



September 4, 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

Subject: Golden State Water Company's Response to June 9, 2026, Grand Jury Report "PFAS and Public Awareness, A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water"

Honorable Judge Hanson:

Golden State Water Company owns and operates 40 water systems serving nearly 1 million customers in Northern, Central Coast and Southern California. Our systems provide reliable and safe water service to 81 communities in 12 counties. Our Company has served in many of these communities, including portions of Orange County, since 1929. We pride ourselves on providing superior customer service by delivering safe, reliable water to our customers. Our service territories include three separate water systems in Orange County, serving over 46,300 connections in the Cities of Cypress, Los Alamitos and Stanton, portions of the Cities of Anaheim, Garden Grove, La Palma, Placentia, and Yorba Linda, and the Orange County communities of Rossmoor, Cowan Heights and Lemon Heights.

As instructed by the Orange County Grand Jury in their report titled "PFAS and Public Awareness, A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water", Golden State Water Company hereby submits its formal response to Findings F2, F4, F6 and F8, and to Recommendations R2, R4, and R5 in the attachment included herein.

Golden State Water appreciates the time and effort that the Orange County Grand Jury has invested in this matter of public interest and looks forward to continuing its collaboration with our partnering agencies to support heightened public awareness of drinking water safety.

Sincerely,

Sunil Pillai

Sunil Pillai, Vice President Environmental Quality
Golden State Water Company

Attachment: GSWC Response to OC Grand Jury Report - PFAS and Public Awareness

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.

Golden State Water Company (GSWC) agrees with this finding. Community water systems are required to report PFAS monitoring results in their annual Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) in conformance with the California Code of Regulations (Cal. Code Regs.) [Title 22, Chapter 15, Article 20] and law [California Health and Safety Code, HSC, § 116470].

- 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.

GSWC agrees with this finding that OCWD has taken a proactive role in addressing PFAS in the Orange County Basin and has worked collaboratively with its Producers to remove PFAS from local water supplies to comply with state and federal regulations. GSWC is actively engaged in the OCWD PFAS Treatment Program at several of its groundwater production plant sites in its Orange County District Systems.

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

GSWC agrees that the drinking water it serves its customers meets or exceeds all applicable 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.

GSWC's website includes a PFAS landing page including links to multiple

resources for more information such as U.S. EPA and GSWC PFAS fact sheets. GSWC's 2025 annual water quality reports include language regarding PFAS based on the CCR requirements. Thus, GSWC partially disagrees with this finding as it applies to GSWC, but it has not independently verified the finding with regard to other Orange County water retailers' PFAS education and outreach programs.

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]

This recommendation has been partially implemented. GSWC, along with OCWD, has been monitoring PFAS for over a decade at its groundwater sources in the Orange County Basin and will continue to do so in compliance with requirements issued by the California Division of Drinking Water and U.S. EPA's PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR). GSWC, in cooperation with OCWD's PFAS Treatment Program, is on schedule to construct and place into operation PFAS treatment facilities where required. Implementation of PFAS treatment for water sources that exceed applicable response levels is assessed on a site-by-site basis to determine the feasibility, cost effectiveness, and timing of installing treatment options or utilizing alternative water supply sources. PFAS response levels are just one of the drivers that must be considered in determining treatment options, alternative solutions, and timelines.

- 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]

GSWC has been proactively communicating and educating its customers about PFAS since 2019, below are some examples of these communications:

- PFAS education and compliance information in Consumer Confidence Reports since 2020
- Notifying stakeholders regarding source notification exceedance since

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2019; and

- Establishing a dedicated website with PFAS advisories and fact sheets.

GSWC will continue to enhance these communications using clear and understandable language for the public, will post the status of PFAS treatment facilities on its website, and will provide PFAS compliance information through a link to the most recent Consumer Confidence Reports. GSWC accordingly considers this recommendation to have been partially implemented, with full implementation before the noted deadline. GSWC will continue these efforts as PFAS requirements evolve.

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]

GSWC is constantly working to enhance its public education efforts, will continue to advise its customers about drinking water safety, including PFAS, and will continue to collaborate with OCWD's public education efforts in these regards, whenever possible. GSWC will update its website by September 30, 2026, to include a status report on PFAS Treatment Projects in design and construction and include a link to OCWD's PFAS website content.