



City of
Laguna Woods

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Noel Hatch
Mayor

May 26, 2020

Shari L. Horne
Mayor Pro Tem

The Honorable Kirk H. Nakamura
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Cynthia Conners
Councilmember

Carol Moore
Councilmember

SUBJECT: City of Laguna Woods' Response to the 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Electric Vehicles Are Here – Is Orange County All Charged Up?"

Joe Rainey
Councilmember

Christopher Macon
City Manager

Dear Judge Nakamura:

Per the Orange County Grand Jury's request, and in accordance with California Penal Code Section 933, please find the City of Laguna Woods' response to the subject report attached. The response was approved by the Laguna Woods City Council on May 20, 2020.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please contact Christopher Macon, City Manager at (949) 639-0500 or cmacon@cityoflagunawoods.org.

Sincerely,

Noel Hatch
Mayor

Attachment: A – City of Laguna Woods' Response to the 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Electric Vehicles Are Here – Is Orange County All Charged Up?"

cc: Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

ATTACHMENT A

City of Laguna Woods' Response to the 2019-2020 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Electric Vehicles Are Here – Is Orange County All Charged Up?"

FINDINGS

F1. Eight Orange County cities, Fountain Valley, Garden Grove, Laguna Beach, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Placentia, Seal Beach, and Yorba Linda, have not fully complied with AB 1236 that requires cities to implement a streamlined process in obtaining permits to install EVCS and make it available to the public on their city websites, thus impeding residents' ease of installation of EVCS.

Response: The City of Laguna Woods disagrees wholly with this finding. It is unclear in what manner the Grand Jury believes the City has not fully complied with AB 1236. There is no evidence of such non-compliance included in the Grand Jury's report and, after an internal review, the City is unable to substantiate the Grand Jury's claim. The City does not have firsthand knowledge of the state of compliance of the other cities identified in F1 and is, thus, unable to respond regarding those cities' compliance with AB 1236.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. Cities, that have not already done so, should update their municipal code to add an ordinance streamlining their EVCS permitting process by May 1, 2020. (F1)

Response: The City of Laguna Woods has implemented this recommendation prior to the Grand Jury's report. Please refer to Ordinance No. 17-08, which was adopted by the City Council on September 20, 2017.

R2. Cities, that have not already done so, should create a streamlined permit process for single family residences, multi-family residences and businesses to obtain permits to install EVCS that includes an easy to use checklist by May 1, 2020. (F1)

Response: The City of Laguna Woods has implemented this recommendation prior to the Grand Jury's report. Please refer to Ordinance No. 17-08, which was adopted by the City Council on September 20, 2017. As the City Manager communicated to the Grand Jury in a letter dated February 3, 2020 (preceding the issuance of the Grand Jury's report on March 5, 2020), the City has an application checklist that was adopted by the City Council to be effective concurrent with Ordinance No. 17-08. Please refer to Resolution No. 17-27, which was adopted by the City Council on August 16, 2017.

R3. Cities, that have not already done so, should describe the streamlined EV charging installation permit application process and have the checklists and forms available on their website by May 1, 2020. (F1)

Response: The City of Laguna Woods has implemented this recommendation prior to the Grand Jury's report. As the City Manager communicated to the Grand Jury in a letter dated February 3, 2020 (preceding the issuance of the Grand Jury's report on March 5, 2020), information regarding electric vehicle charging station permitting, including an application checklist, building permit application form, and more, is available on the City's website. Please refer to <https://www.cityoflagunawoods.org/our-services/building-permits/>.