham