



**City of Santa Ana**  
**20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701**  
**Staff Report**  
**September 20, 2022**

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**TOPIC:** Orange County Grand Jury's Investigative Report, Findings and Recommendations Regarding "Water in Orange County Needs One Voice"

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**AGENDA TITLE**

Orange County Grand Jury's Investigative Report, Findings and Recommendations Regarding "Water in Orange County Needs One Voice"

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Receive and file the Orange County Grand Jury's report, findings and recommendations regarding wholesale water policy and operations in Orange County needing "One Voice" and authorize the City Manager to deliver the City's response to the findings and recommendations to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

**DISCUSSION**

On June 22, 2022, the Orange County Grand Jury (OCGJ) issued a report with findings and recommendations regarding the establishment of a singular wholesale water supply agency in Orange County. The OCGJ report aims to, among other things, address the merits related to the formation of "One Voice" in the Orange County wholesale water structure.

Most of Orange County relies heavily on imported water for its ongoing supply, as well as some of its groundwater storage replenishment needs. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET) supplies imported water to Southern California. While the cities of Santa Ana, Anaheim and Fullerton purchase imported water directly from MET, other water suppliers in Orange County purchase imported water from Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), who buys it from MET. Orange County Water District (OCWD) supplies groundwater to the retail water agencies and cities geographically situated in the Orange County Groundwater Basin, which includes the City of Santa Ana.

Exhibit 1 is the OCGJ's complete report. As a result of the investigation, OCGJ issued six findings and two recommendations. The OCGJ is requesting that the City of Santa Ana respond to five findings and both of the recommendations. Exhibit 2 outlines the OCGJ findings, recommendations and the City's responses. Upon authorization by the City Council, the responses in Exhibit 2 will be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

There is no environmental impact associated with the action.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

**EXHIBIT(S)**

1. County of Orange Grand Jury Report, *Water in Orange County Needs "One Voice"*
2. City's Response to County of Orange Grand Jury Report, *Water in Orange County Needs "One Voice"*

Submitted By: Nabil Saba, P.E., Executive Director – Public Works Agency

Approved By: Kristine Ridge, City Manager