



CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

30111 Crown Valley Parkway, Laguna Niguel, California 92677
Phone: (949) 362-4300 Fax: (949) 362-4352

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Gene Johns
Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Jennings
Council Member Ray Gennawey
Council Member Stephanie Oddo
Council Member Stephanie Winstead

August 5, 2026

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

The City of Laguna Niguel has reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury (OCGJ) Report "Wildfires Hit Home." In accordance with California Penal Code 933 and 933.05, the City submits the following responses to the findings and recommendations.

Findings and Responses:

- F1. More frequent and severe wildfires driven by increasingly hotter, drier, and winder 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 inabilities to obtain insurance.**

Response: The City of Laguna Niguel agrees with the finding.

- 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 Laguna Niguel agrees with the 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 Laguna Niguel agrees with the 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.**

Response: The City of Laguna Niguel agrees with the 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 Laguna Niguel agrees with the 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 Laguna Niguel partially agrees with the finding; however, the City has no expertise in evaluating the impacts of the utilization of the grant funding on the private property/home insurance market.

Recommendations and Responses:

- 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 should the County of Orange elect to fully coordinate such an event. The City of Laguna Niguel already hosts wildfire prevention and preparedness events throughout the year and invests in GIS technology and other tools that are available to the public for use and participation.

- 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.**

Response: This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The City's 2026 Adopted Strategic Plan Updates includes a strategy to 'obtain a fire risk reduction designation' between 2026-2028. This strategy supports Goal #2 – Public Safety, of the City's Adopted Strategic Plan. Additionally, several HOAs located within the City have also applied for and successfully received the designation of Firewise Community.

- 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 been implemented. The City of Laguna Niguel provides information to the public related to wildfire risk reduction through several channels, including social media, GIS platforms, mobile app, City website, Nixle/AlertOC, wildfire workshops, HOA newsletters, OCFA quarterly updates, and at select City events. The City works very closely with the OCFA D5 Division Chief and Assistant Fire Marshall – Community Wildfire Mitigation in coordination with the City's Sr. Emergency Management Coordinator.

Respectfully submitted,



Justin J. Martin
Assistant City Manager