

August 17, 2026

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

Re: Moulton Niguel Water District's Response to the 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury Report "PFAS and Public Awareness: A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water"

Presiding Judge Hanson:

Moulton Niguel Water District (Moulton Niguel) commends the 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury for its service to our community.

On June 9, 2026, the Grand Jury released a report titled, "PFAS and Public Awareness: A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water." In accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933(c) and 933.05, Moulton Niguel submits the following responses.

Background

Moulton Niguel's highest priority is providing safe and reliable drinking water to more than 170,000 residents and thousands of businesses that it serves across six south Orange County cities. Moulton Niguel imports all of its drinking water from the Colorado River and the State Water Project. Because of the underlying geology, Moulton Niguel has no access to local groundwater and, because of our geographic location, is not a "producer" in the Orange County Groundwater Basin.

Moulton Niguel participates in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program, which tests for 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl

substances (PFAS). Moulton Niguel has a record of no detections for any of the 29 PFAS chemicals tested. Our drinking water meets or exceeds all state and federal standards.

Moulton Niguel's Response to 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: Moulton Niguel Water District agrees with this finding.

Moulton Niguel meets all Consumer Confidence Report requirements established by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water. The portion of this finding regarding groundwater contamination does not apply to Moulton Niguel, which relies exclusively on imported surface water and has no detections among the 29 PFAS chemicals tested.

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

Response: Moulton Niguel Water District agrees with this finding.

Moulton Niguel maintains a rigorous sampling and monitoring program within its distribution system. That program confirms the water delivered to our customers meets or exceeds state and federal standards and is safe to consume without additional home filtration.

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: Moulton Niguel Water District partially agrees with this finding.

Moulton Niguel commends Orange County Water District (OCWD) for its PFAS education and outreach programs. Moulton Niguel has not relied on OCWD for PFAS education and outreach, and our efforts are complementary to OCWD's. We regularly publish clear and accurate PFAS



information in our annual Water Quality Report, and we direct customers to the extensive PFAS resources published by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Moulton Niguel's Response to Recommendations:

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."*

Response: This recommendation has not yet been fully implemented, but will be implemented by July 1, 2029.

Moulton Niguel already publishes a notice in its annual Water Quality Report informing customers that no PFAS chemicals have been detected in their drinking water. The notice uses clear and understandable language. It is published online at www.mnwd.com/ccr/ and a free printed copy is available to every customer. By July 1, 2029, Moulton Niguel will include dedicated PFAS information on its website.

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."*

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted given Moulton Niguel's current and planned public education efforts.

Moulton Niguel already provides robust, localized communication about drinking water safety. In addition to an explanatory letter in our annual Water Quality Report, we routinely reach customers in clear and understandable language through:

- A brief, accessible online summary of the annual Water Quality Report
- A featured story in our printed monthly customer newsletter
- A featured story in our electronic customer newsletter
- An annual bill message on water quality
- An annual water quality message on our envelope snipe
- A speaker's bureau offering District staff to present to local community organizations
- Water quality information in customer emails



- Water quality information on our website
- Water quality updates across our social media channels

Because Moulton Niguel already delivers this level of outreach and plans to continue it, an expansion of our public education effort is not needed to reassure customers about the safety of their drinking water. We will continue to coordinate with OCWD and other Orange County water retailers, as appropriate, on educating the public about drinking water safety.

The Moulton Niguel Water District Board of Directors and staff appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury's report. Should you require additional information, please contact me at (949) 448-4032.

Sincerely,


Matt Collings
General Manager

cc: 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury
Moulton Niguel Board of Directors

