



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 GRAND JURY REPORT
ENTITLED, "*PFAS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS: A CLOSER LOOK AT ORANGE
COUNTY DRINKING WATER*"**

Dear Judge Hanson:

Please accept this letter as the City of La Habra's timely response to the 2025-2026 Orange report entitled, "*PFAS and Public Awareness: A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water*," which was received by the City of La Habra on June 9, 2026. 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.

The City understands that a large portion of Orange County is highly dependent on the water provided by the Orange County Water Basin, and that PFAS has been detected within this essential water supply. The City of La Habra understands the potential adverse health effects due to exposure to unsafe levels of PFOA/PFOS which may include developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy, liver effects, immune effects, thyroid effects and other effects such as cholesterol changes. The City of La Habra recognizes the importance of the efforts made by the Orange County Water District (OCWD) to analyze/monitor for PFAS on behalf of its member agencies using its own EPA-certified laboratory, and to provide a coordinated regional response to PFAS contamination.

However, the City of La Habra is in the northernmost portion of Orange County, and is not an OCWD member agency. The City provides water from three sources of supply: Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), California Domestic Water Company (CDWC) via the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin, and the La Habra Groundwater Basin.

Each source is monitored and reported in accordance with USEPA and State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water orders. For calendar year 2025, no PFAS were

found in Metropolitan's treated water, CDWC treated water, or La Habra treated water above the state detection limit for purposes of reporting.

The responses to the Orange County Grand Jury Report's findings (F2, F6 and F8) and recommendations (R4 and R5) are provided below.

FINDINGS

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.

Response: The City of La Habra partially disagrees with this finding.

Explanation: The City of La Habra agrees that PFAS is widespread, and contamination has been detected in Orange County groundwater sources. However, community water systems are required to report PFAS monitoring results in their annual Consumer Confidence Reports only when PFAS is detected at or above Consumer Confidence Report Detection Levels (CCRDLs), as published by the California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water.

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

Response: The City of La Habra 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.

Response: The City of La Habra agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Response: This recommendation requires further analysis.

Comment: The City of La Habra does not rely on water supplies from the Orange County Basin. The City of La Habra utilizes water supplies from MWDOC, California Domestic Water Company (CDWC), and groundwater from the La Habra Groundwater Basin via two active wells. Portola Well has been sampled on a quarterly basis since April 2023, under requirements of DW 2022-0001-DDW with no levels of detection. Idaho Well initiated quarterly samples in June 2026, with no levels of detection. Analysis of the Idaho Well will continue sampling on a quarterly basis through April 2027, fulfilling the initial monitoring

requirements under order DW 2025-0002-DDW. Further analysis is required to determine whether or not a PFAS advisory, treatment facility status, and compliance information in consumer confidence reports is required or warranted.

Implementation Schedule: Implementation is in progress with initial monitoring of Idaho Well completed in April 2027.

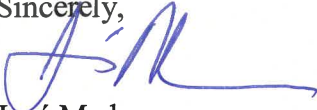
R5. By September 30, 2026, OCWD and all Orange County water retailers should enhance coordinated public education efforts to reassure their customers about drinking water safety. [F6, F8]

Response: This recommendation has been implemented.

Summary: The City of La Habra maintains a strong communication and public relations program by sharing relevant information through a variety of platforms, including the “La Habra Life” newsletter publication, “Life in La Habra” magazine publication, and public education efforts through resident interaction at informational booths at local community events.

The City of La Habra appreciates the need and timeliness of the Grand Jury’s Report, *PFAS and Public Awareness: A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water*. Thank you for the opportunity to provide responses to the report and for the opportunity to clarify our unique position as an Orange County Water Agency. Should you have additional questions, please, contact the City Manager, James Sadro, at (562) 383-4010 or by email at jsadro@lahabraca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Medrano', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

José Medrano

Mayor

Cc:

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

La Habra City Council

Jim Sadro, City Manager, City of La Habra

Elias Saykali, Director of Public Works, City of La Habra