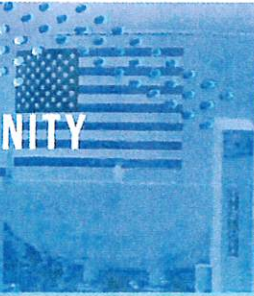




**Yorba Linda
Water District**



**SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1909**



August 13, 2026

Hon. Sheila F. Hanson, P.J.
Superior Court of California, County of Orange
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Copy to:

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

Re: 2025-2026 Grand Jury report:
PFAS and Public Awareness: A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water
Response of Yorba Linda Water District

Judge Hanson:

The Yorba Linda Water District (YLWD) is a local groundwater producer that provides retail water and sewer collection services to approximately 74,000 people in the city of Yorba Linda and portions of the neighboring cities of Anaheim, Brea, Placentia, and unincorporated Orange County. We are pleased to respond to the Grand Jury report ("report") on the subject line. Per the Grand Jury's instructions, YLWD will address Findings: F2, F4, F6, and F8, and Recommendations: R2, R4, and R5.

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.

YLWD agrees that community water systems are required to report PFAS monitoring results in their annual Consumer Confidence Reports if the concentration is above a state set Report Detection Level, consistent with requirements established by the state Division of Drinking Water.

F4 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.

YLWD agrees that OCWD and its Producers are proactive in addressing PFAS in its water supply and in the Orange County Groundwater Basin. Despite playing no role in releasing

PFAS into the environment, YLWD and OCWD work together to remove PFAS from local water supplies. YLWD's treatment process removes PFAS contaminants before water enters the distribution system. As a result, YLWD provides safe and reliable drinking water that consistently meets all state and federal drinking water standards.

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

YLWD concurs with this finding as it pertains to water served within the YLWD service area.

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.

YLWD disagrees with this finding as it applies to YLWD. YLWD's Consumer Confidence Report (Water Quality Report) is available on the YLWD website (www.ylwd.com), and includes a dedicated section on the District's PFAS treatment process. This website also provides a link to the OCWD website (www.ocwd.com) for more detailed information regarding PFAS, which includes a Fact Sheet and a Quarterly PFAS Update.

R2 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. [F2, F4]

YLWD agrees with this recommendation. YLWD and OCWD continue to maintain a proactive and comprehensive joint monitoring program for PFAS. These PFAS water quality monitoring efforts include multiple US EPA Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule programs that include PFAS (UCMR3 and UCMR5) as well as multiple PFAS monitoring orders issued by the California Division of Drinking Water. On behalf of YLWD and the other Orange County groundwater producers, OCWD has steadily expanded PFAS monitoring to include additional drinking water wells, groundwater monitoring wells, and surface waters throughout the Orange County groundwater basin and the Santa Ana River watershed. Through these efforts, OCWD will ensure that all its Producer agencies, including YLWD, meet the initial monitoring requirements contained within US EPA's PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR). OCWD continues to meet with and maintain communication with many local water agencies and regulatory agencies to share PFAS monitoring results and related information. OCWD has also performed multiple phases of pilot testing of PFAS treatment media to help YLWD and other Producers determine the best treatment options. In fact, one of OCWD's pilot programs is located at YLWD headquarters. OCWD has implemented a PFAS treatment policy to fund 100% of the design and construction, and 50% of the operation and maintenance costs for Producer drinking water well treatment facilities, including the PFAS treatment plant at YLWD that treats all groundwater provided to its service area. OCWD and YLWD work closely and collaboratively to develop this PFAS treatment policy and maintain PFAS agreements in support of the policy. As a result, OCWD and its Producers have implemented effective PFAS treatment before much of the rest of the country.

R4 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. [F2, F8]

YLWD agrees with this recommendation.

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]

YLWD agrees with this recommendation. YLWD has and will continue to provide the public with educational PFAS information. YLWD regularly conducts educational tours of its PFAS treatment system for interested community & school groups, industry partners & stakeholders, and its customers. PFAS education is also incorporated into YLWD's annual open house, recurring community outreach events, and multiple District publications.

YLWD would like to note that the number of connections for YLWD as reflected in the table on page 32 within the report is not accurate. The correct number of retail water connections for YLWD is 25,634 as of June 30, 2026. Please update the table in the report to reflect this.

The Yorba Linda Water District thanks the Grand Jury for its service and inquiry into this important issue. If there are any further questions regarding these responses, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Gene Hernandez
President

Yorba Linda Water District