

City of Laguna Hills
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August 26, 2026

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

Subject: City of Laguna Hills' Response to the 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Wildfires Hit Home"

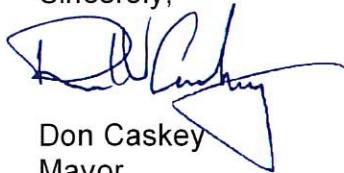
Dear Judge Hanson:

Thank You for your leadership and hard work, as well as the tireless work of the Members of the Orange County Grand Jury.

Per the Orange County Grand Jury's request, please find the City of Laguna Hills' response to the subject report attached. The response was approved by the Laguna Hills City Council on August 25, 2026.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please contact Bob Wingenroth, City Manager, at (949) 707-2615 or bwingenroth@lagunahills.gov.

Sincerely,



Don Caskey
Mayor

Attachment: A – City of Laguna Hills' Response to the 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Wildfires Hit Home"

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

Attachment A

City of Laguna Hills' Response to the 2025-2026 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 increases in homeowners' insurance premiums, nonrenewal, and the inability to obtain insurance.

Response: The City of Laguna Hills agrees with this finding, with the exception that we cannot comment on insurance premiums, nonrenewal, and inability to obtain insurance as we lack access to that information.

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.

Response: The City of Laguna Hills agrees with this 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.

Response: The City of Laguna Hills agrees with this 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.

Response: The City of Laguna Hills partially agrees with this finding, however, we lack sufficient information/expertise to evaluate the impact of such measures on private insurance premium costs.

F5. All county residents should be made aware that Safer from Wildfire regulations require 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.

Response: The City of Laguna Hills agrees that home hardening and defensible space increases a structure's protection from wildfire. The City of Laguna Hills lacks expertise to evaluate the impact of insurance discounts.

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.

Response: The City of Laguna Hills agrees in part with this finding. The California Safe Homes Grant Program should provide financial assistance contemplated by AB 888 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. However, the City of Laguna Hills lacks the expertise to evaluate the impact of such measures on private market 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

Response: City of Laguna Hills staff will participate in prevention fair when scheduled.

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.

Response: The OCFA, in partnership with its member cities, including Laguna Hills, is currently and actively executing the objectives put forth in this recommendation.

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.

Response: The Orange County Fire Authority serves as the City of Laguna Hills' fire department and is working with our city staff to ensure we are fully equipped to engage and educate residents through public education, localized risk reduction data, and technical wildfire safety guidance.