



TO: Orange County Sanitation District

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: June 23, 2025

SUBJECT: June Local Legislative Report

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

- The Orange County Board of Supervisors announced an agreement with Michelle Aguirre to remain as County CEO for another year. Ms. Aguirre has served as the interim CEO since Frank Kim's retirement last July and agreed to stay through this September while the Board conducted its second recruitment and interview process. The County will continue its search for a new CEO to succeed Ms. Aguirre, who reiterated her desire to retire after this final year of service.
- Elsewhere in the County, a number of cities have also been engaged in recruitment and interviews for new City Managers. The Placentia City Council recently promoted its Finance Director, Jennifer Lampman, to City Administrator, and the City of Orange named current Laguna Hills City Manager Jared Hildebrand as its new City Manager. Mike Egan is currently serving as interim City Manager in La Palma, and Cecilia Gallardo-Daly was recently elevated to a similar position in Costa Mesa. Irvine City Manager Oliver Chi and Fullerton City Manager Eric Levitt have over the past three weeks announced their plans to depart for new positions at the cities of Santa Monica and San Bernardino, respectively. Assistant City Manager Sean Crumby has been named Interim City Manager in Irvine after Chi's departure June 30. Finally, Yorba Linda City Manager Mark Pulone has announced his plan to retire from the position in September of this year.
- The Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHA) released its biennial Harbor and Bay Water Quality Report, which found sewage spills remained below average for the 13th consecutive year. Just 71 sewage spills occurred in 2024, with three resulting in beach closures for a combined total of 11 days. The average for the 38 years OCHCA has been tracking spills (1987 through 2024) is 178 spills per year. The three closures reported in 2024 resulted in a total of 11 days where people

were warned away from the water, fewer than the average 16 beach closures resulting in 57 closure days seen since 1999.

- For the second consecutive year, Orange County beaches took top spots on Heal the Bay's Honor Roll, with 34 beaches making the list, more than tripling last year's count of 10 beaches. Additionally, nearly half (15) of Orange County beaches on the Honor Roll are located in OC San's service area.
 - To make the Honor Roll and receive an A+ grading, there needs to be zero bacterial exceedances throughout the year in all three seasons – Summer Dry, Winter Dry, and Wet Weather.
- Former Orange County Supervisor Andrew Do was sentenced to five years in prison, the maximum sentence sought by prosecutors. The former Supervisor, who pleaded guilty last year to bribery, is expected to turn himself in to begin the sentence on August 15 and is expected to be on probation for three years after his release. There's also an August 11 hearing scheduled to determine the amount of restitution Mr. Do has to pay. The heads of two nonprofit agencies involved in the improper use of more than \$12 million in Covid funding were charged with a variety of felonies last week for their role in bribing Mr. Do, with prosecutors alleging almost none of the money actually made its way to the intended programs.
 - Huntington Beach voters approved two measures related to the city's libraries as part of a June 10 special election. Measure A repeals the City Council's creation of an advisory committee to review the suitability of books in the libraries, and Measure B prevents the city from selling or privatizing its libraries.
 - The Fullerton City Council approved the next step toward potentially transitioning to a charter city. The council voted 3-2 to take on drafting the charter and appointing residents to an ad hoc committee tasked with providing input during the drafting process.

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

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



Peter Whittingham