



TO: Orange County Sanitation District (OC San)

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: May 22, 2025

SUBJECT: May 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:

- Public relations consultant Betty Martinez-Franco was sworn in to represent the residents of the 5th District on the Irvine City Council. This position had been vacant since Councilmember Larry Agran was elected Mayor last November.
- A majority of the Costa Mesa City Council voted to terminate the contract of City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison, who had served in that capacity since 2019. In addition to Costa Mesa, the cities of La Palma, Orange, and Placentia are also currently in the process of identifying and selecting a new City Manager.
- The Anaheim Chamber of Commerce, which first opened its doors in 1895, had announced mid-April that it would be officially terminating its operations at the end of the month. However, a new interim President & CEO, along with new leadership of the Board of Directors, have been identified to enable the Chamber to continue its business advocacy in the city while discontinuing any political activity or fundraising. The changes come roughly three years after the Chamber's former CEO pleaded guilty to federal criminal charges.
- The County of Orange has deferred for a year proposed increases to waste disposal rates at County landfills after cities and sanitary districts strongly opposed raising "tipping" fees by more than 92 percent. While hikes were initially set to hit this year, city leaders and the county agreed to a new, one-year extension with just a 2.6 percent increase that would give them until June 2026 to work out a long-term plan. City councils across the county have considered and approved the extension and increase over the past few weeks.

- The Stanton City Council voted to direct its staff to research the potential of the City joining the Orange County Power Authority (OCPA), the Community Choice Aggregation (CCE) provider of electricity to residents and business in the cities of Irvine, Buena Park, Fullerton, and the CCE's newest member, Fountain Valley. The OCPA Board also voted to reduce the amount of renewable energy it purchases due to rising energy costs, with member cities lowering the default offering levels.

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 members 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.

Sincerely,



Peter Whittingham