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July 23, 2026

Honorable Sheila F. Hanson
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Orange
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report "PFAS and Public Awareness: A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water"

Dear Judge Hanson:

East Orange County Water District (EOCWD) is providing our response to the Grand Jury Report "PFAS and Public Awareness: A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water".

Findings of the Grand Jury:

F2 PFAS is widespread, and contamination has been detected in Orange County groundwater sources. Community water systems are required to report PFAS monitoring results in their annual Consumer Confidence Reports.

EOCWD agrees with this finding.

F4 OCWD has taken a proactive leadership role in addressing PFAS in the Orange County Groundwater Basin, though PFAS treatment implementation varies across local cities and water districts.

EOCWD agrees with this finding.

F6 Orange County drinking water meets or exceeds state and federal standards and is safe for consumption without additional home filtration.

EOCWD agrees with this finding.

F8 There are limited online PFAS education and outreach programs among Orange County water retailers. Most retailers rely on OCWD for PFAS education and outreach. PFAS advisories were included in approximately 55% of the Orange County water retailers' annual water quality reports in 2025.

EOCWD maintains a PFAS section on its website www.eocwd.com. EOCWD's website also refers to OCWD's website which contains a PFAS Fact Sheet and a Quarterly PFAS Update.

Recommendations of the Grand Jury:

R2 By July 1, 2029, OCWD and its member agencies should monitor PFAS in groundwater and surface water sources and promptly implement PFAS treatment when response levels are exceeded. [F2, F4]

EOCWD works with OCWD to maintain a proactive and comprehensive monitoring program for PFAS and funds treatment in cooperation with its Producers. These PFAS water quality monitoring efforts have continued for more than a decade and include multiple US EPA Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule programs that include PFAS (UCMR3 and UCMR5) as well as multiple PFAS monitoring orders issued by the California Division of Drinking Water.

R4 By July 1, 2029, all Orange County water retailers should consistently include a PFAS advisory, treatment facilities status, and compliance information in consumer confidence reports and on agency websites, using clear and understandable language for the public. [F2, F8]

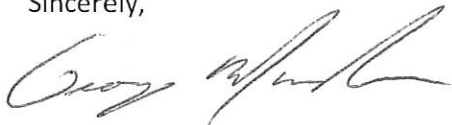
EOCWD agrees with this recommendation.

R5 By September 30, 2026, OCWD and all Orange County water retailers should enhance coordinated public education efforts to reassure their customers about drinking water safety. [F6, F8]

EOCWD will continue providing the public with educational PFAS information, resources, and updates posted on our website as well as OCWD's and distributed within OCWD's monthly newsletter.

We appreciate the Grand Jury's efforts in this matter and the opportunity to respond to the report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George Murdoch", written in a cursive style.

George Murdoch
President, Board of Directors
East Orange County Water District