



AFFILIATED AGENCIES

Orange County
Transit District

Local Transportation
Authority

Service Authority for
Freeway Emergencies

Consolidated Transportation
Service Agency

Congestion Management
Agency

May 11, 2026

Honorable Maria E. Hernandez
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Hernandez:

On behalf of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), I am submitting OCTA's response to the 2025–2026 Orange County Grand Jury Report entitled "Connecting Orange County to LAX: Evaluating Transportation Options," in accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05.

The report reviews existing transportation options between Orange County and LAX and references prior efforts to provide direct service. These past efforts demonstrate the operational and financial challenges associated with developing viable public transit options for airport travel.

To the extent the Grand Jury Report recommends that OCTA study and implement specific travel options, this may exceed the Grand Jury's statutorily defined investigatory authority, as such decisions are policy determinations within the purview of OCTA's Board of Directors. Notwithstanding, OCTA provides the following responses as directed by the Report.

OCTA has addressed each of the findings and recommendations assigned to the agency and will continue to coordinate with regional partners to evaluate opportunities to improve connectivity consistent with regulatory requirements and available resources.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed document, please feel free to contact me directly at (714) 560-5343.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darrell E. Johnson", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Darrell E. Johnson
Chief Executive Officer

DEJ:mm
Enclosure

ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (OCTA)

RESPONSE TO 2025–2026 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT

Title: “Connecting Orange County to LAX: Evaluating Transportation Options”

Prepared in accordance with California Penal Code §933 and §933.05

F1

Several Orange County locations meet the criteria for express bus pick-up sites, being approximately twenty-five miles from LAX and near major freeways. These locations are Fullerton Park & Ride, Buena Park Mall, and former Westminster Mall.

OCTA partially agrees with this finding. OCTA acknowledges that the identified locations may present opportunities for improved regional connectivity based on proximity to major transportation corridors and existing or planned transit-oriented developments. However, the feasibility of implementing express bus or FlyAway®-style services at these locations depends on multiple factors, including coordination with Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), demand levels, operational funding, and compliance with federal regulations governing transit operations.

F2

The Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center presents a viable option for express bus service to LAX due to its location near Orange County attractions and multimodal connectivity, despite being forty miles from LAX.

OCTA partially agrees with this finding. OCTA recognizes that the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC) is a major multimodal hub with strong regional connectivity and proximity to key destinations. While ARTIC may present opportunities for enhanced airport access, the implementation of express service to LAX would require coordination with LAWA, demonstration of sufficient ridership demand, identification of sustainable funding sources, and compliance with applicable federal regulations.

F4

Public transit options to LAX that offer travel times comparable to private automobiles have several limitations. The Orange County Transportation Authority has never operated direct transit service to LAX due to federal regulations prohibiting transit bus service to a single destination such as LAX. Metrolink OC Line lacks direct connections to LAX, as stations such as Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs do not provide a seamless link to the airport. Southern California Association of Governments planning documents that discuss regional airport ground access neglect cross-county mobility challenges.

OCTA agrees with this finding. OCTA agrees that we have never operated direct transit service to LAX due to federal regulations prohibiting transit bus service to a single destination such as LAX.

R1

By September 30, 2026, the City of Fullerton should direct its Planning Department to collaborate with Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) on a business case study for FlyAway® or similar services from Fullerton Park & Ride (Orangethorpe Transit Village) to LAX, with a case study submitted to LAWA. This study should include projected ridership, financial sustainability, infrastructure readiness, and community benefits to support funding of the proposed service.

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. This recommendation is directed to the City of Fullerton and requests that the City initiate coordination with OCTA and LAWA. As such, it is not within OCTA's authority to implement this recommendation independently. OCTA cannot compel or act in place of a local jurisdiction to initiate a planning effort of this nature.

OCTA remains committed to working collaboratively with local jurisdictions and regional partners. Should the City of Fullerton or other agencies initiate a request for coordination or technical support related to a potential study, OCTA will be responsive and participate consistent with its role, available resources, and applicable regulatory requirements.

R4

By September 30, 2026, the Anaheim City Council should direct its Planning Department to collaborate with Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) on a business case study for FlyAway® or similar services from the Anaheim Regional Transit Intermodal Center to LAX, with a case study submitted to LAWA. This study should include projected ridership, financial sustainability, infrastructure readiness, and community benefits to support funding of the proposed service.

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. This recommendation is directed to the City of Anaheim and requests that the City initiate coordination with OCTA and LAWA. As such, it is not within OCTA's authority to implement this recommendation independently. OCTA cannot compel or act in place of a local jurisdiction to initiate or advance a planning effort of this nature.

OCTA remains committed to working collaboratively with local jurisdictions and regional partners. Should the City of Anaheim or other agencies initiate a request for coordination or technical support related to a potential study, OCTA will be responsive and participate consistent with its role, available resources, and applicable regulatory requirements.

R8

By June 30, 2026, OCTA and Metrolink should promote the appropriate services that offer convenient connections to LAX, aiming to inform and guide travelers who are ready to choose public transit for their airport commute.

The recommendation has been implemented. OCTA, in coordination with Metrolink and regional partners, actively promotes transit options connecting to LAX through its website, trip planning tools, and outreach efforts.