

July 20, 2026

Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Dr. West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: City of Westminster Response to the 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury Report on California State Housing Mandates

The City appreciates the Orange County Grand Jury's review of California's regional housing planning process and its recognition of the significant challenges local jurisdictions face in implementing state housing mandates. Westminster remains committed to complying with State housing law while balancing community planning objectives, infrastructure capacity, fiscal responsibility, and the preservation of neighborhood character. The City has adopted a State-certified Housing Element, participates in regional planning activities through the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the Orange County Council of Governments (OCCOG), and continues to implement programs intended to facilitate housing production consistent with State law. The City's responses to the applicable recommendations are provided below.

Recommendation R7

Recommendation: Reassess the current OCCOG dues structure to ensure OCCOG has sufficient resources to effectively represent Orange County jurisdictions.

City Response: *The recommendation requires further analysis.*

The City recognizes the importance of effective regional representation during development of future Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) methodologies. Any modification to OCCOG's dues structure should be evaluated collaboratively by OCCOG member agencies, taking into consideration organizational needs, anticipated benefits, budget impacts, and equitable cost allocation among member jurisdictions.

Recommendation R11

Recommendation: Ensure consistent participation in SCAG and OCCOG committees.

City Response: *The recommendation has been implemented.*

The City actively participates in SCAG and OCCOG activities relevant to housing, planning, and regional policy. The City will continue to participate in committees and technical working groups, as appropriate, to ensure Westminster's interests are represented throughout future RHNA and regional planning processes.

Recommendation R12

Recommendation: Designate a single technical representative and alternate for RHNA-related committees.

City Response: *The recommendation has been implemented.*

The City has designated Community Development Department staff to serve as its primary representatives for regional housing and planning matters and will continue to maintain appropriate staff continuity through designated alternates as needed.

Recommendation R14

Recommendation: Publish annual housing monitoring dashboards.

City Response: *The recommendation requires further analysis.*

The City currently prepares and submits the Annual Progress Report required by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, which tracks implementation of the Housing Element and housing production. While the City supports improving transparency regarding housing activity, development of a comprehensive public dashboard would require evaluation of staffing resources, data availability, software capabilities, ongoing maintenance requirements, and consistency with State reporting requirements. The City will evaluate opportunities to expand public reporting as resources permit.

Recommendation R15

Recommendation: Educate the public regarding the RHNA process and housing mandates.

City Response: *The recommendation has been implemented.*

The City provides public information regarding housing planning through Housing Element updates, Planning Commission meetings, City Council meetings, public workshops, notices, and information available on the City's website. The City will continue to provide objective educational information regarding State housing requirements, local planning processes, and opportunities for meaningful public participation. Any educational materials regarding legislative processes will remain informational and non-advocacy in nature.

Recommendation R16

Recommendation: Enhance relationships with nonprofit affordable housing developers.

City Response: *The recommendation has been implemented.*

The City recognizes the important role nonprofit affordable housing organizations play in addressing local housing needs. Westminster has experience working with affordable housing developers and will continue to foster productive relationships with qualified nonprofit organizations while pursuing opportunities consistent with available funding, Housing Element programs, and community objectives.

The City of Westminster appreciates the Grand Jury's efforts to improve transparency, coordination, and effectiveness in regional housing planning. Westminster remains committed to participating in regional planning efforts, complying with applicable State housing laws, and implementing practical strategies that support the development of housing opportunities while maintaining sound land use planning and responsible stewardship of public resources.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Rojas, Jr.

Director of Community Development
City of Westminster

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