



TO: Orange County Sanitation District

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: October 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Local Legislative Report

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

- Cypress City Councilmember Scott Minikus, who was appointed to the City Council in 2021, announced his resignation effective October 1. Former Councilmember Minikus, who had recently retired from his position with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, announced his departure at a recent Council meeting. City Clerk Alisha Farnell and Assistant City Clerk Christina Dizol also announced their resignations from their respective positions.
- The Orange County Supervisors voted unanimously to retain an outside team of auditors to review billions of dollars in contracts nearly a year after former Supervisor Andrew Do plead guilty to accepting bribes and rerouting over \$10 million worth of contracts. Supervisors are paying more than \$1.3 million to auditing firm Weaver & Tidwell, asking them to review more than 2,000 contracts worth over \$4 billion, including spending from the county general fund, pandemic relief funds and the state's Mental Health Services Act. Do recently began serving a five-year prison term.
- The CalOptima Board of Directors also voted unanimously to release on October 30 the results of an investigation by an outside law firm into contracts and other protocols & procedures at the agency, with a specific emphasis on the period when former Supervisor Do served on the health care provider's board.
- Negotiations continue between the County of Orange and a coalition of cities and sanitation districts on the Waste Infrastructure System Enhancements (WISE) agreements, regarding long-term landfill tipping fees to fund essential capital improvement projects. It is currently anticipated that the recommendations will come to the Board of Supervisors in November, after which each city and sanitary district will notice and conduct their respective Proposition 218 hearings.

- Phase II of Orange County's Climate Action Plan (CAP), a comprehensive roadmap detailing potential projects and programs to reduce greenhouse gas and other emissions from various sources, is on track to come to the Board of Supervisors on November 4. Key initiatives within the CAP included increasing stormwater capture and infiltration, reducing the amount of organic waste going to landfills by 75 percent and improving edible food recovery by 20 percent, and exploring the feasibility of regional anaerobic digestion and conversion technology facilities. The County is required to have a completed CAP in order to apply for and secure Proposition 4 grants for these targeted programs.
- Crews worked overnight to repair a large sinkhole that opened up in the middle of a major street in Orange on Saturday, October 4. The sinkhole, estimated at up to 15 feet deep, appeared on Meats Avenue at Santiago Boulevard, and the street was blocked off and traffic was redirected around the area. The sinkhole is believed to have been caused by a water main break. The water at several nearby homes was shut off as repairs were underway.
- An unusual mid-October storm in the region necessitated mandatory evacuation orders for several hours in canyon communities impacted by the Airport Fire, which burned 23,000 acres last September.

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