



John Gabbard
Mayor

Mike Frost
Mayor Pro Tem

Jamey M. Federico

Matthew Pagano

Michael Villar

August 1, 2026

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

RE: Response to 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Wildfires Hit Home"

Dear Honorable Judge Sheila F. Hanson:

The City of Dana Point has reviewed the 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury Report entitled, "Wildfires Hit Home". As required by California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the City of Dana Point is responding to the findings and recommendations included within the report. Each of the findings and recommendations is listed below in italics, followed by the City's response.

Findings:

F1: More frequent and severe wildfires driven by increasingly hotter, drier, and windier conditions in the Orange County wild/and-urban interface are escalating impacts on financial and non-financial resources. Among the financial costs are dramatic increases in homeowners' insurance premiums, nonrenewals, and inability to obtain insurance.

Response: The City of Dana Point agrees with this finding.

F2: Actions that address conditions in the home ignition zone to significantly reduce ignition potential can prevent a community wild/and-urban interface fire disaster or suburban conflagration.

Response: The City of Dana Point agrees with this finding.

F3: Expanded engagement with the community to raise awareness and provide support regarding home hardening and defensible space will increase effectiveness of wildfire risk mitigation and insurance risk reduction efforts.

Response: The City of Dana Point agrees with this finding.

F4: Achievement of community-level and property-level wildfire risk mitigation designations (such as Firewise USA Site, Fire Risk Reduction Community or Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety certification) lessens wildfire risk and helps reduce insurance premium costs.

Harboring the Good Life

Response: The City of Dana Point agrees with this finding.

F5: All county residents should be made aware that Safer from Wildfire regulation requires insurers to provide discounts to homeowners and communities that implement home hardening and defensible space measures regardless of whether a property is located within a Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

Response: The City of Dana Point agrees with this finding.

F6: AB888, California Safe Homes Grant Program, provides financial assistance to eligible homeowners, cities, counties, and special districts for home hardening and defensible space measures. Applying for and using these grant funds will reduce wildfire losses and improve insurability and resilience of vulnerable communities.

Response: The City of Dana Point agrees with this finding.

Recommendations:

R2: By December 31, 2026, cities and fire service agencies, including Orange County Fire Authority should commit to participation in a county-wide annual wildfire prevention fair planned by the Orange County Board of Supervisors to showcase wildfire prevention outreach programs.

Response: Implementation of this recommendation is dependent upon coordination by the County of Orange. The City of Dana Point will participate in the county-wide annual wildfire prevention fair once it is organized.

R4: By December 31, 2026, to ensure city residents are engaged and aware of wildfire risk reduction resources, OCFA member and non-member cities should provide information, develop their own outreach program, and establish a direct contact person(s) for their residents. This is in addition to whatever referrals or references made to OCFA outreach programs.

Response: This recommendation has already been implemented. The City applied for, and received, designation as a Fire Risk Reduction Community as listed by the California Board of Forestry for the 2026 List. To help educate and inform the community, the City launched a dedicated webpage on its official website highlighting the Fire Risk Reduction Community List designation, its benefits to residents, and available wildfire preparedness and safety resources. To further raise public awareness, the City issued a press release and shared social media posts during the week of July 20, 2026, directing the community to the webpage for additional information.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact City Manager Kelly Reenders at kreenders@danapoint.org or 949-248-3519.

Respectfully,



Mayor John Gabbard

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