



CITY OF SANTA ANA

August 3, 2026

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

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

Honorable Judge Hanson,

In accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05(a) and (b), the City Council of the City of Santa Ana authorized the submittal of the following responses to the 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury report titled, "Wildfires Hit Home."

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at anunez@santa-ana.org.

Sincerely,

Alvaro Nuñez
City Manager

OC Grand Jury Findings:

- F1** More frequent and severe wildfires driven by increasingly hotter, drier, and windier conditions in the Orange County wildland-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.
- F2** Actions that address conditions in the home ignition zone to significantly reduce ignition potential can prevent a community wildland-urban interface fire disaster or suburban conflagration.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Finding	Required Response	City Response
F1	Agree	The City generally agrees with Finding F1 regarding the increasing frequency and severity of wildfires. The finding includes statements regarding homeowners' insurance premiums, policy non-renewals, and insurance availability, which the City cannot independently verify and therefore cannot express an opinion on those specific statements.
F2	Agree	The City agrees that reducing ignition potential within the Home Ignition Zone can significantly reduce wildfire risk.
F3	Agree	The City agrees that public education and community engagement improve wildfire preparedness and mitigation efforts.

Finding	Required Response	City Response
F4	Agree	The City agrees that community-level and property-level wildfire mitigation efforts reduce wildfire risk. However, statements regarding reductions in insurance premiums cannot be independently verified by the City.
F5	Agree	The City agrees that residents should be informed of available wildfire mitigation resources and applicable insurance incentives.
F6	Agree	The City agrees that grant funding available through the California Safe Homes Grant Program can assist eligible homeowners and communities with wildfire mitigation efforts.

OC Grand Jury 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. [F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6]
- R3** By December 31, 2026, cities, unincorporated areas, special districts, and fire service agencies in High and Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zones should initiate planning activities to achieve community-level wildfire risk mitigation designations and/or establish a local Fire Safe Council within one year. [F4, F5, F6]
- 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. [F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6]

Recommendation	Statutory Response	City Response
R2	Has been implemented	The City contracts with the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) for fire services. OCFA has committed to participating in any countywide annual wildfire prevention fair should the County of Orange move forward with such an event. In matters of fire prevention, OCFA represents its member agencies, including the City of Santa Ana.

Recommendation	Statutory Response	City Response
R3	Has been implemented	The City relies on OCFA to provide fire prevention expertise and wildfire mitigation planning. OCFA, in partnership with its member agencies, is currently implementing the objectives identified in Recommendation R3, as applicable to the communities it serves. Given that Santa Ana is not located within a High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, the recommendation is being addressed through OCFA's regional fire prevention programs.
R4	Has been implemented	The City relies upon OCFA as its fire prevention authority and directs residents to OCFA's educational resources through the City's website and public communications. While the City does not maintain a dedicated fire prevention specialist for public inquiries, it will continue providing periodic wildfire preparedness messaging through City communication channels and refer residents to OCFA for technical assistance and educational resources.