



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Remembering what connects us.

August 4, 2026

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

RE: Response to 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury Report "PFAS and Public Awareness: A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water"

Dear Judge Hanson,

The City of Tustin has reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury Report titled "PFAS and Public Awareness: A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water". In accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the City of Tustin submits the following response to the findings and recommendations included within the report. Each of the applicable findings and recommendations is listed below in italics, followed by the City's response.

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 Tustin agrees with this finding. Community water systems are required to report PFAS monitoring results in their annual Consumer Confidence Reports when concentrations exceed the Report Detection Level, consistent with requirements established by the California 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 Tustin 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 Tustin 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.*

Response: The City of Tustin partially disagrees with this finding. The City of Tustin maintains a PFAS education and outreach on its website www.tustinca.org/1131/Understanding-PFAS which contains PFAS information and steps the City has taken in partnership with OCWD. As requested, the City of Tustin also works with OCWD to provide Tustin-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.*

Response: This recommendation has been implemented. OCWD continues to maintain a proactive and comprehensive monitoring program for PFAS and funds treatment in cooperation with its Producers. 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 with 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.*

Response: This recommendation has been partially implemented and requires further analysis. Pursuant to requirements set forth by the California Division of Drinking Water, the City of Tustin will continue to meet all consumer confidence reporting requirements and will include updated information regarding PFAS and related City facilities on the City's website.

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 to 2025-26 Grand Jury report, "*PFAS and Public Awareness*"

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Response: This recommendation has been implemented. The City Tustin and OCWD has and will continue providing the public with educational PFAS information, resources, and updates posted on our website.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact the Director of Public Works, Michael Grisso, at (714) 361-4719 or via email at mgrisso@tustinca.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Austin Lombard", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Austin Lombard
Mayor

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