



TO: Orange County Sanitation District

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: November 15, 2024

SUBJECT: Local Legislative Report

The month of November was highlighted not only by the election, but also by much-anticipated progress on wastewater governance in south Orange County. Following is a few of the more notable developments and issues of the month:

- The seven members of South Orange County Wastewater Authority, or SOCWA, have been in discussions for more than a year on the agency’s future and the management and operation of several facilities, including the Regional Treatment Plant in Laguna Niguel. Over the first two weeks of November, the Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD), Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD), and South Coast Water District (SCWD) Boards of Directors, as well the Laguna Beach City Council (also acting as the Board of Directors of Laguna Beach County Water District) have approved a series of legal agreements to enable MNWD to withdraw from SOCWA, assume management of the Regional Treatment Plant, and to transfer asset capacity and future flows between participant agencies. The remaining SOCWA members – City of San Clemente, Emerald Bay Service District, and El Toro Water District – are scheduled to consider these agreements over the next two weeks.
- Longtime Yorba Linda Water District Board member Phil Hawkins announced his resignation from the Board. Director Hawkins was first appointed to the YLWD Board in 2010 and previously served on the OC San Board of Directors. Director Hawkins, who has served as Chief Executive Officer for Pacific West Association of Realtors, was named the new CEO of the California Association of Realtors in August.
- The City of Placentia announced the departure of City Administrator Damien Arrula, who had served in the position since March of 2016.
- Current OC San Board members Stephen Faessel (Anaheim), Bruce Whitaker (Fullerton), Farrah Khan (Irvine), Brad Avery (Newport Beach), Schelly Sustarsic (Seal Beach), and Robbie Pitts (Villa Park) will be concluding their service on their respective City Councils and the OC San Board.

- Former Orange County 1st District Supervisor Andrew Do pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit bribery related to Federally-funded programs and will be sentenced March 31, 2025. Current state Senator and former Supervisor Janet Nguyen was successful in her reelection campaign and will be sworn in as the new 1st District Supervisor in January 2025.

As part of our scope of work, Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors (WPAA) has continued to monitor the various City Council agendas of each of the District's 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 Amended Rule (PAR) 410, dealing with Odors from Transfer Stations and Materials Recovery Facilities; Proposed Rule 1110.4, related to Emissions from Emergency Generators; and PAR 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" being more prominent than the last name "Whittingham".

Peter Whittingham