



TO: Orange County Sanitation District

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: April 25, 2025

SUBJECT: 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 Anaheim Chamber of Commerce, which first opened its doors in 1895, announced it will be officially terminating its operations on April 30. The closure comes roughly three years after the Chamber's former CEO pleaded guilty to federal criminal charges. Efforts are underway to create and support a new business advocacy coalition in the city.
- The Huntington Beach City Council voted unanimously to appoint chef and television personality Andrew Gruel to fill the Council vacancy created by the departure of Tony Strickland, who was elected to the state Senate in a special election on February 25.
- Public relations consultant Betty Martinez-Franco has been elected to the Irvine City Council to represent the 5<sup>th</sup> Council District, which had been vacant since Councilmember Larry Agran was elected Mayor last November. Councilmember-elect Martinez-Franco bested two other candidates, including former Councilmember Anthony Kuo, who had served on Council from 2018-2022.
- Conal McNamara, who had served as La Palma City Manager since April 2020, was selected to serve as the new City Manager in the City of Whittier. McNamara had been Community Development Director in Whittier prior to taking the La Palma post. In addition to La Palma, the cities of Orange and Placentia are also currently in the process of identifying and selecting a new City Manager.

- The Fullerton City Council voted 4-1 to switch from contracted ambulance services to an in-house program, beginning next spring. The Council also voted to spend up to \$1,652,000 on new ambulances and roughly \$535,000 on gurneys and other equipment for the program. City officials believe they will save hundreds of thousands of dollars annually; last year, City staff projected a \$20 million deficit in 2027.
- Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (Commission) Executive Officer Carolyn Emory announced her retirement, effective April 1. Longtime employee Luis Tapia was unanimously approved by the Commission to serve as Interim Executive Officer.

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 to OC San. 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.

Sincerely,



Peter Whittingham