



July 6, 2026

To: Executive Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Proposed Response to 2025–2026 Orange County Grand Jury Report, “California Housing Mandates: The Unintended Reshaping of Orange County Neighborhoods”

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Overview

Staff has prepared a response to the Orange County Grand Jury report entitled “California Housing Mandates: The Unintended Reshaping of Orange County Neighborhoods” for the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors’ consideration. The response addresses the finding and recommendation assigned to the Orange County Transportation Authority and provides clarification regarding the Orange County Transportation Authority’s role in regional transportation planning and transit data management.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to submit the proposed response to the Orange County Grand Jury report’s finding and recommendation as required by California Penal Code Section 933(c).

Background

California Penal Code Section 933(c) requires the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) to comment on findings and recommendations of the Orange County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) that pertain to matters under the control of the Board within 90 days of the release of the Grand Jury’s final report.

The Grand Jury report entitled “California Housing Mandates: The Unintended Reshaping of Orange County Neighborhoods” was publicly released on May 27, 2026. Correspondence from the Grand Jury dated June 2, 2026, identified OCTA as a responding agency and established a response deadline of August 27, 2026.

**Proposed Response to 2025–2026 Orange County Grand Jury Page 2
Report, “California Housing Mandates: The Unintended
Reshaping of Orange County Neighborhoods”**

The report examines California housing mandates, the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process, and the roles of the California Department of Housing and Community Development, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the Orange County Council of Governments (OCCOG), local jurisdictions, and other agencies in housing planning activities.

Discussion

The Grand Jury report contains 22 findings and 20 recommendations directed to a variety of agencies and jurisdictions throughout Orange County. Entities identified as responding agencies include the County of Orange, all 34 Orange County cities, OCCOG, SCAG, and OCTA.

The report assigns OCTA responsibility for responding to one finding (F16) and one recommendation (R13), both of which relate to transit data and its potential use in future RHNA planning efforts.

The proposed response clarifies that OCTA does not have a statutory role in the development of RHNA methodology, housing elements, housing allocations, or housing policy. The response further notes that while transit accessibility may be one of many factors considered by regional and state agencies during the RHNA process, OCTA does not provide transit data directly into the RHNA methodology process. Decisions regarding the use of transportation data in RHNA methodology are made by SCAG and the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

The proposed response also notes that OCTA already maintains and publishes transit service information through established public and regional planning channels and routinely provides transportation information to regional planning partners. Because the seventh Cycle RHNA methodology has not yet been developed or adopted, OCTA cannot determine what transit-related data, if any, may ultimately be used in that process.

Summary

The proposed response addresses all findings and recommendations assigned to OCTA and provides clarification regarding OCTA’s transportation planning responsibilities and its role in regional data-sharing activities. Approval of the proposed response will ensure compliance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05.

Attachments

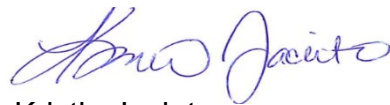
- A. California Housing Mandates: The Unintended Reshaping of Orange County Neighborhoods
- B. Response to 2025–2026 Orange County Grand Jury Report “California Housing Mandates: The Unintended Reshaping of Orange County Neighborhoods

Prepared by:



Melanie Masud
Senior Government Relations Representative,
Government Relations
(714) 560-5595

Approved by:



Kristin Jacinto
Executive Director,
Government Relations
(714) 560-5754