



TO: Orange County Sanitation District

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: June 27, 2024

SUBJECT: Local Legislative Report

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

- The Orange County Board of Supervisors continued to conduct interviews of candidates to replace current Chief Executive Officer Frank Kim, whose last day in the position will be July 11. No successor has been named, and since the next Board of Supervisors meeting where all five Supervisors are scheduled to be present will not be until August, an interim CEO will likely be named over the next several days. The next CEO will take the helm of the County, overseeing 16,000 employees and a \$9.5 billion budget.
- The Orange County Grand Jury released a report entitled, “Emerging Opportunities in South County Water/Wastewater Systems,” which focused on Santa Margarita Water District’s assumption of water and wastewater services for the City of San Juan Capistrano and the interagency dialogue and negotiations at South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA). The Grand Jury recommended that LAFCO research the implementation of post-consolidation reviews 24 months after agency reorganizations, and also recommended the formation of a task force by January 1, 2025 of the seven SOCWA member agencies to study the transformation of SOCWA and prepare a report on the future of wastewater services in south Orange County.
- Aldo Schindler began his tenure June 10 as City Manager for the City of Tustin. 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 County of Orange and cities across Orange County adopted budgets for the 2024-25 fiscal year, keeping one eye on budget negotiations in Sacramento that will necessitate slashing programs and imposing new taxes on businesses to address a \$46.8 billion deficit.

- The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Governing Board approved 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. Rule 317.1 establishes 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.

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. Of note, many cities considered and adopted their respective seven-year CIP, including street resurfacing plans.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Whittingham".

Peter Whittingham