

City of Seal Beach



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August 5, 2026

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

Judge Hanson:

On behalf of the City of Seal Beach, enclosed is the response to the findings and recommendations of the 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury report, "PFAS and Public Awareness: A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water." The response was prepared and coordinated by Iris Lee, Director of Public Works.

Please contact Director Lee at (562) 431-2527 x 1322 or ilee@sealbeachca.gov if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gallegos
City Manager

Cc: Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Seal Beach City Council

The City of Seal Beach submits the following responses to the findings and recommendations directed to the City in the Orange County Grand Jury report titled "PFAS and Public Awareness – A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water," dated June 9, 2026.

The City appreciates the Grand Jury's review of this important public health and water quality issue, and recognizes the value of clear, accurate, and coordinated public communication regarding PFAS and drinking water safety.

FINDINGS

F.2: 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.

The City agrees with the finding.

F.4: OCWD has taken a proactive leadership role in addressing PFAS in the Orange County Groundwater Basin, though PFAS treatment implementation varies across local cities and water districts.

The City agrees with the finding.

F.6: Orange County drinking water meets or exceeds state and federal standards and is safe for consumption without additional home filtration.

The City agrees with the finding.

F.8: There are limited 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.

The City agrees with this finding based on the information presented in the Grand Jury report. While the City has not independently verified the percentage of Orange County water retailers that included PFAS advisories in their annual water quality reports in 2025, the City is in general support of continued coordination with OCWD and other partners to provide consistent and understandable PFAS.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R.2: By July 1, 2029, OCWD and its member agencies should monitor PFAS in groundwater and surface water sources and promptly implement PFAS treatment when response levels are exceeded.

The recommendation has been implemented to the extent applicable to the City. OCWD currently conducts PFAS monitoring and testing on behalf of the member agencies, and maintains communication with the member agencies with the results. The City does not operate surface water sources facilities; however, the City will continue to coordinate with OCWD and agencies having jurisdiction regarding PFAS monitoring requirements for groundwater sources. If applicable PFAS response levels or regulatory thresholds are exceeded in a City source, the City will promptly evaluate and implement appropriate response actions.

R.4: By July 1, 2029, all Orange County water retailers should consistently include a PFAS advisory, treatment facilities status, and compliance information in consumer confidence reports and on agency websites, using clear and understandable language for the public.

The recommendation has not yet been fully implemented, but will be implemented in part. The City will continue to include all applicable and required water quality and compliance information in its annual Consumer Confidence Report. At this time, the City does not have PFAS detections requiring treatment; therefore, PFAS treatment facility information is not currently applicable.

The City supports clear public communication regarding PFAS and drinking water safety and will provide PFAS-related advisory language, compliance information, and website updates as applicable based on future monitoring results, regulatory requirements, and coordination with OCWD. Any additional outreach should be tailored to each agency's water system conditions and available resources.

R.5: 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.

The recommendation has not yet been fully implemented, but will be coordinated with OCWD and Orange County water retailers to be implemented in the future based on a collective agreeable date. The City will coordinate with OCWD and regional water partners to provide consistent public education regarding PFAS and drinking water safety. The City intends to use existing communication channels, including its website, annual water quality reporting, and customer service resources, to share clear and accurate information without creating unnecessary duplication or undue financial and staffing impacts.