

August 25, 2026

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

RE: City of Buena Park Response to Grand Jury Report – “PFAS and Public Awareness: A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water”

Dear Judge Hanson:

The Buena Park City Council has reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury’s report entitled, “PFAS and Public Awareness: A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water.” Below are the City of Buena Park’s responses to the aforementioned report:

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: **The City of Buena Park partially agrees with this finding.** 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.**

Response: **The City of Buena Park agrees with this finding.** OCWD and the Producers it serves, including Buena Park, provide safe and reliable drinking water that consistently meets all state and federal drinking water standards. Despite playing no role in releasing PFAS into the environment, OCWD is working with its Producers to remove PFAS from local water supplies in order to comply with state and federal regulations. More than 100 out of 200 Producer wells within OCWD have been impacted due to various state and federal regulations. At this time, only two (2) of 19 Producer water systems have continued to report non-detects for PFAS: the cities of Seal Beach and La Palma.

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

Response: **The City of Buena Park agrees with this finding.** Orange County drinking water meets or exceeds state and federal standards and is safe for consumption 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: **The City of Buena Park partially agrees with this finding.** OCWD maintains a PFAS section on its website www.ocwd.com, which contains a PFAS Fact Sheet and a Quarterly PFAS Update. When requested, OCWD works with its Producers, including Buena Park, to provide agency-specific fact sheets and other information for public distribution.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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]**

Response: **The recommendation has been implemented.** OCWD continues to maintain a proactive and comprehensive monitoring program for PFAS and funds treatment in cooperation with its Producers, including the City of Buena Park. These PFAS water quality monitoring efforts have continued for more than a decade and 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. 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 meet the initial monitoring requirements contained within US EPA's PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR). OCWD has continued to meet 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 Producers determine the best treatment options. 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. OCWD and the Producer water systems have worked closely and collaboratively to develop this PFAS treatment policy and maintain PFAS

agreements in support of the policy, resulting in implementation of treatment throughout OCWD well in advance of 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]

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

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]

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented by September 20, 2026. OCWD and the City of Buena Park will continue to work together to share information with the public about drinking water safety. By the above date, the City of Buena Park will explore additional marketing methods (e.g. city website, water bill insert, etc.) that the City can implement to reassure its customers about the safety of local drinking water.

Thank you for providing the City of Buena Park the opportunity to respond to this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Aaron France', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aaron France
City Manager

cc: Buena Park City Council
Christopher G. Cardinale, City Attorney