



TO: Orange County Sanitation District

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: September 19, 2025

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:

- Across the County, several cities continue to experience leadership changes. Former Laguna Hills City Manager Jared Hildebrand has been serving in the same capacity for roughly a month in Orange, and the La Palma City Council recently named former Council Member Peter Kim as its new City Manager.

Looking forward, Newport Beach Assistant City Manager Seimone Jurjis will step into the City Manager role on January 1, 2026, succeeding Grace Leung. Finally, the Yorba Linda City Council announced at its meeting on September 16 that Peter Grant, who most recently served for 10 years as City Manager in Cypress, will be the City's new City Manager.

- Additionally, former Westminster City Manager Eddie Manfro is serving as Interim City Manager in Fullerton, Sean Crumby is the Interim City Manager in Irvine, Cecilia Gallardo-Daly is Interim City Manager in Costa Mesa, and Sean Joyce was recently appointed Interim City Manager in Cypress.
- Negotiations continue between the County of Orange and a coalition of cities and solid waste districts on the Waste Infrastructure System Enhancements (WISE) agreements, regarding long-term landfill tipping fees to fund essential capital improvement projects. The goal is to finalize an agreement by September 30 in order to provide each agency with nine months to notice and conduct their respective Proposition 218 hearings.
- The Costa Mesa Sanitary District Board has appointed Shayanne Wright to represent Division 5, replacing Arlene Schafer, who recently stepped down after serving on the Board for the better part of 30 years. Board member Wright, who was sworn in at a special meeting on September 9, will complete the remainder of the current term which expires in December 2026.

- Phase II of Orange County's Climate Action Plan (CAP), a comprehensive roadmap detailing potential projects and programs to reduce greenhouse gas and other emissions from various sources, is on track to come to the Board of Supervisors on November 4. Key initiatives within the CAP included increasing stormwater capture and infiltration, reducing the amount of organic waste going to landfills by 75 percent, improving edible food recovery by 20 percent, and exploring the feasibility of regional anaerobic digestion and conversion technology facilities. The County is required to have a completed CAP in order to apply for and secure Proposition 4 grants for these targeted programs.
- A majority of the Irvine City Council voted to rescind its recent notice of intent to withdraw from the Orange County Power Authority (OCPA) Community Choice Energy program. Instead, they opted to make changes to the default renewable standard and other program components.

The Costa Mesa City Council has directed staff to bring a draft ordinance to its October 7 meeting related to the City joining OCPA. If the City ultimately votes in the affirmative, it would join the cities of Irvine, Buena Park, Fountain Valley, and Fullerton.

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