



TO: Orange County Sanitation District

FROM: Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors

DATE: May 15, 2026

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:

- Orange County Waste & Recycling leadership has recently hosted elected officials and representatives of the cities of San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano and residents at Prima Deshecha Landfill to tour the facility and share more about the proposed increase in the daily maximum trash intake at the landfill. The site visits coincided with an April 30 town hall attended by residents of the Talega community of San Clemente. Multiple members of Orange County’s state delegation have signed onto a letter opposing the proposed increase in waste intake at Prima Deshecha.
- The City of Anaheim has formally opposed a proposed plan to divert property tax growth—and possibly a percentage of local sales taxes—related to developments near high-speed rail stations to help pay for the controversial project’s infrastructure between San Francisco and Anaheim. In Anaheim specifically, that means tax revenue generated in proximity to the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC), could be diverted, since the train station is across the street from the Honda Center, around which the OC Vibe entertainment, hospitality, and residential development is being built.
- The Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors has approved a consultant to provide construction management oversight and support for the State Route 55 (SR-55) improvement project between the Interstate 5 (I-5) and State Route 91 Freeways. The project will feature improvements in each direction between I-5 and State Route 22 (SR-22) and provide operational improvements to interchange ramps at Fourth Street/Irvine Boulevard, Katella Avenue, and Lincoln Avenue. Improvements to SR-55 between the I-5 and Interstate 405 Freeways are already under construction, adding another regular lane and a carpool lane in each direction, as well as additional merge lanes on northbound SR-55 between interchanges at MacArthur Boulevard, Dyer Road and Edinger Avenue. SR-55 is the only freeway providing a direct north-south connection between Central Orange County and the coastal region.

- The City of Westminster unveiled the Cherry Street Community Gardens, using a vacant residential lot on the namesake street located near Westminster Boulevard. The 6,000-square-foot lot has been gated and outfitted with 4-by-4-foot and 4-by-8-foot raised beds for community members to create their own small gardens. The city has been taking applications, and those who have been assigned plots pay \$50/year for the smaller spaces and \$100 for the larger.
- The County has indefinitely suspended the use of herbicides in creek beds in the midst of an investigation by the State Department of Fish and Wildlife into complaints of potential violations of the Fish and Game Code in San Juan Creek by Orange County Public Works. The focus is the potential use of glyphosate, a chemical found in many herbicides and pesticides which is an effective weed killer but has faced several questions over whether it can cause health concerns, including cancer. Several cities had already banned the use of glyphosate and other chemicals, but a watchdog group has asserted that even in cities where their use was banned, there wasn't much oversight and spraying often continued.
- The Seal Beach City Council adjourned its most recent meeting in memory of former Mayor and Councilmember Sandra Massa Lavitt, who passed May 1 at the age of 83. The former Mayor served on the City's Planning Commission for seven years before she was elected to the City Council in 2014, ultimately serving two terms on Council. She also served as an Alternate Board Member on OC San's Board from January 2015 to 2019 and as a Board Member from February 2019 to February 2023. During her tenure, she was a member of the Operations Committee, Member at Large on the Steering Committee, and Chair of the HQ Complex Ad Hoc Committee.
- The South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA), which provides wastewater services to the residents of six member agencies, approved its 2026-2027 budget at its May 14 Board of Directors meeting.

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