



August 4, 2026

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

RE: RESPONSE TO ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT, *WILDFIRES HIT HOME*

Dear Presiding Judge Hanson:

The City of La Palma has reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury Report, ***Wildfires Hit Home***. In compliance with the California Penal Code sections 933.05(a) and (b), the City was requested and is responding to each of the findings and recommendations directed to the City in this report. Each finding and recommendation is listed below, followed by the City's response, which was approved by the La Palma City Council on August 4, 2026.

The Grand Jury Report outlined six findings, all of which applied to La Palma:

- *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: The City of La Palma partially agrees with this finding and concurs with the response provided by the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) in its July 1, 2026 letter. OCFA acknowledges that there are "more frequent and severe wildfires" in Orange County but "lacks specific analysis, tracking, and regulation of homeowners' insurance premiums to agree or disagree" with this finding. OCFA serves as the lead agency for fire-related issues on behalf of the City of La Palma, and the City relies on OCFA's expertise and analysis.

- *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: The City of La Palma agrees with this finding. The City's response is based on the response provided by OCFA on July 1, 2026 and does not have any additional comments.

- *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 La Palma agrees with this finding. The City's response is based on the response provided by OCFA on July 1, 2026 and does not have any additional comments.

- *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: The City of La Palma partially agrees with this finding and concurs with the response provided by the OCFA in its July 1, 2026 letter. OCFA serves as the lead agency for fire-related issues on behalf of the City of La Palma, and the City relies on OCFA's expertise and analysis.

- *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 La Palma partially agrees with this finding and concurs with the response provided by the OCFA in its July 1, 2026 letter. OCFA serves as the lead agency for fire-related issues on behalf of the City of La Palma, and the City relies on OCFA's expertise and analysis.

- *F6. AB 888, 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 La Palma partially agrees with this finding and concurs with the response provided by the OCFA in its July 1, 2026 letter. OCFA serves as the lead agency for fire-related issues on behalf of the City of La Palma, and the City relies on OCFA's expertise and analysis.

The Grand Jury Report also outlined four recommendations, two of which applied to La Palma.

- *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: This recommendation will be implemented upon coordination by the Orange County Board of Supervisors. The City of La Palma is willing to participate in an annual event, as staffing and resources allow.

- *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 will not be implemented because the City of La Palma is not in a wildfire zone. However, the City proactively and regularly communicates with residents about OCFA resources for fire-related programs and fire prevention and safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Grand Jury Report. Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Peter Kim, City Manager, at (714) 690-3334 or via email at citymanager@lapalmaca.gov.

Sincerely,



NITESH P. PATEL

Mayor
City of La Palma

NPP:pk

cc: La Palma City Council
Orange County Grand Jury
Peter L. Kim, City Manager