



CITY of YORBA LINDA

August 18, 2026

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

RE: Response to the 2025–26 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Wildfires Hit Home"

Dear Honorable Judge Sheila F. Hanson:

As required by California Penal Code §933 and 933.05, the City of Yorba Linda is responding to the findings and recommendations included in the report. The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) provides fire protection and emergency services to Yorba Linda and the City's responses were prepared with input from OCFA.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Peter Grant, City Manager, at (714) 961-7110, or via email at pgrant@yorbalindaca.gov.

Respectfully,

Carlos Rodriguez
Mayor
City of Yorba Linda



Response to the 2025–26 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Wildfires Hit Home"

Findings

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 increase in homeowners' insurance premiums, non-renewals, and inability to obtain insurance.

The City agrees partially with the finding. Wildfires are becoming more frequent and severe throughout the region; however, the City does not collect or analyze data related to homeowners' insurance premiums.

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.

The City 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.

The City 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.

The City agrees partially with the finding. Community-level and property-level wildfire risk mitigation designations lessens wildfire risk; however, the City does not have the data to evaluate the impact of those designations on insurance premium costs.

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.

The City 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.

The City agrees partially with the finding. Grants for home hardening and defensible space measures are an important and valuable resource for homeowners, cities, counties, and special districts; however, the City does not have the data to evaluate the impact of those funds on insurability.

Recommendations

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.

The recommendation will be implemented.

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.

This recommendation has been implemented. In June 2025, the City Council adopted CAL FIRE's 2025 Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps for Local Responsibility Areas. In October 2023, the City Council adopted the updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, a comprehensive strategy to reduce the City's vulnerability to natural hazards, including wildfires. In June 2026, the City Council adopted updates to the Safety Element of the General Plan, incorporating the 2023 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, bringing the General Plan into compliance with State wildfire planning requirements, and preserving the City's eligibility for AB 2140 disaster cost-sharing benefits.

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.

This recommendation has been implemented. The City maintains a year-round wildfire preparedness and emergency readiness program to educate residents, reduce wildfire

risk, and strengthen community resilience. The City's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator serves as the primary point of contact for emergency preparedness and wildfire safety initiatives. The City also works closely with OCFA's Risk Reduction Division to share educational resources, participate in community outreach, and promote wildfire preparedness throughout the year.