

2026 Draft Legislative and Regulatory Plan

Presented by:
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Administration Committee
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OC SAN
ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT

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Guiding Priorities

- Oppose redundant regulatory and legislative requirements that impose excessive limitations on effective operations;
- Support legislative and regulatory measures that enhance affordability, safeguard public health, and ensure environmental protection;
- Maintain local control over governance of special districts and other local entities;
- Pursue financial assistance opportunities for OC San projects through grants, loans, and legislative-directed funding.

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Legislative - Regulatory Team

OC San:

- Rob Thompson
- Jennifer Cabral
- Daisy Covarrubias
- Rebecca Long
- Lan Wiborg
- Sam Choi
- Mark Kawamoto
- Tom Meregillano

Consultants:

- Cori Takkinen – Townsend Public Affairs
- Eric O'Donnell– Townsend Public Affairs
- Eric Sapirstein – ENS Resources
- Sarah Sapirstein – ENS Resources
- David French– ENS Resources
- Peter Whittingham – Whittingham Public Affairs

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Legislative - Regulatory Team



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How The Plan Is Developed

- Committee Feedback Throughout the Year
- Obtain Feedback From OC San Staff/Subject Matter Experts
- Work with State and Federal Lobbyist
- Share with Various Organizations:
 - California Association of Sanitation Agencies
 - California Special Districts Association
 - Orange County Water District
 - Municipal Water District of Orange County
 - Irvine Ranch Water District
- Committee Review and Input
- Board Adoption in November

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2026 Plan Highlights

- **Secure Infrastructure Funding** – Advocate for federal and state grants, loans, and financing tools (SRF, WIFIA, tax-exempt bonds) to modernize wastewater facilities, expand water recycling, and strengthen resiliency against climate impacts.
- **PFAS & Emerging Contaminants** – Support federal and state policies that reduce non-essential PFAS use, shift cleanup responsibility to producers, and secure liability exemptions for wastewater agencies.
- **Climate & Resiliency** – Advance funding and legislation to address sea level rise, drought, seismic events, and wildfires while supporting clean energy, carbon reduction, and sustainable biosolids management.
- **Water Reuse Protection** – Oppose legislation that threatens the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) and promote recycled water credits in statewide conservation policies.
- **Bid & Contracting Reforms** – Pursue legislation to relieve outdated bid advertising requirements and raise contracting thresholds, giving OC San more flexibility and cost savings.
- **Local Control & Governance** – Defend the independence of special districts, oppose unfunded mandates, and support modernized, cost-efficient transparency tools such as flexible video retention and virtual meeting options.

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What's New?



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Potential Legislative Concepts

Video Retention Reform



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Final Plan

- Provide comments/direction in preparation for the final document.
- Recommend to the Board of Directors to:
 - Adopt the OC San 2026 Legislative and Regulatory Plan at the November Board Meeting.



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Questions?

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