



City of La Habra

"A Caring Community"

ADMINISTRATION

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August 4, 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 REPORT ENTITLED,
"WILDFIRES HIT HOME"**

Dear Judge Hanson:

Please accept this letter as the City of La Habra's timely response to the 2025-2026 Orange County report entitled, "*Wildfires Hit Home*," which was received by the City of La Habra on June 20, 2024. On August 3, 2026, the La Habra City Council reviewed the above-referenced Grand Jury Report and authorized this letter to be submitted as the City's response to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933. 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 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.

Response: Agree.

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.

Response: Agree.

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: Agree.

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.

Response: Agree.

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: Agree.

F6. AB888, California Safe Homes Grant Program, provides financial assistance to eligible homeowner, 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: Agree.

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]

Response: Agree. The City is willing to participate in a county-wide annual wildfire prevention fair planned and organized by the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

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]

Response: The City's contract fire services agency, the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD), is able to partner with the City in planning activities to attain wildfire risk mitigation designations within one year. LACoFD has recommended the City start with a strong Firewise Community campaign. The Firewise Community campaign will likely begin in October 2026 and continue through March 2027 in conjunction with, or shortly following, an extensive Community Outreach Survey currently being developed by LACoFD's Community Risk Reduction Bureau.

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]

Honorable Sheila F. Hanson

August 4, 2026

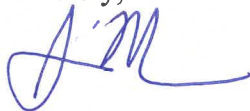
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Response: The City contracts with the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) for fire service and their Community Risk Reduction Bureau is working on Project S.H.I.E.L.D. (Safety, Health, Information, Education, Local, Development). SHIELD is LACoFD's Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Plan, founded on NFPA 1300. NFPA staff helped produce and review SHIELD's objectives, survey, and communications plan, beginning with a Community Outreach Survey, tailored to each community's situation. The Communications & Distribution Plan for the survey includes a social media toolkit, public webpage on the department's website, news release, and iPad access at community engagement events. The survey is expected to roll out in the Fall of 2026, and contains links to wildfire risk reduction resources, Fire Safe Councils, and the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety. The City and LACoFD will determine the appropriate contact person for residents.

LACoFD is able to partner with the City to deliver wildfire safety assessments for home hardening and defensible space. This work is expected to commence in Spring of 2027 and rolled out with brush clearance requirements.

The City of La Habra appreciates the Grand Jury for its research and presentation of material as it pertains to wildfires. Thank you for the opportunity to provide responses to the report. Preparation and prevention allow for safer communities and provide a better quality of life for all who live, work, and visit Orange County. Please contact Assistant City Manager Gabriella Yap at (562) 383-4012 should you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



José Medrano
Mayor

cc:

Judy Howard, Foreperson, Orange County Grand Jury, 700 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, CA 92701

Christopher Siok, Acting Assistant Fire Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department

Jim Sadro, City Manager, City of La Habra

Gabriella Yap, Assistant City Manager, City of La Habra