



TO: Orange County Sanitation District

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: April 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Local Legislative Report

Following are a few of the more notable developments and issues that have transpired in Orange County over the last several weeks:

- Residents in the Talega neighborhood of San Clemente have launched a petition opposing the proposed increase of the Prima Deshecha Landfill’s daily maximum trash intake from 4,000 tons to 8,000 tons. The proposed expansion is driven by the anticipated closure of Olinda Alpha Landfill near Brea in the coming years. It builds on a major milestone in 2023, when an \$88 million excavation project broke ground to remove approximately seven million cubic yards of dirt and rock across 65 acres of unused landfill property. This effort is designed to accommodate South Orange County’s waste disposal needs through 2102, effectively extending the facility’s operational life by another 50 years.

Prima Deshecha currently processes an average of 2,625 tons of waste per day, with approximately 30 percent, about 772 tons per day—imported from outside Orange County, primarily from Los Angeles County. The landfill is permitted to accept up to 4,000 tons per day and may legally import up to 1,840 tons per day under its existing permit.

Local residents have organized a fundraiser to secure legal representation and worked with the City of San Clemente to host a town hall meeting on April 30.

- The Board of Supervisors voted to create the LA 28 Olympic Preparedness Committee, led by Supervisors Foley and Sarmiento, to begin preparing for the Olympics and the revenue opportunities for Orange County that may come with the Games. Orange County is set to host two competitions during the Olympics in 2028, with surfing in San Clemente and volleyball in Anaheim. In addition, many nations will utilize local colleges and universities, including UC Irvine and Cal State Fullerton, and will train at existing facilities countywide, such as the Marguerite Aquatics Complex in Mission Viejo. The global event is expected to attract millions of visitors to the region and officials want to begin addressing a variety of issues, including transportation, hospitality, viewing parties, and potential revenue-generating events.

- Cities countywide are grappling with challenging economic times as council members prepare to discuss and deliberate their respective 2026-2027 budgets. Most recently, the City of Irvine announced that it could be facing a \$47 million shortfall within five years if steps are not taken to reduce spending. The City of Santa Ana is exploring ways to address a projected \$19 million budget shortfall. Complicating the issue, the city’s 1.5 percent sales tax measure (Measure X), approved in 2018, is set to begin phasing out in 2029—resulting in an estimated \$30 million annual revenue loss over time unless extended by voters.. The City of Fullerton is considering two separate sales tax measures in November to pay for various services and to address street conditions citywide; and in Orange, the City Council shifted \$17 million from other funds to cover the general fund’s projected deficit.

The State Department of Fish and Wildlife is investigating complaints of potential Fish and Game Code violations in San Juan Creek by Orange County Public Works. At the same time, the County is evaluating alternative vegetation control methods in San Juan and Trabuco Creeks following a social media campaign by the newly formed community group, Creek Team OC, which raised concerns about herbicide use. Public Works is currently assessing the cost and effectiveness of mechanical and manual removal methods, which are essential for maintaining flood protection.

- The South Coast Air Quality Management District is working to bring a proposed rule, 1110.4, to its Governing Board in the fourth quarter to address emissions from emergency backup generators. Existing emergency engines are permitted to run 20-30 hours per year for testing, but on average, just one Public Safety Power Shutoff, or PSPS, event typically lasts longer than this duration.

As part of our scope of work, Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors has continued to monitor the various City Council agendas and highlighted issues and items of relevance to OC San. We also continue to monitor activities at the South Coast Air Quality Management District, Orange County Water District, and South Orange County Wastewater Authority.

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

Sincerely,



Peter Whittingham