



TO: Orange County Sanitation District

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: May 29, 2024

SUBJECT: Local Public Affairs Report

The month of May has been highlighted by management changes and other noteworthy events in Orange County. Following is a few of the more notable developments and issues of the month:

- Santa Margarita Water District announced that Robb Grantham will serve as the agency's next General Manager. Grantham has been the GM at Rancho California Water District since 2021; this will be his second stint at SMWD, having previously served as Assistant GM there for four years. He is scheduled to begin his tenure on June 17th.
- The Tustin City Council announced that it had reached an agreement with Aldo Schindler to serve as the City's next City Manager. Mr. Schindler has served most recently in a similar capacity for the City of Artesia, CA, and has more than 20 years of experience with a number of cities and agencies in L.A. County.
- The Orange County Board of Supervisors conducted interviews of the three finalists to replace current Chief Executive Officer Frank Kim, who will be retiring this month. The next CEO will take the helm of the County, overseeing 16,000 employees and a \$9.3 billion budget.
- The City of Orange has amended an agreement with the City of Anaheim to incorporate a new 16-inch water main line as part of the widening of Orangewood Avenue and improvements to the Orangewood bridge over the Santa Ana River. The new line is critical to connecting businesses on the west side of the River to the remainder of the City's water transmission system.
- After months of delay, the Army Corps of Engineers sand replenishment project resumed in San Clemente between Linda Lane and T Street, using sand dredged from off the coast of Surfside. Roughly half of this area will be completed over the next several weeks, with the remainder of the project being completed in October.

- The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) will hear Proposed Rule 317.1 at its June 7th Governing Board meeting. PR 317.1 was spurred by the U.S. EPA's revocation of the region's attainment of the 8-hour Ozone standard for 1997 and 2008. If adopted, it will establish annual penalty fees for 320 Title V permit facilities in the region, including Orange County Sanitation District's Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach facilities, the Disneyland Resort, Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach, and Providence St. Joseph Hospital in Orange.
- The Los Angeles City Council voted 11-4 to support new sewer rates that will result in those fees doubling for most residents over the next four years. Many business groups opposed the increases, expressing concerns that landlords will be disproportionately affected. Bureau of Sanitation staff reported the increases are needed to fund the rising cost of construction and materials, sharing that labor costs will rise 24% over the next five years because of a recent salary package for city workers backed by Mayor Karen Bass and the council.

As part of our scope of work, Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors (WPAA) has monitored the various City Council agendas of each of the District's members and highlighted issues and items of relevance to OC San. WPAA also attended the Sustain SoCal tour of the Frank R. Bowerman County Landfill, where OC San General Manager participated in a panel on the organics waste stream, and the ribbon-cutting event for the new OC San HQ.

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

Sincerely,



Peter Whittingham