



September 1, 2026

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

RE: RESPONSE TO ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT, PFAS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS: A CLOSER LOOK AT ORANGE COUNTY DRINKING WATER

Dear Presiding Judge Hanson:

The City of La Palma has reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury Report, **PFAS and Public Awareness: A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water**. In compliance with Penal Code sections 933.05(a) and (b), the City of La Palma is responding to the findings and recommendations directed to the City in this report. Each finding and recommendation is listed below, followed by the City's response, which was approved by the La Palma City Council on September 1, 2026.

The Grand Jury Report outlined eight findings, four of which applied to La Palma:

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 La Palma agrees with this finding.

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 La Palma agrees with this finding.

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 La Palma agrees with this finding.

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.

The Honorable Sheila F. Hanson

Response to Orange County Grand Jury Report, *PFAS and Public Awareness: A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water*

September 1, 2026

Page 2

Response: The City of La Palma partially agrees with this finding. The City currently maintains a section on PFAS on its website at <https://lapalmaca.gov/647/PFOA-PFOS>. The webpage also refers to the OCWD's website, as well as the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the State Water Resources Control Board's Drinking Water Program, and the United States Food and Drug Administration.

The Grand Jury Report also outlined six recommendations, three of which applied to La Palma.

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.

Response: The City of La Palma has implemented this recommendation. The City monitors all water sources for PFAS and is non-detect for PFAS. Additionally, the City includes information on its website and in its Consumer Confidence Report.

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: The City of La Palma has implemented this recommendation. The City monitors all water sources for PFAS and is non-detect for PFAS. Additionally, the City includes information on its website and in its Consumer Confidence Report.

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 has been implemented. The City of La Palma includes information on its website and in its Consumer Confidence Report, and will continue to provide the public with information on PFAS, including resources available to reassure water customers that their drinking water is safe.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Grand Jury Report. Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Peter Kim, City Manager, at 714- 690-3334 or via email at citymanager@lapalmaca.gov.

Sincerely,



NITESH P. PATEL

Mayor

City of La Palma

cc: La Palma City Council
Orange County Grand Jury
Peter L. Kim, City Manager