City of Garden Grove

WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO

November 19, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Matt West
City Manager

I. DEPARTMENT ITEMS

A. CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
List of Records Requests, October 2026

• OTHER ITEMS

- SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES
  Copies of the week's social media posts and local newspaper articles are attached for your information.

- MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
  Items of interest are included.

Matt West
City Manager

Open City of Garden Grove

INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To:	Lisa L. Kim	From:	Liz Vasquez
Dept:	City Manager	Dept:	City Clerk
Subject:	RECORDS REQUESTS	Date:	November 12, 2026

OBJECTIVE

To provide the month of October 2026 list of Records Requests.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The attached list is a summary of records requests received by the City Clerk's Office that were processed through the month of October. The list provides the Request number, the date received, the request, the department the request was assigned, and the date the request was closed. Sensitive information and the names of requesters are not included. For those requests that are not assigned, e.g., information that is readily available on the City's website, the Records Coordinator provides the links and closes the request; for requests that have not yet been closed, the request is in process. Statistics are available for review on the City's website at https://ggcity.org/records_request/

SUMMARY

This memo is for information.

Liz Vasquez
City Clerk

Juan Munoz

By Juan Munoz
Records Coordinator

Attachment

Montly Requests Log

#	Submitted	Request	Department	Due	Closed
11604	10/01/26	Property of Interest: 1902 and 13001 Garden Grove Boulevard, Garden Grove, CA 92843 United States APN: 231-111-01, 231-111-02, 231-111-03 Planning Records: Relevant information regarding historical development and former use/occupancy at ...	Community Development Public Works Public Works Utilities	10/12/26	10/12/26
11605	10/01/26	I would like to request a listing of new businesses formed in Garden Grove in September. All information you are able to provide about the business, such as business name, address, formation date, phone number, etc. would be greatly appreciated.	Finance	10/12/26	10/05/26
11606	10/02/26	Can you please provide the winning contracts and fees for the following RFP? RFP CDD-005 - Building Plan Review, Inspection, Code Enforcement and Building & Safety Contractual Services Thank you!		10/15/26	10/05/26
11608	10/04/26	Please email as PDF: New Business License Listings September 2026 Bus. name, phone number, owner's name, & any home based, where possible		10/15/26	10/05/26
11609	10/04/26	Hello, Under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 7920.000 et seq.), I'm requesting an export of OCFA's plan review and service request records from April 10, 2024 to today, for all member cities and unincorporated areas. For each ...		10/15/26	10/05/26

#	Submitted	Request	Department	Due	Closed
11610	10/05/26	We are requesting all purchase orders issued between August 30, 2026, and the present, reflecting purchasing or procurement activity across all departments, divisions, and offices. Spreadsheet exports preferred; PDF, Word, or standard ERP/finan...	Finance	10/15/26	10/12/26
11611	10/05/26	We are looking for any available records for 13971 Harbor Blvd, Garden Grove, CA and the surrounding area. Specifically, we are interested in: • Sanitary sewer record drawings and as-builts • Storm drain record drawings and as-builts • Water r...		10/15/26	10/05/26
11612	10/05/26	Dear Records Custodian, The Data Branch is submitting a public records request for purchase order records issued between January 20, 2026, and the present. Pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code, Division 10, §§ 7920....	Police Finance	10/15/26	10/14/26
11613	10/05/26	This request is for the property located at 13482 El Prado, Garden Grove. It's a 4 plex apt. i would like to request drawings or permits for the building when it was built. I'm specifically looking for permits and records of the upgrades prior...		10/15/26	10/05/26
11614	10/05/26	As-builts for the remediation system located at ARCO #5202 Garden Grove (12502 Harbor Boulevard, Garden Grove, CA. OCHCA Case # 93UT047, GeoTracker ID # T0605901648. In a monthly status report for the ARCO #5202 site dated January 20, 2020, cu...	Community Development	10/15/26	10/13/26
11616	10/05/26	Provide existing electronic purchase orders and itemized invoices for Water Services payments to Towner Filtration from October 1, 2024 through October 5, 2026, including check 00083281, and existing standing-price agreements, filter specification...		10/16/26	10/06/26
11617	10/05/26	Provide existing electronic purchase orders and itemized invoices for Water Services payments to Towner Filtration from October 1, 2024 through October 5, 2026, including check 00083281, and existing standing-price agreements, filter specification...		10/16/26	10/06/26

#	Submitted	Request	Department	Due	Closed
11618	10/06/26	I am a real estate agent reviewing the property at 12262 Orangewood Avenue, APN 137-123-10, and would like to request its complete building permit history, including archived records. Please provide available permits, approved plans, inspection...		10/19/26	10/06/26
11619	10/06/26	I am requesting an electronic copy of the current Garden Grove business license with the following information included: We are looking for a list of all active businesses in the city. •Business Name •Address (including city and zip) •Teleph...	Finance	10/19/26	10/12/26
11620	10/06/26	I am evaluating the property at 12382 Garden Grove Blvd, Garden Grove, CA for a potential Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) / Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS) facility. Could you please help me obtain or identify the available building records ...		10/16/26	10/06/26
11621	10/06/26	I am a commercial real estate appraiser appraising two adjacent apartments in Garden Grove. My client is the trust department at Wells Fargo. The two addresses are 12182 and 12202 Peacock Court, APNs 133-111-43 & 133-111-46. I located the two plot...		10/19/26	10/06/26
11622	10/06/26	I am looking for any blueprint, drawing, satellite picture, etc. that shows the OCGrace Church property (at 12702 9th Street, Garden Grove, CA) and all structures from a top down view. I'm a member this church, and am part of a committee who plan...	Community Development	10/19/26	10/06/26
11623	10/06/26	Foundations and soil report for student research 12535 Rush St	Public Works Community Development Public Works Utilities	10/19/26	10/19/26

#	Submitted	Request	Department	Due	Closed
11624	10/07/26	Under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 7920.000 et seq.), I am requesting a copy of the following existing records: A list or export of all residential solar photovoltaic (PV) building permits (including solar + battery permits) a...	Community Development	10/19/26	10/07/26
11626	10/08/26	Subject: Great Wolf / GWGG original assistance, renovation and assignment records Dear Records Custodian: Under the California Public Records Act, please provide the following existing records concerning Great Wolf Lodge / GWGG, LLC in Garde...	Economic Development Finance City Manager	11/02/26	11/02/26
11627	10/08/26	Subject: Great Wolf / GWGG original assistance, renovation and assignment records Dear Records Custodian: Under the California Public Records Act, please provide the following existing records concerning Great Wolf Lodge / GWGG, LLC in Garde...		10/19/26	10/08/26
11628	10/08/26	RFP number S-1370, and PREVIOUS RFPs On Call Police Rotational Tow and Storage Services Wants the following: -All RFPs that were submitted AND questions submitted -All staff notes, -All Police Comments. Notes why there not selected ...	Information Technology Police	11/02/26	11/02/26
11629	10/08/26	7441 Chapman Avenue, Garden Grove, California 92841 Self-Storage We would like to request application materials for the project. This includes the application, conceptual/ site development plans, elevations, landscape plans, technical studies,...	Community Development Public Works Utilities City Manager	10/19/26	10/15/26
11630	10/08/26	Under the California Public Records Act, I am requesting an expedited review and preservation of traffic camera and intersection loop video from September 27, 2026, between 11:10 AM and 11:24 AM at the corner of Western Ave and Chapman Ave. The v...		10/19/26	10/09/26

#	Submitted	Request	Department	Due	Closed
11631	10/09/26	Requesting all medical records/notes for a stray cat picked up on 9/18/26 and released 9/19/26. Animal ID was G26050104. Purpose of request is to continue medical care for the cat. New request from #11569 - Animal ID updated; please expedite ...	Public Works	10/19/26	10/15/26
11632	10/09/26	Businesses with parking lots names and addresses in Garden Grove	Finance	11/02/26	11/02/26
11635	10/12/26	To whom it may concern, Pursuant to the California Public Records Act, I hereby request the following records 1) All contracts, licenses, MOUs, MOAs, data agreements, letters of intent, State of Work documents, Scope of Work documents, and o...	Police Finance	10/22/26	10/22/26
11637	10/12/26	I am submitting a public records request for digital copies of documents related to the existing billboard/sign at the Property located at 12800-12900 Garden Grove Boulevard, Garden Grove, California 92843 (APN 101-020-55 and 101-020-56), includin...	Community Development	10/22/26	10/15/26
11638	10/12/26	Under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code §7920.000 et seq.), I am requesting copies of the following records: All residential solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery energy storage building and electrical permit applications received by y...		10/22/26	10/12/26
11640	10/12/26	Any and all communications received by the City of Garden Grove, inclusive of public comment emails, from Roger Flanders in his capacity as a candidate for Garden Grove City Council District 1, commissioner for the city of Garden Grove, and as a m...	Information Technology	10/22/26	10/22/26
11641	10/13/26	Thank you for pointing me to the City's yearly building permit reports earlier this month; they were very helpful. Under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 7920.000 et seq.), I am requesting a list of residential solar photovoltaic ...		10/23/26	10/13/26

#	Submitted	Request	Department	Due	Closed
11642	10/13/26	I had an allergic reaction at a massage parlor. After I told employee and the owner about my reaction, they did not take accountability. I asked them if it was the oil they use and they cannot tell me the ingredients or what kind of oil it is. Whi...		10/23/26	10/13/26
11643	10/13/26	Property Address: 12722 Aspenwood Ln 1. Elevation Certificate And/or documents that may include information on Base Flood Elevation and Lowest Adjacent Grade of the property 2. Documents of property on whether fill has been placed to raise ...	Community Development	10/23/26	10/13/26
11644	10/13/26	Please provide a list of construction businesses that do ADU registered to the City for 2026?	Finance	10/23/26	10/19/26
11645	10/14/26	Dear Sir or Madam, Pursuant to the state's public information statutes, I am requesting copies of the following records from your office: 1. Uncashed, Stale-Dated, outstanding Checks or warrants / Dormant Credit Balances Please provide a l...	Finance	10/26/26	10/19/26
11646	10/14/26	Please see attached request		10/24/26	10/14/26
11648	10/14/26	Could I please request to obtain the approved plans for the ADU with the address below 11405 Jacalene Ln, Garden Grove, CA 92840. Please see the attachment for the example that the SCE ask me for it once I apply for the addition/separate the...	Community Development	10/26/26	10/14/26
11649	10/14/26	G26050894 My mom suffered a dog bit injury on September 21st 2026. The place that the incident taken place was on 13932 Laurel St, Santa Ana, CA 92703. I would like to request the release of the photographs documenting her injuries so that th...		11/10/26	11/06/26

#	Submitted	Request	Department	Due	Closed
11650	10/14/26	G26050894 My mom suffered a dog bit injury on September 21st 2026. The place that the incident taken place was on 13932 Laurel St, Santa Ana, CA 92703. I would like to request the release of the photographs documenting her injuries so that th...		10/24/26	10/14/26
11652	10/14/26	I request electronic copies of the complete **"Agreement for Assignment of Development Rights and Escrow Instructions"** concerning the Grove District Resort Hotel Project (Site C), involving Land & Design, Inc., SCG America Group, Inc., and Inves...	City Manager	10/26/26	10/23/26
11654	10/15/26	Resolution 9943-25 and SP-070-2019	Community Development	10/26/26	10/15/26
11655	10/15/26	Under the California Public Records Act (Government Code § 7920.000 et seq.), I request an electronic copy of the following records kept by the Building & Safety Division: A list of all residential solar photovoltaic permits (with or without ba...		10/25/26	10/15/26
11656	10/15/26	Pursuant to the California Public Records Act, please provide electronic copies of all building permits approved and/or issued from January 1, 2020, through the date of this request concerning the construction, repair, replacement, alteration, or ...		10/25/26	10/15/26
11657	10/15/26	WH & S, LLC is requesting a formal review and written clarification regarding the ownership status of APN 089-221-05, which continues to appear under the City of Garden Grove's ownership in the Orange County Assessor's records. Our property tra...	Community Development City Manager Public Works	11/24/26	
11659	10/15/26	CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUEST Property: 11602 Garden Drive, Garden Grove, CA 92840 Owner: Paradise Properties LLC Managing Member: Salah Salem Code Enforcement Case No. 193890 I request the following official City records from J...	Finance	10/29/26	10/22/26

#	Submitted	Request	Department	Due	Closed
11660	10/16/26	This request is for records relating to City of Garden Grove. A list or export identifying all contracts, purchase agreements, and/or vendor agreements that are in effect as of the date this request is processed, regardless of when they were ex...	Finance	10/29/26	10/23/26
11661	10/16/26	This is a request under the California Public Records Act. Pavement Enforcement is a commercial asphalt paving and sealcoat company based in Pomona, CA. We want to know the City of Garden Grove's permit rules for work on PRIVATE commercial parking...	Community Development	10/29/26	10/27/26
11662	10/16/26	Pursuant to the California Public Records Act, I am requesting all records maintained by Garden Grove Animal Care Services associated with Intake File # G26055278 and Return File #G26055501. This request explicitly includes: 1) The full unredacted...		10/29/26	10/19/26
11663	10/16/26	Pursuant to the California Public Records Act, I am requesting all records maintained by Garden Grove Animal Care Services associated with Intake File # G26055278 and Return File #G26055501. This request explicitly includes: 1) The full unredacted...		10/29/26	10/19/26
11664	10/17/26	Govly is requesting purchasing records in an unscanned, editable format, preferably CSV, Excel, or TXT, for the period of 8/2/2026 through the present. Specifically, we are requesting records containing the following fields, where available: ...	Finance	10/29/26	10/20/26
11665	10/18/26	Hello, We are writing about the project identified as: 11311 Western Ave industrial building (approx. 88,164 SF; former 7390 & 7440 Lincoln Way; developer Scannell Properties) 11311 Western Ave, Garden Grove, CA 92841 Case/File No(s).: Sit...	Community Development	10/29/26	10/26/26
11666	10/19/26	I need to get the Fire Department employees (including Civilian employees) who worked for the City of Garden Grove prior to the transition to OCFA for this project. I need names, start and end dates.	Human Resources	10/29/26	10/21/26

#	Submitted	Request	Department	Due	Closed
11668	10/19/26	Like to get a copy of the blueprint of 8911 Westminter Ave Garden Grove, want to see where the plumbing and electrical are	Community Development	11/02/26	11/02/26
11669	10/20/26	Certificate of occupancy		10/30/26	10/20/26
11670	10/20/26	Certificate of occupancy		10/30/26	10/20/26
11671	10/20/26	Certificate of occupancy		10/30/26	10/20/26
11672	10/21/26	Construction of an approach (entrance to my parking area)—making it larger, 30' maximum.		10/31/26	10/21/26
11673	10/21/26	Construction of an approach (entrance to my parking area)—making it larger, 30' maximum.		10/31/26	10/21/26
11674	10/21/26	**California Public Records Act Request – Municipal Boundaries and Intercity Agreements** Pursuant to the California Public Records Act, Government Code Section 7920.000 et seq., I respectfully request electronic copies of the following existin...	Police	11/02/26	11/02/26
11675	10/21/26	We are requesting a copy of Garden Grove's Employee Compensation Report for the 2025 calendar year under the provisions of California Gov. Code § 7920, the California Public Records Act. The purpose of this request is to obtain records which p...	Public Works Utilities Human Resources Finance	11/16/26	11/06/26
11676	10/22/26	Code Enforcement case 199743		11/01/26	10/22/26
11678	10/22/26	Animal Control Report regarding quantity of cats being kept in unit #317 at 12635 Main Street Carden Grove 92840. The incident Report # is 26056881	Public Works	11/02/26	11/02/26
11679	10/22/26	A copy of the Agency Data Sharing Report from Vigilant's (AKA Motorola) LEARN/VehicleManager system for the Garden Grove Police Department showing all of the agencies/organizations that share license plate reader data with the Garden Grove Police ...		11/01/26	10/22/26

#	Submitted	Request	Department	Due	Closed
11680	10/22/26	Screenshot(s) from the Motorola VehicleManager license plate reader system showing the data retention configuration for license plate reader data for the Garden Grove Police Department. This can be found under "Agency Settings" and then "Data Stor...		11/01/26	10/22/26
11681	10/22/26	I am looking for information regarding the clean up of a property in Garden Grove. The address is 5262 LAMPSON AVE GARDEN GROVE, CA 92845. From what i was told in the year 2000 to 20001 this site was a gas station that had been cleaned up and had...	Public Works Public Works Utilities	11/02/26	10/22/26
11682	10/22/26	I am trying to pull up permit: 093466A but there's no PDF online. Please assist.		11/02/26	10/22/26
11683	10/22/26	Hello, I am requesting any available city-owned traffic or surveillance camera footage related to a motor vehicle accident that occurred on October 8, 2026, at approximately 3:00 p.m. near the intersection of Magnolia Street and Garden Grove Bo...		11/01/26	10/22/26
11684	10/22/26	city of garden grove planning code permit planting vines protect surface from graffiti up dated planning commission 2020 to 2023	Community Development	11/16/26	
11685	10/23/26	Under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 7920.000 et seq.), I request the following, in electronic form: 1. An electronic, tabular record of the City Council's roll-call votes from October 1, 2022 to the date of your response. For e...		11/02/26	10/23/26
11687	10/23/26	I was involved in a car crash on 10/20/2026 at approximately 7:50am at the intersection of Euclid and Garden Grove. The incident occured directly by another driver in a black Chevy Tahoe. I was driving a silver Toyota Corolla. I am just requestin...		11/02/26	10/23/26
11688	10/23/26	I'm writing to submit a public records request for all contracts associated with janitorial and/or custodial services for the City of Garden Grove. Specifically, for each contract, I'd like to request a copy of the current contract, a copy of al...	Finance	11/05/26	11/03/26

#	Submitted	Request	Department	Due	Closed
11690	10/25/26	Subject: California Public Records Act Request – EEO-4 Reports and Community Development Workforce Demographics (2023–2025) Dear City Clerk and Human Resources Department: Pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code § 7920...	Human Resources Community Development	11/19/26	
11691	10/26/26	I would like to get a copy of the blueprint to 8911 Westminter Ave Garden Grove 92844, so I can see where all the structure, plumbing and electrical are at, thinking about remodeling the build. Thanks You	Community Development	11/05/26	10/26/26
11692	10/26/26	Pursuant to the California Public Records Act, I am writing to request that the City of Garden Grove provide the following records: 1. All communications sent or received by any member of the Garden Grove City Council, the City Manager, or the ...	Information Technology	11/23/26	
11693	10/26/26	12905 Palm St Any and all code enforcement records from January 1, 2012.		11/05/26	10/26/26
11695	10/26/26	Pursuant to the State's Freedom of Information Act relevant to the City Garden Grove California, which grants the public access to copies of governmental records, EY Unclaimed Property Services, LLC ("EYUPS") respectfully requests copies of financ...	Finance	11/06/26	11/02/26
11696	10/27/26	We would like to request all permits and Conditional Use Permits (CUP) for the property at 5856 Belgrave Avenue. We are requesting any and all CUPs, building permits, certificate of occupancy, and business licenses for the address. Please l...	Finance	11/06/26	10/27/26
11697	10/27/26	We are reviewing the historical land-use entitlements for 5856 Belgrave Avenue in Garden Grove, currently occupied by Montessori Greenhouse School. We located City Council minutes dated September 14, 2004, referencing an existing Conditional Us...		11/06/26	10/27/26

#	Submitted	Request	Department	Due	Closed
11698	10/27/26	Please provide the following maps for 11561 Salinaz Drive, Garden Grove, CA 92843 -Sewer Plans - Water Plans - Storm Drain Plans - Street Plans - Grading Plans APN: 100-611-20		11/06/26	10/27/26
11699	10/27/26	I am contacting you on behalf of Summit Real Estate Law Firm. Could you please identify the city department that maintains any existing city-maintained mortgage foreclosure registry or list, including Notices of Default, Notices of Trustee Sale, a...	Finance	11/06/26	10/28/26
11700	10/27/26	I am reaching out to request copies of all available permits and inspection records associated with the solar installation at the following property: Homeowner: Monty Trone Property Address: 6652 Santa Catalina Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92845 ...		11/06/26	10/27/26
11701	10/27/26	Public Records Act request: building permits issued, City of Garden Grove Hello, We are making this request under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 7920.000 and following). Records requested Please send existing records th...		11/09/26	10/28/26
11702	10/28/26	Please provide all records in your custody and control pertaining to the complaint and investigation in case # 26044282, that I Tin Vo, made to the police department. You do not need to provide a copy of the initial police report as I've already o...		11/07/26	10/28/26
11703	10/28/26	Building Plans, Blueprints, and/or As-builts for a commercial property. APN#101-611-01		11/07/26	10/28/26

#	Submitted	Request	Department	Due	Closed
11704	10/28/26	Hello, please provide an existing report, case list or database export of open or unresolved Garden Grove code enforcement cases active from October 28, 2025 through October 28, 2026, including older cases that remain open. I'm seeking cases in...		11/07/26	10/28/26
11705	10/28/26	CCTV Video Footage: DOL: 9/14/26 Time: between 8:15pm and 8:45pm Location: Intersection of Lampson Ave and Valley View St Traffic lights were not working. Black Kia Sorento entered the I/S after stopping at Lampson when an unidentified po...		11/07/26	10/28/26
11706	10/28/26	Traffic camera footage.		11/07/26	10/28/26
11707	10/28/26	I am requesting existing sewer as-built or record drawings for 13752 Harbor Blvd, Garden Grove, CA, including the adjacent frontage along Harbor Boulevard. I located a related City grading plan, Drawing G-1287, for 13732–13752 Harbor Blvd, but I a...		11/08/26	10/29/26
11708	10/29/26	Dear Records Custodian, Under the California Public Records Act, Gov. Code 7920.000 et seq., I request a copy of the following public records of the Garden Grove building / permit office, in electronic form: 1. A permit log, monthly issued-p...	Community Development	11/09/26	11/05/26
11710	10/29/26	Please provide copy of business license for Ramon Auto repair located at 11521 anabel ave ste C Garden Grove, CA 92843.	Finance	11/09/26	10/29/26
11711	10/29/26	may i have permit record and plan of 12888 and 12890 civic center dr garden grove CA 92840		11/08/26	10/29/26
11712	10/29/26	Site plans for 2 address 12888 and 12890 Civic Center Dr cc mtonnu@farmersagent.com	Community Development	11/09/26	11/02/26
11713	10/29/26	Could I get the permit for 12892 Civic Center I was able to attain some but not the most recent permits. #2026-01899		11/08/26	10/29/26

#	Submitted	Request	Department	Due	Closed
11714	10/30/26	All executed contracts and service agreements (including amendments, renewals, addenda and associated purchase orders) that are in effect or have been in effect in the last three years with any of the following vendors with which City of Garden Gr...	Finance	11/12/26	11/04/26
11715	10/30/26	Subject: Gold Crest / 10770 Katella Avenue — planning case history and ground-lease records Please provide the following existing records for 10770 Katella Avenue, Garden Grove (also shown with an Anaheim mailing address), APN 089-010-51, known a...	Community Development	11/25/26	
11716	10/30/26	Please provide HazMat records (Fire Department records) and certificate of occupancies for: 11700 Monarch Street, Garden Grove, CA 92841		11/12/26	11/02/26
11717	10/30/26	All emails and communications between the city of Garden Grove staff, Mayor Stephanie Klopfenstein, and the members of the Garden Grove Council with Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer or representatives of employees of the Orange County ...	Information Technology	11/25/26	
11719	10/30/26	I need a copy of the Animal Control report for Case #26056762	Public Works	11/12/26	11/05/26

WEEKLY MEMO 11-19-2026

N E W S A R T I C L E S

OC Register

November 18, 2026

The Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association is accepting grant applications

The association throws the city's annual Strawberry Festival, raising $86,870 from this year's event to go toward grants for nonprofits.



Berry, the official mascot for the 65th Garden Grove Strawberry Festival parade, cruises in a convertible during the event on Saturday, May 24, 2025. (Photo by Mindy Schauer, Orange County Register/SCNG)

The Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association raised $86,870 during this year's Strawberry Festival to go toward grants supporting qualifying local nonprofits, its organizers celebrating the community's spirit in supporting the Memorial Day weekend event despite the mass evacuations from the threat of a chemical spill elsewhere in town.
The association is now taking applications for grants.

The annual Strawberry Festival is the city's biggest event, usually drawing about 250,000 festival-goers to Village Green Park on Main Street over its four-day course.

The festival was founded in 1958 and has since raised more than $7.5 million for charities.

"Giving back to our community is at the heart of the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association's mission. Each year, we proudly support nonprofit organizations serving

children, seniors, youth, and the arts," Donations Chair Steve Sanders said. Sanders has also served as the association's president.
"We strive to distribute donations fairly, prioritizing Garden Grove-based organizations while also considering those serving Garden Grove residents," Sanders said. "Despite the hazmat incident that occurred during Memorial Day weekend this year, our commitment to giving back remains stronger than ever. Supporting the organizations that make a difference."

This year, the otherwise lively berry-themed festival took a blow when a failing chemical tank at GKN Aerospace across town triggered a state of emergency and evacuation orders for more than 50,000 area residents.
Safety and logistical concerns prompted organizers to first postpone and ultimately cancel the Strawberry Stomp 5K and parade — festival centerpieces that usually showcase community spirit and guest celebrities. But the carnival and festival went on.

Next year's Strawberry Festival, the city's 67th, is planned for May 28-31.

The Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association will accept grant applications through Dec. 31.

Funds may be used for "improvements and property upgrades, new equipment and capital assets and maintenance of existing capital assets," with preference being given to organizations that demonstrate financial and organizational stability and a commitment to serving the local community.

Grant funding will be provided on a "reimbursement basis" after approved purchases or projects are completed and paid. The association is asking applicants to submit proof of expenses — paid receipts and invoices count — by the Dec. 31 deadline.

OC Tribune

November 18, 2026

Resuming of manufacturing MMA in Garden Grove plant OKd

BY OC TRIBUNE STAFF ON NOVEMBER 18, 2026 • (LEAVE A COMMENT)



WATER is sprayed on a tank that overheated at an aerospace plant in Garden Grove, Calif., Friday, May 22, 2026. (AP Photo/Ethan Swope)

By a staff writer

The resumption of manufacturing of a controversial chemical that featured in the hazardous material crisis in Garden Grove that led to the evacuation of tens of thousands of people over the Memorial Day weekend has been approved.

The approval refers only to Tank 4 of the three involved making methyl methacrylate (MMA). Tank 1, which suffered a leak, is still out of service, as is Tank 2.

According to the City of Garden Grove, the City of Garden Grove, Orange County Fire Authority, OC Health Care Agency, South Coast Air Quality Management District, Orange County Sanitation District, Cal/OSHA and the Department of Toxic Substances Control each confirmed that GKN Aerospace met the restart requirements within their respective jurisdictions.

“Our responsibility to protect residents and workers does not end with these clearances,” said Garden Grove Mayor Stephanie Klopfenstein. “The city will continue to hold GKN accountable for complying with all applicable safety requirements.”

Work on Tank 4 included weld repairs, third-party inspections of the tank and its welds, and successful leak testing. GKN also upgraded the tank’s connections, valves, piping and structural components, repaired or replaced parts of the pressure-relief system, and restored the chemical inhibitor system.

The incident at the factory on Western Avenue in Garden Grove, which was resolved with no deaths or injuries, prompted the creation of a mandatory evacuation zone in portions of Garden Grove, but also Anaheim, Cypress, Stanton and Westminster and other areas.

GKN has created a fund of $125 million to compensate those affected by the incident, including loss of wages, business profits, hotel and transportation costs, etc.

GARDEN GROVE

CITY OF GARDEN GROVE
NEWS

CONTACT: Johnathan Garcia
City Manager's Office
(714) 741-5283/ Johnathang@ggcity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Public Information Office (714) 741-5280
Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

REGULATORY AGENCIES CLEAR GKN AEROSPACE FOR MMA OPERATIONS FOLLOWING SAFETY UPGRADES

GKN Aerospace (GKN) has received the required agency clearances to resume manufacturing using methyl methacrylate (MMA) from Tank 4 at its Garden Grove facility. The City does not have a confirmed restart date.

Of the three MMA tanks at GKN's Garden Grove facility, only Tank 4 is covered by the clearances. Tank 1, which was involved in the May 21, 2026, hazardous materials incident, remains out of service. Tank 2, which was not involved in the incident, also remains out of service. The City of Garden Grove, Orange County Fire Authority, OC Health Care Agency, South Coast Air Quality Management District, Orange County Sanitation District, Cal/OSHA and the Department of Toxic Substances Control each confirmed that GKN met the restart requirements within their respective jurisdictions.

"Our responsibility to protect residents and workers does not end with these clearances," said Garden Grove Mayor Stephanie Klopfenstein. "The City will continue to hold GKN accountable for complying with all applicable safety requirements."

Work on Tank 4 included weld repairs, third-party inspections of the tank and its welds, and successful leak testing. GKN also upgraded the tank's connections, valves, piping and structural components, repaired or replaced parts of the pressure-relief system, and restored the chemical inhibitor system.

"The Orange County Fire Authority has worked closely with the City of Garden Grove and other regulatory agencies throughout this process to ensure applicable fire and life safety requirements within our jurisdiction have been met," said TJ McGovern, Fire Chief of the OCFA. "Our focus remains on community safety, and we will continue coordinating with our partner agencies."

To improve monitoring and emergency response, the company installed additional equipment to track temperature, pressure and liquid levels, upgraded alarms and revised emergency procedures.

Since May, City staff have visited the facility, and met with GKN on repairs, testing and safety upgrades as part of the City's compliance work. GKN must continue to comply with applicable City requirements and the court-approved safety plan, which requires independent monitoring and annual audits. Garden Grove will continue to enforce its own requirements and coordinate with its regulatory partners.

The City of Garden Grove will continue sharing verified information about the claims program and safety requirements at ggcity.org/hazmat-incident. For GKN updates and to sign up for notifications, visit gkngg.com.

###

WEEKLY MEMO 11-19-2026

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Post Performance

November 12, 2026 – November 19, 2026

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.

Included in this Report

@CityGardenGrove

Garden Grove City Hall

gardengrovecityhall

Garden Grove City Hall

Mon 11/16/2026 5:03 pm PST

There’s more rain on the way, Garden Grove! ☔

Rain is in the forecast for this Thursday, Novembe...



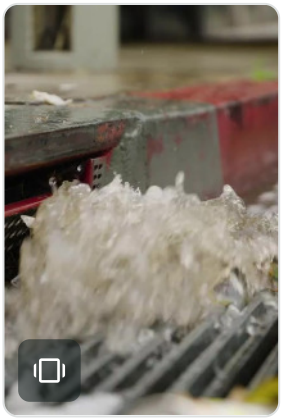
Views 5,928

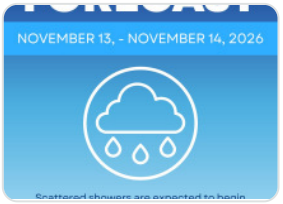
gardengrovecityhall

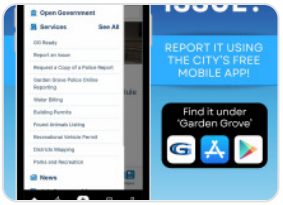
Thu 11/12/2026 12:15 pm PST

Clear drains 〓 drier streets! 🌧️

Scattered showers are expected this weekend....







Views 5,102

gardengrovecityhall

Tue 11/17/2026 6:05 pm PST

Check out last week's Community Spotlight Features ✨

...





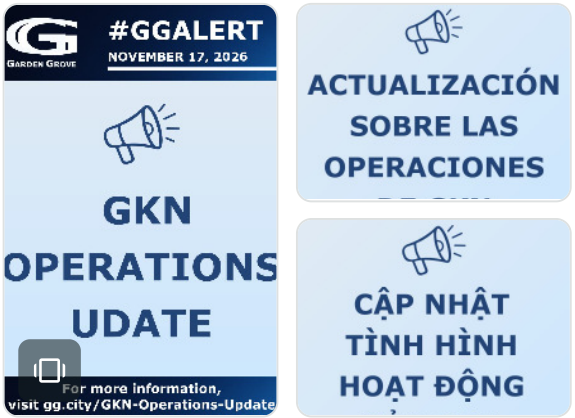
Views 4,572

gardengrovecityhall

Tue 11/17/2026 3:28 pm PST

#GGAlert - GKN Meets Agency Requirement for Operations

...



Views 4,387

gardengrovecityhall

Mon 11/16/2026 5:03 pm PST

There’s more rain on the way, Garden Grove! ☔

Rain is in the forecast for this Thursday, Novembe...



Views 3,874

gardengrovecityhall

Wed 11/18/2026 4:15 pm PST

It's Time! 🎄✨ Winter in the Grove is almost here!

Celebrate the holidays with Garden Grove. Join u...



Views 3,573

Garden Grove City Hall
Wed 11/18/2026 4:15 pm PST

It's Time! 🎄✨ Winter in the Grove is almost here!

Celebrate the holidays with Garden Grove. Join u...



Views 2,035

Garden Grove City Hall
Tue 11/17/2026 6:05 pm PST

Check out last week's Community Spotlight Features ✨

...



Views 1,809

Garden Grove City Hall
Thu 11/12/2026 12:15 pm PST

Scattered showers are expected this weekend! 🌧️ Help prevent street flooding by keeping storm drains clear....



Views 1,477

Garden Grove City Hall
Tue 11/17/2026 3:27 pm PST

#GGAlert - GKN Meets Agency Requirement for Operations

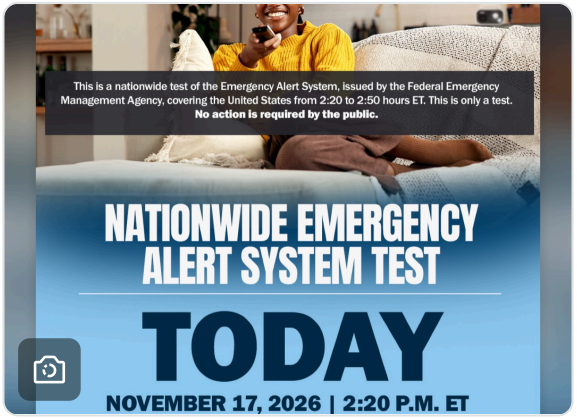
...



Views 1,260

gardengrovecityhall
Tue 11/17/2026 8:55 am PST

TODAY at 11:20 a.m. PST



Views 1,121

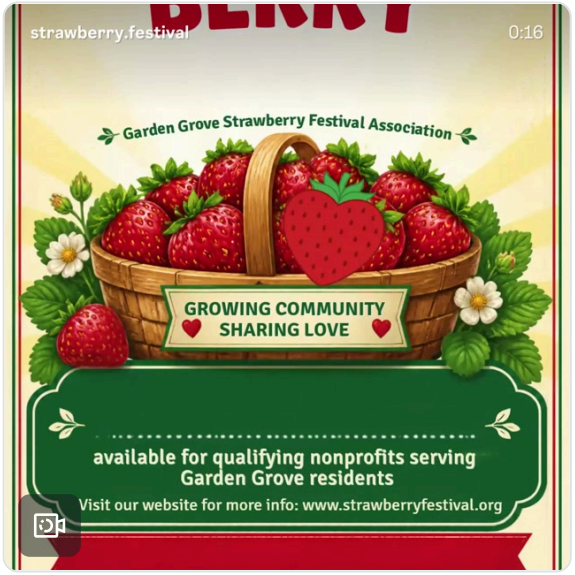
gardengrovecityhall
Mon 11/16/2026 5:03 pm PST



Views 1,115

gardengrovecityhall

Mon 11/16/2026 11:10 am PST



Views 1,085

gardengrovecityhall

Tue 11/17/2026 3:28 pm PST



Views 939

gardengrovecityhall

Wed 11/18/2026 11:03 am PST



Views 700

gardengrovecityhall
Wed 11/18/2026 12:25 pm PST



Views 557

gardengrovecityhall
Wed 11/18/2026 12:49 pm PST



Views 508

gardengrovecityhall
Wed 11/18/2026 4:50 pm PST



Views 383

gardengrovecityhall
Wed 11/18/2026 4:51 pm PST



Views 372

@CityGardenGrove
Tue 11/17/2026 3:27 pm PST

#GGAlert - GKN has received the required agency clearances to resume operations with tank 4.

...

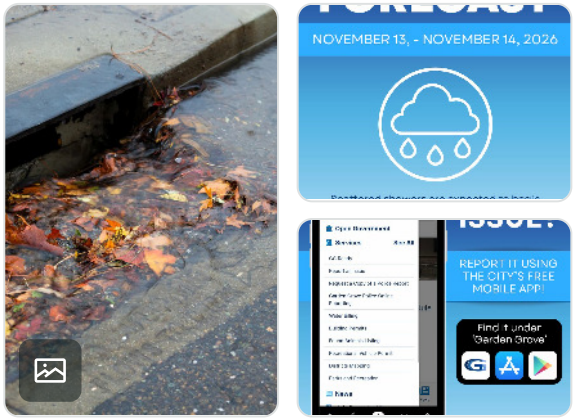


Impressions 249

@CityGardenGrove
Thu 11/12/2026 12:15 pm PST

Clear drains 〓 drier streets! 🌧️

Keep leaves and trash out of the gutter. Report...



Impressions 183

@CityGardenGrove
Tue 11/17/2026 6:05 pm PST

Last week's Community Spotlight featured our restaurants of Foods of Garden Grove Live and celebrated 75 years of the Kiwanis Club of Garde...




Impressions 146

@CityGardenGrove
Wed 11/18/2026 11:10 am PST

The deadline has been extended to November 30 ‼️

Share your thoughts on OC Rental prices today. x.com/CityGardenGrov...

Impressions 86

@CityGardenGrove
Wed 11/18/2026 4:15 pm PST

Celebrate the holidays with Garden Grove. Join us on 12/5, as we light up a holiday tree at Village Green Park! 🎄...






Impressions —



Post Performance

November 12, 2026 – November 19, 2026

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.

Included in this Report

Garden Grove Police Department

Garden Grove Police Department

Fri 11/13/2026 9:23 am PST

Congratulations to Acting Records Manager, Maria McFarlane on successfully completing the Civilian Leadership Institute (CLI), Class 15!...



Engagements	**439**
Views	4,745
Average Reach per Post	3,037
Engagement Rate (per View)	9.3%

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
November 19, 2026

1. Calendar of Events

2. Notice of Cancellation of the November 19, 2026 Garden Grove Planning Commission meeting.

3. Notice of Cancellation of the November 26, 2026 Garden Grove Zoning Administrator Meeting.

4. League of California Cities articles from November 13, 2026 to November 19, 2026

5. Orange County Fire Authority Monthly bulleting, October 2026

GARDEN GROVE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 19, 2026 – December 17, 2026

Thursday	November 19		$2 Holiday Drive Casual Dress Day
Thursday	November 19	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC **_Cancelled_**
Tuesday	November 24	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Housing Authority Meeting, CMC Sanitary District Meeting, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC **_Cancelled_**
Thursday	November 26		City Hall Closed – Thanksgiving
Thursday	November 26		Zoning Administration Meeting, CMC **_Cancelled_**
Friday	November 27		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Thursday	December 3		$2 Holiday Drive Casual Dress Day
Thursday	December 3	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Saturday	December 5	9:00 a.m.	Community Cleanup Day, Garden Grove Public Works 13802 Newhope Street
Saturday	December 5	3:00 p.m.	Winter in the Grove 2026, Village Green Park 12732 Main Street
Monday	December 7	6:30 p.m.	Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission Meeting, CMC
Tuesday	December 8	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Thursday	December 10	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administration Meeting, CMC
Friday	December 11		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Thursday	December 17	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC

GARDEN GROVE

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

OF THE

GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION

NOVEMBER 19, 2026

REGULAR MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled.

DATED: November 12, 2026



BERT ASHLAND
CHAIR

GARDEN GROVE

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

OF THE

GARDEN GROVE

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 26, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Zoning Administrator scheduled for Thursday, November 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled.

DATED: November 19, 2026

DAVID DENT
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

CEQA study finds a disconnect between statutory exemptions and usage

Nov 18, 2026

By Belinda Torres, a 2026 Ronald O. Loveridge Summer Fellow,and Melissa Sparks-Kranz, legislative advocate (environmental quality)

Cal Cities worked with a group of UC Davis graduate students to look at statutory exemptions to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and how often they are used for specific projects. The report suggests there is a disconnect between the statutory exemptions the Legislature has passed and their actual usage.

CEQA exemptions remain an ongoing topic among the Legislature and, increasingly, everyday Californians. This year, voters rejected Proposition 45, which would have streamlined environmental review decisions and added shot clocks for a range of essential projects. The Legislature is poised to take up more CEQA changes in 2027.

The UC Davis Environmental Policy and Management Policy Clinic conducted the study. The report does not represent a policy position of Cal Cities. However, the report provides relevant information and analysis for future consideration.

New statutory exemptions increased sharply in 2025

The research found that lawmakers enacted 65 CEQA statutory exemptions between 2010 and 2025. The Legislature added new exemptions relatively slowly during the first 14 years, with fewer than 10 exemptions added in most years. (See Figure 1 below.) The number of exemptions significantly increased in 2025, when lawmakers passed 26 new exemptions under the 2025 budget package through AB 130 (Wicks) and SB 131 (Wiener).

The budget package included some of the state's most robust statutory exemptions to date. New types of housing developments, along with wildfire risk reduction, broadband, water and wastewater, rail infrastructure, day care centers, rural health clinics, and food pantry projects can now be exempted under the state's environmental law.

Housing projects are by far the most common statutory exemption type. However, wildfire prevention projects are quickly becoming another major exemption area, as the Legislature looks to reduce catastrophic wildfire risks.

There is misalignment between exemptions and their actual usage

The data indicates there may be a disconnect between the types of statutory exemptions passed and their actual usage. For example, water supply resiliency and aging infrastructure are at the forefront of California's climate challenges, but such exemptions are rarely used. The top five most cited exemptions include broadband, low-emission transportation, rooftop and parking lot solar, wildlife restoration projects, and short underground pipelines. (See Figure 2 below.)

Notably, housing projects exemptions, including affordable housing, are not among the most cited exemptions, even though they continue to be a central focus of the Legislature.

The report notes that existing categorical exemptions account for the most exemptions used in practice — not those passed by the Legislature. (Categorical exemptions are broader exemptions approved by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency that have been part of CEQA since the 1980s.) Of the tracked exemptions, the most used exemption is a categorical one (not statutory) for minor changes and repairs to existing facilities, accounting for about 40% of all exemptions submitted to the state database.

A rarely used statutory exemption may not necessarily be ineffective. However, the report suggests the need to evaluate how statutory exemptions are used. Lawmakers should consider sunsetting those statutes if such exemptions are not used. Unused exemptions can add complexity to the legal considerations surrounding whether to go through the full environmental review process or not. Additionally, exemptions have been perceived as eroding CEQA, turning it into "Swiss cheese." A sunset provision would provide a set date when an exemption expires, unless the Legislature chooses to extend it.

Additional analysis needed for recent housing exemptions

The report calls for further analysis to evaluate the use of housing exemptions. It found that the categorical exemption for infill development — which some scholars have labeled as "underutilized" — was used 591 times in 2025 alone. All other statutory housing exemptions were used 168 times over the 15-year study period. (See Figure 3 below.) Of all the housing exemptions the Legislature has passed, they are used far less than the infill development categorical exemption that already exists.

"Increasingly specific exemptions for housing projects may be less effective or present diminishing returns in encouraging new housing compared to promoting the use of exemptions that already exist," the report notes.

Similarly, two exemptions for housing were used extensively in 2022, but rarely in the following years. The report notes that local governments have consistently used the statutory exemption for accessory dwelling units. It will take additional time and analysis to understand whether the 2025 housing exemptions are being used effectively.

Exemption usage should become clearer over time

The analysis merely scratched the surface of CEQA exemptions and their use patterns. For example, the state's CEQAnet database did not require the submission of exemptions until 2024. Instead, project leads could submit their exemption notices to either the county or the state. This change will give cities, lawmakers, and researchers a more robust and accurate accounting of CEQA exemptions as more exemptions are submitted to the state database.

Cal Cities will continue to review and engage on future CEQA legislation as it is introduced. For questions about this report, please contact Cal Cities Legislative Advocate Melissa Sparks-Kranz.

FIGURE 1: CEQA Statutory Exemptions by Year and Project Type

CEQA Timeline Handout

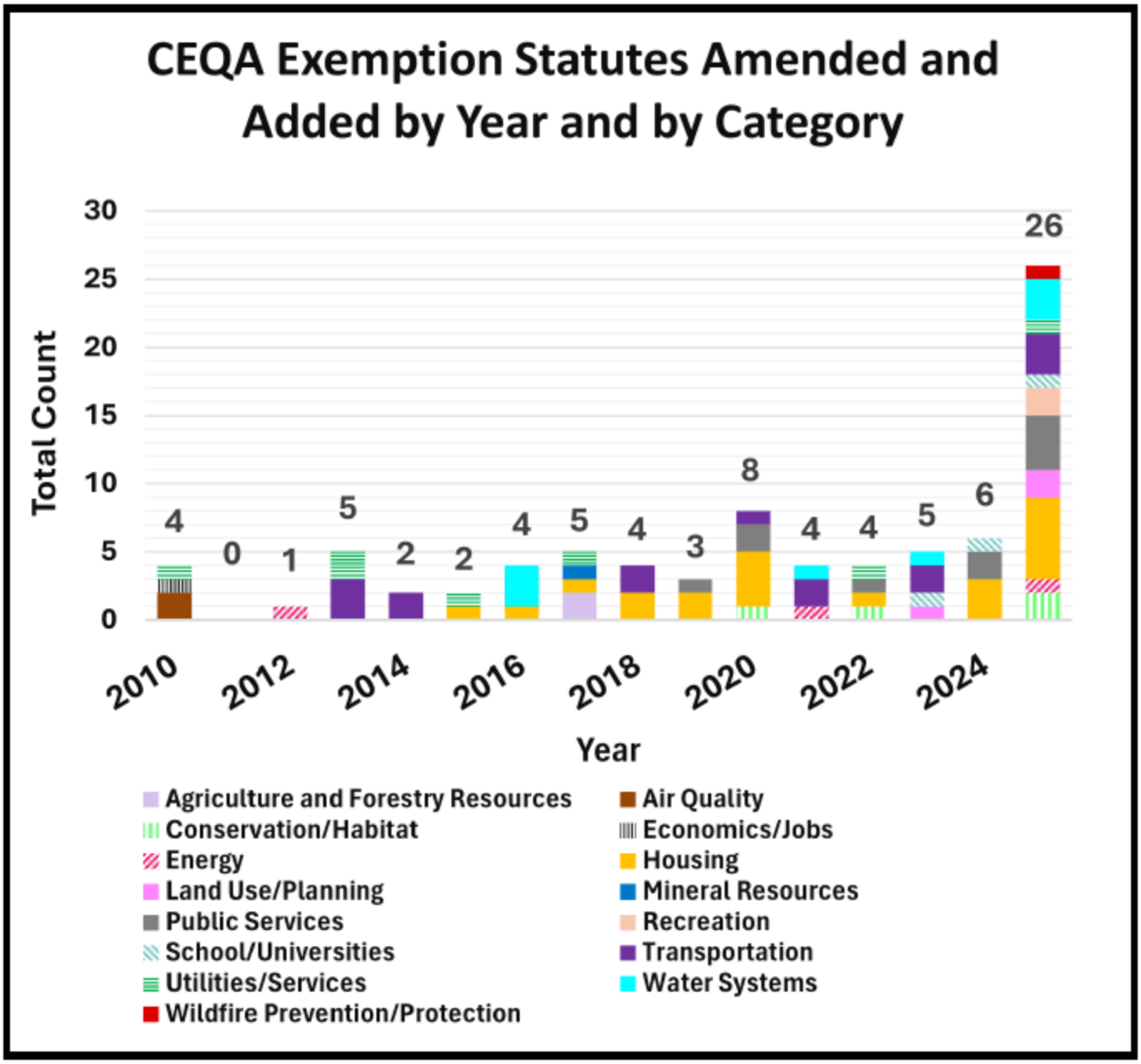


FIGURE 2: Top 5 Cited CEQA Statutory Exemptions from 2010 to 2025
Exemption Handout

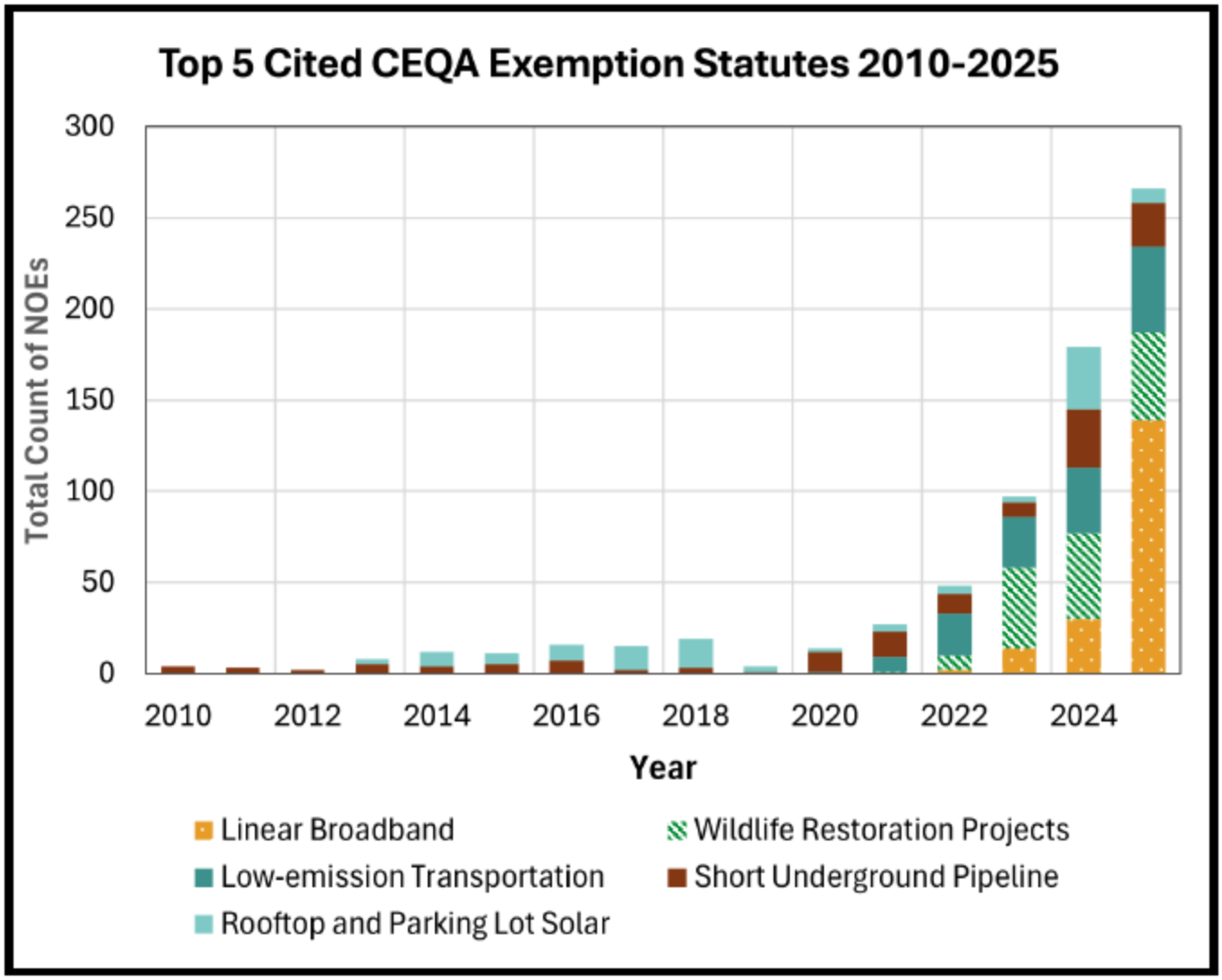


FIGURE 3: All Cited Statutory Exemptions from 2010 to 2015 for Housing Projects

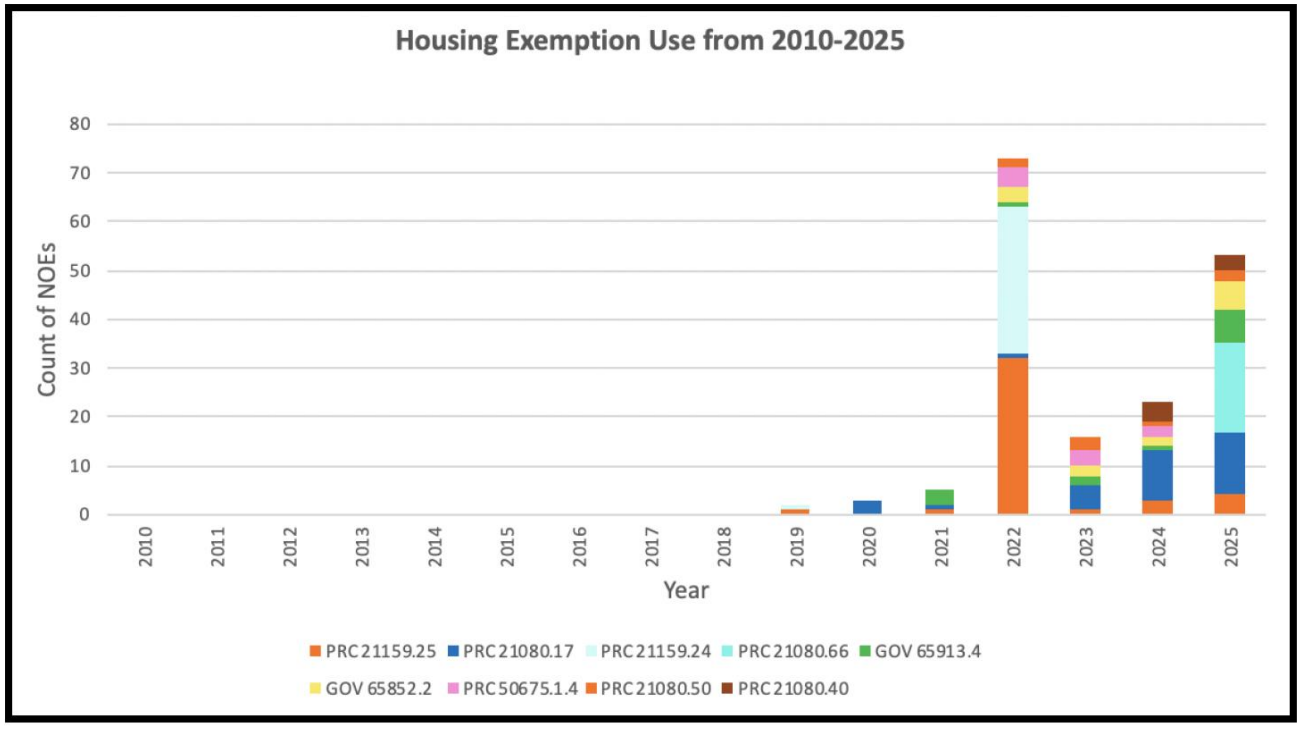
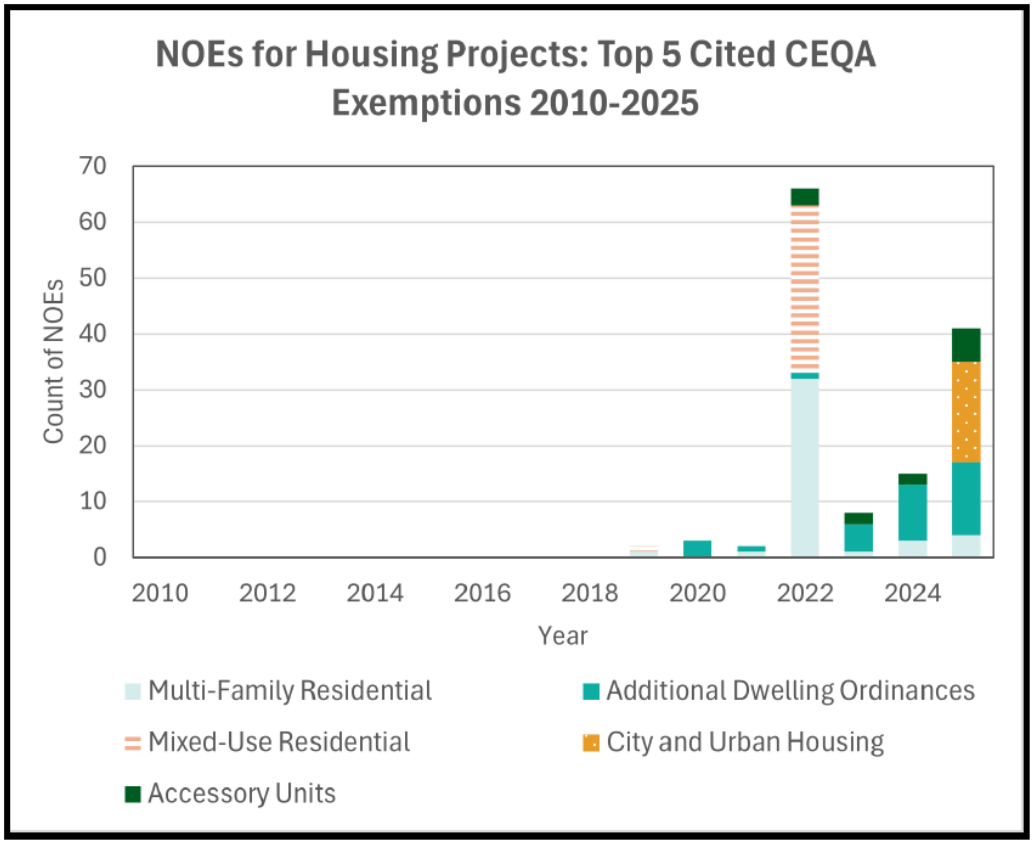


FIGURE 4: Top 5 Housing Project Statutory Exemptions Cited from 2010 to 2025


NOEs for Housing Projects: Top 5 Cited CEQA Exemptions 2010-2025
Count of NOEs
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
2010
2012
2014
2016
2018
2020
2022
2024
Year
Multi-Family Residential
Additional Dwelling Ordinances
Mixed-Use Residential
City and Urban Housing
Accessory Units

Cal Cities engages early with new lawmakers and the Governor-elect

Nov 18, 2026

By Sara Sanders, strategic initiatives manager, and Kristine Guerrero, senior director of public affairs.

The 2026 election surprised even the most seasoned political insiders. Nine incumbent state lawmakers in California unexpectedly lost their elections, including Assembly Minority Leader Alexandra Macedo. Roughly a dozen other lawmakers are stepping down due to term limits, retirement, or higher political aspirations. The Democrats expanded their supermajority in both houses, and women will make up half of all the lawmakers for the first time in state history.

In total, 27 new legislators will take office in 2027, and three assembly members will transition to the Senate.

Over the next 100 days, the Cal Cities public affairs and advocacy teams will meet with new lawmakers and their staff, along with Governor-elect Xavier Becerra, to build relationships, share Cal Cities' strategic priorities, and reconnect with former city council members transitioning to state office. The advocacy team will meet with incoming lawmakers and staff in the Capitol, while the regional public affairs managers will organize in-district meetings and roundtables on local and statewide issues.

Key to Cal Cities' legislative engagement is the California Civic Leadership Institute (CCLI), a leadership development program that prepares local elected officials for service in the California Legislature. This program also allows Cal Cities to build durable, productive working relationships with lawmakers before they take office.

During this election cycle, 17 members of the 2025-26 CCLI cohort competed in legislative races; 13 alums won their elections.

Local government remains the primary pathway to state office. Next year, three-fourths of all legislators will have backgrounds in local government, up from 68% in 2026. Over half will have served in city government, and over a quarter are CCLI alums.

Regional public affairs managers are also reaching out to the hundreds of mayors and council members who won their election to ensure they get the most out of Cal Cities' educational programming and advocacy efforts. More information on educational programs for newly elected city officials can be found at the Mayors and Council Members Academy or by contacting Kristine Guerrero, senior director of public affairs.

To learn how you can participate in Cal Cities' meetings with incoming lawmakers, reach out to your regional public affairs manager.

Best practices and resources for El Niño and storm conditions

Nov 18, 2026

Cal Cities has created two guides for cities, one on best practices and another on the Governor's recent executive orders

By Melissa Sparks-Kranz, legislative advocate (environmental quality)

Cal Cities has been proactively sharing resources and strategies as cities gear up for what could be the wettest El Niño in history — which has already resulted in Gov. Gavin Newsom issuing two executive orders and an emergency proclamation.

Earlier this month, Cal Cities hosted the first in a series of El Niño roundtable discussions to help cities as they prepare and respond to the extreme wet weather events and impacts. The members-only discussion explored strategies for strengthening city readiness, including pre-positioning resources, emergency communications and public notifications, interagency coordination, and using weather forecasts to inform planning and response efforts.

A second roundtable specifically for public works professionals is set for Dec. 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This discussion will bring together public works professionals from across the state to share firsthand experiences, identify common challenges, and explore practical strategies for strengthening their communities' preparedness and resilience.

Roundtables are exclusive to Cal Cities members, where topics are chosen and discussed by members and not recorded. The last El Niño roundtable drew over 190 local government officials to discuss preparedness efforts and share ideas. Cal Cities compiled their tips into a two-page document: Extreme Wet Weather Preparedness: Best Practices for Cities.

The Governor has also taken early action by declaring a state of emergency and issuing two statewide executive orders that increase state agency preparedness efforts and early coordination with local agencies.

Notably, the orders expedite local flood preparedness efforts. Cities should leverage the streamlined approval processes laid out in the orders that suspend environmental permitting and review for projects that remove sediment, vegetation, or debris to ready communities for storm impacts. For information about those orders, please consult the following Cal Cities resource: Summary of Governor-Declared El Niño Executive Orders.

For questions about roundtable registration, please contact Isaac Black. For questions about the executive orders, please contact Melissa Sparks-Kranz.

State Supreme Court ruling limits local control over tax refund claims

Nov 18, 2026

The decision could affect how cities handle disputes over locally imposed taxes

By Ben Triffo, Cal Cities legislative advocate,and Ben Fay, Jarvis Fay partner

A state Supreme Court decision made this summer could have major fiscal and administrative consequences for cities going forward if left unaddressed by lawmakers. The court held that cities can't require taxpayers to complete local post-payment refund procedures before pursuing litigation.

The case, *Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company, LLC v. City of Carson,* arose after Carson audited Tesoro, an oil refinery operator. The city determined that the company had underpaid a local tax on refinery and petroleum storage businesses. Tesoro paid the assessment and then filed a refund claim under the Government Claims Act.

Carson denied the claim, and Tesoro sued. The city argued that the lawsuit could not proceed because Tesoro had not completed the city's administrative refund process, which included submitting a refund claim with the city's finance director and exhausting an appeal to the city manager.

The lower courts agreed, but the California Supreme Court reversed their decisions. It concluded that the Government Claims Act establishes a statewide process for all refund claims against local governments that preempts all local claim ordinances. Consequently, Carson could not require Tesoro to complete additional administrative steps before pursuing its claim. Instead, once Tesoro paid the tax, it only had to comply with the claim requirements of the Government Claims Act before bringing a lawsuit.

The court's decision only addressed administrative procedures, not whether the underlying tax assessment was valid or whether a refund was owed. The court explained that its decision does not affect refund procedures provided in state statutes, such as those in the Revenue and Taxation Code. Nor does it impact the general requirement that a party exhaust all non-duplicative administrative remedies for claims, apart from claims for money or damages. The court left open the possibility that a taxpayer could still be required to exhaust prepayment administrative remedies.

What the ruling means for cities

The ruling limits cities' ability to manage tax disputes through local review and appeal procedures. These processes can help cities correct errors, explain assessments, and resolve disagreements before litigation.

Without the ability to require these steps, cities could face increased litigation costs and uncertainty over disputed tax revenues. For cities with large commercial taxpayers, prolonged disputes could complicate budgeting and long-term financial planning. This, in turn, could limit the resources available for essential public services.

Cities should review their existing refund procedures and consult with their city attorneys to evaluate the impact of this ruling.



From the Fire Chief

Dear OCFA Firefighters, Professional Staff, Board Directors, City Managers, and Retirees,

With extreme heat and Santa Ana winds forecast for Thursday, October 15, all agency personnel and resources, including a PREVAIR, all Station 54's new forward-operating helicopter, a water tender, an extra hand crew, dispatcher and chief officer, will be staged in the Santa Ana Mountains.

In other words, we will be in the county's backyard for the next few weeks.

For hundreds of homeowners emerging from shelters and hotels a few days later, that preparation meant the difference between returning to ashes and returning home.

In the days since the Holy Fire, I have met with many community members. Their gratitude is matched only by their grief. Many have lost homes, memories, and a sense of safety that will take months to recover. But the property lines, fences and yards that the disaster took choose from the survivors.

In other words, during initial attack, a 40- to 50-knot Santa Ana wind, blow matters to the second, water matters to the minute, and preparation matters to the hour. That is why OCFA's wildland preparedness and mitigation efforts have become a year-round mission, why the Santa Ana is the season we fully mobilize, and why growth, population, and buy-out risk for fire behavior, meaning it guarantees a very high danger to firefighters.

Our crews are trained to operate in these unrestricted these dangers all the well, as we maintain where home was saved by rubble before them.

"When we evacuated, I was certain it was the last time I'd ever see my home."

Signed those conditions, our firefighters saved that particular home and dozens of others, and made no mistakes. they kicked their home back to them. And the victims analyst didn't lucky survey the danger, consider the risk, and then they did their jobs. Our firefighters did their jobs after emerging from the fire.

"That was by far the scariest fire of my career."

As our firefighters battled these volatile conditions on the front lines of initial attack, Incident Command called in a second county. Within hours, nearly 500 firefighters from more than 20 agencies were on scene, on the ground and in the air.

That kind of support is built over decades of collaboration, a commitment to mutual aid, and an unwritten rule: all of us protect each other's communities as if they were our own. That reciprocal trust, strengthened each time we show up for each other, was on full display during the fire, and for many homeowners, that was the difference between losing everything and having a home to return to when the smoke cleared.

But the support doesn't stop there.

Our communities themselves were integral to our response, adhering to evacuation warnings, helping each other escape, and also listening to our firefighters as they helped forward the dangers around their family.

They also came from collaboration as built long before the fire starts. Case in point, just weeks before, more than 1,000 residents participated in Operation Ready Neighborhood, a free event where they learned how to harden their homes, create defensible space, and better prepare before unprecedented fire and threats like the Holy Fire. Our program is dedicated to helping residents take practical, life-saving steps before disaster strikes.

Supporting that preparation and response was the work of our professional staff, whose work ranged through the weekend on the fire line, providing the logistical support our firefighters and affected communities needed.

Together — our firefighters, professional staff, communities, and agency partners — mounted unprecedented response to a historic fire. And while the Holy Fire will be remembered for its scale and destruction, it will also be remembered for the effective communities, who resolved, struggling to speak through the flame, captured it quickly.

I'm proud of you. And the hardest time is the. The Santa Fire was the First Responder in a for our service regions this year. Of the 1,000 wildfires that burned in California this year, more than 90 percent were put out before they reached 10 acres, containing 99 percent of all magnetics fires at 10 acres or less.

That does not happen by accident. It takes all of us, working in unison to ready, respond, and rebuild with speed, courage, and care.

Because every second counts, every effort matters, and every inch of our community is worth fighting for.

With gratitude,

Fire Chief

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

Norks Fire - Highlight Reel



Quarterly Size Up - August, September, October

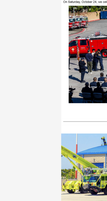


Chief Bryant Graduates, Serves as Class President for NFA's EFO Program



Assistant Chief Jr. Deputy Fire Chief Bryant recently graduated from the National Fire Academy's (NFA) prestigious Executive Fire Officer Program (EFOP), a rigorous two-year graduate-level program that prepares senior fire service leaders to address complex issues affecting their communities. Chief Bryant was selected as the class president of his cohort and served as the primary liaison between his classmates and the NFA staff. Throughout the program, he coordinated communication, facilitated group discussions, and helped ensure the success of his cohort's learning experience. Chief Bryant's participation in the EFOP program has enhanced his leadership capabilities and strategic thinking, positioning him to better serve his community and the fire service. His dedication to the program and his forward-thinking approach aligned to ensure the fire service remains a resilient, valued resource for the communities it serves.

Reservoir Project Provides Win-Win Opportunity for Firefighters and IRWD



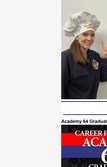
Click to Read Full Article

7th Annual Girls Empowerment Camp Highlight Reel



Click to Watch

OCFA Benevolent Association Q3 Newsletter



Click to Read Benevolent Association

Man's Life Saved by Off-Duty OCFA Captain and Others First Responders ©CBS.NEWS



Boca man's life saved at gym as skilled by-standers step in

Jason Rivera of Boca Raton was working out at the Gold's Gym in Boca Raton when he suffered a cardiac arrest. Rivera is now at home, but gym goers stepped in to perform life-saving measures.

Click to See More Clip

Reserve Firefighter Academy Graduation

On Saturday, October 25, we celebrated 51 graduates, two more added the OCFA family as Reserve Firefighters!



Click to View Photo Album

JWA Executive Summary



Click to Open Executive Summary

WEFIT Newsletter

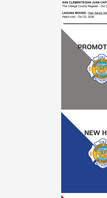
Healthy Body Healthy Mind

WEFIT

Attached is the latest edition of the WEFIT Newsletter. As an relevant this communication, our goal is to keep members informed about the programs, services, and resources available to support their fitness, wellness, and overall well-being. Whether you're looking to improve your physical health, manage stress, or simply find ways to help our members perform at their best and contribute to a healthier, more resilient workforce.

This issue features our Wellness Coach Performance Officer with his updated Resilience and Armor KLB program, Leech Lake Tribal College Wellness Center, Fitness Equipment Tips, Nutrition Tips, Mental Health Tips, and Upcoming Holiday Wellness Trainings. Available Staff Resources, and strategies for performing effectively in demanding environments.

Download the Newsletter



4th Annual Human Resources Chili Cookoff

The Chili War Returns!

After careful consideration, extensive taste testing, and a few tears (mostly from the heat), we're bringing it back.

4th Banquet Hall by Thursday, November 20th at 11:00 AM Conference Center Lot 2

Nicole's chili won the first two years. Can anyone dethrone the head cooks from our years of dominance with enthusiasm. A huge thank you to everyone who brought a chili, cast a vote, and made the 2025 Chili Cookoff the success it was. We're now hosting the unofficial title of HR Chili Queen and next year's challenge!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Academy 64 Graduation



SOCIAL MEDIA
TOP POSTS OF THE MONTH

Vehicle into Structure in Buena Park - October 14, 2026

OCFA firefighters responded to a vehicle into structure in the city of Buena Park.

The driver and passenger of the vehicle were transported to local hospitals with evaluations and injuries to nurses.

No adult fireman inside the structure was reported. Buena Park Police and Firefighters worked diligently to extricate the driver and passenger from the vehicle. Several Center in critical condition.

View Post Insights

Engagements: 101.1K

Impressions: 5.1M

OCFA and Animal Control Save Injured Hawk - October 16

An injured hawk stuck in tree needed a little help last night.

OCFA Firefighters and Animal Control Officers from Laguna Niguel and Irvine Animal Control team to bring the bird safely down.

The crew rescued in and assist with a vital variety of pets, that unexpected animal rescue is a reminder that help is always nearby when you need it.

The bird was an small part of a busy night, but it's a big moment for one feathered resident.

View Post Insights

Impressions: 11.2M

Engagements: 7.21T

Westminster Garage Fire - October 25, 2026



Last night, crews responded to a garage fire in Westminster that quickly grew into a two-alarm incident. Arriving Firefighters quickly knocked down the flames, saving a neighboring garage.

While crews battled the fire, they searched the smoke-filled home and confirmed no one. Firefighters brought both pets outside safely.

Fortunately, no one was injured. Thanks to Westminster Police Department for assisting.

Click Here for the Post

Impressions: 14.3M

Engagements: 11.8M

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY IN THE NEWS

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO - Patch Alert: Amy Rothfarbers observed a fast-moving skid brake near Avenida La Pata
Patch.com - Oct 1, 2026

ORANGE COUNTY - Cash flood victims search for Orange County border; Anchors saved in excessive downpours
The Orange County Register - Oct 13, 2026

GARDEN GROVE - Orange County JPA reaches $121 million settlement with OPD bonanzas after Garden Grove hazmat crisis
OC Register - Oct 12, 2026

ORANGE COUNTY - Orange County Fire Authority to test software that simulates wildfire response strategies
The Orange County Register - Oct 14, 2026

SAN CLEMENTE BEACH AND CASTLE PARK - Preliminary Name for Control Calamity Wildfires at Ortega, Prospect, & Avenir Alora
San Juan Beach Times - Oct 16, 2026

SAN CLEMENTE BEACH AND CASTLE PARK - California ice-explained firefighters and other resources at Orange County Board of Supervisors - Oct 16, 2026
The Orange County Register - Oct 16, 2026

SAN CLEMENTE BEACH AND CASTLE PARK - Chaotic scene as North Tex turns home in Orange County, fierce crisis for over 1 week
San Juan Beach Times - Oct 16, 2026

SAN CLEMENTE BEACH AND CASTLE PARK - Santa Fire has strong Orange County evacuations as 100 under orders
San Juan Beach Times - Oct 16, 2026

BUENA PARK - Car crashes into Buena Park apartment building, comes in critical condition
Patch.com - Oct 16, 2026

ORANGE COUNTY - Orange bureaucrats, investors rein headed for Southern California
Patch.com - Oct 16, 2026

SAN CLEMENTE BEACH AND CASTLE PARK - Lawsuit alleges SCUSD caused Santa Ana River to Deal Catastrophic Bad Juan Capistrano
San Juan Beach Times - Oct 16, 2026

ORANGE COUNTY - Orange County man cited above from Southern California Register
Patch.com - Oct 16, 2026

SAN CLEMENTE BEACH AND CASTLE PARK - Fire Wrecked Ski Lane Residential as Its Dust a a Two Yard With Nobody Around
Patch.com - Oct 16, 2026

IRVINE - Fatal crash on Laguna Canyon Road, suspect arrested on suspicion of DUI
The Orange County Register - Oct 16, 2026

ORANGE COUNTY - Orange County quarterly California Register Check to quality broker, ensuring traffic
Patch.com - Oct 16, 2026

MISSION VIEJO - One injured after several fires consumed Mission Viejo OCFA response
Patch.com - Oct 16, 2026

ORANGE COUNTY - Orange County Cop and Two Chevy County Capital Areas placed under a coastal flood warning from Southern California
Patch.com - Oct 16, 2026

LAGUNA BEACH - Laguna Beach unveils new emergency operations center, honors preparedness advocate
Los Angeles Times - Oct 16, 2026

ORANGE COUNTY - Orange County Coast and San Diego County Coastal Areas placed under a coastal flood warning from Southern California
The Orange County Register - Oct 16, 2026

SAN CLEMENTE BEACH AND CASTLE PARK - San Juan Hills kicks off event of San Clemente's 10th a-thon!
San Juan Beach Times - Oct 16, 2026

LAGUNA BEACH - Laguna Beach unveils new emergency operations center, honors preparedness advocate
Los Angeles Times - Oct 16, 2026

SAN CLEMENTE BEACH AND CASTLE PARK - San Juan Hills kicked knocks off San Clemente 10th a-thon!
San Juan Beach Times - Oct 16, 2026

LAGUNA WOODS - New Study Discovers Nutrition From Nursing Academy In Laguna Woods
Patch.com - Oct 16, 2026

- Michael Longabardo, Senior Fire Prevention Specialist
- Lupe Cuevas, Business Analyst
- Jeff Bowman, Fire Prevention Assistant Director
- Laura Fernandez, Management Analyst
- Jeff Bowman, Fire Marshal
- Kevin Hernandez, Sr. Communications Dispatcher
- Jeff Bowman, Fire Prevention Assistant Director
- Michael D'Amico, Sr. Service Center Technician

- Linda Lawrence-Management Assistant
- Rick Wiedenbeck, Fire Control Trainee
- Mary Bohlinger, Senior Human Resources Analyst
- Matthew Dalton, Construction Project Manager
- Sabrina Bruce, Assistant Clerk of the Authority



- Eric White, Fire Captain
- Brandon Shoemaker, Fire Captain