



September 21, 2022

The Honorable Erick L. Larsh  
Presiding Judge of the Orange County Superior Court  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**Mayor**  
Robert Pequeño

**Mayor Pro Tem**  
Doug Cirbo

**Council Members**  
Neeki Moatazedi  
Mark Tettermer  
Scott Voigts

**City Manager**  
Debra DeBruhl Rose

RE: California Penal Code Section 933 Response to the Orange County  
Grand Jury Report, "Where Have All the CRVs Gone?"

Dear Judge Larsh,

As requested, the City of Lake Forest is responding to Findings F1 – F4, and Recommendations R1 – R4 of the Grand Jury report entitled, "Where Have All the CRVs Gone?"

Findings and Responses

*F1. Due to the reduced availability of convenient CRV redemption sites and the lack of accurate online information, it is difficult for resident consumers to redeem CRV fees.*

Response: The City of Lake Forest disagrees partially with this finding. There are fewer CRV redemption centers, however there are sites within or nearby for residents to redeem CRVs. In addition, the City maintains a list of CRV redemption opportunities on its website that are verified periodically.

*F2. Because redemption site locations have diminished in number, waste haulers are the beneficiaries to the CRV fees paid originally by resident consumers.*

Response: The City of Lake Forest disagrees partially with this finding. Waste haulers are beneficiaries of CRV fees because resident consumers are choosing to utilize their curbside carts to recycle beverage containers.

*F3. CalRecycle is attempting to improve CRV redemption and reduce CRV recyclables from landfills and are offering financial incentives to do so. Orange County and its cities are not fully taking advantage of the grant or pilot program opportunities available through CalRecycle.*

Response: The City of Lake Forest disagrees partially with this finding. The City utilizes the Beverage Container Recycling City/County Payment to encourage residents



and visitors to recycle beverage containers. Additionally, the City reviews CalRecycle grant opportunities for feasibility and the City's eligibility.

*F4. Orange County and most OC Cities do not make CRV redemption and recycling a priority when negotiating their waste hauler contracts which results in missed financial opportunities and convenience for their residents.*

Response: The City of Lake Forest disagrees wholly with this finding. The City competitively bids out the waste hauler franchise agreement and includes recycling and CRV redemption as a priority. Residential rates are partially subsidized by the hauler's share of the CRV redemption collected.

### Recommendations and Responses

*R1. By January of 2023, each of the cities in Orange County should research and apply for available grants or pilot programs from CalRecycle for their community that focus on returning more CRV funds to their residents. (F3)*

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The City routinely researches and applies for feasible grant opportunities for which it is eligible.

*R2. By January of 2023, the Orange County Board of Supervisors should require OC Waste & Recycling to research and apply for available grants or pilot programs from CalRecycle for the unincorporated areas of OC that focus on returning more CRV funds to their residents. (F3)*

Response: This recommendation requires action by another jurisdiction.

*R3. When renegotiating their current waste hauler contract, all cities and the County of Orange should assess the value of the CRV funds received by the waste hauler in their jurisdictions and creatively leverage this revenue for the benefit of their residents. (F2, F4)*

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. Through a competitive procurement process, overall residential rates are partially subsidized by the hauler's share of the CRV redemption.

*R4. By January of 2023, all cities and the County of Orange should develop extensive community outreach programs aimed at educating the public about how to access CRV redemption in their jurisdiction. (F1, F3)*

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented fully. The City maintains a list of CRV redemption opportunities on its website. The City will further its public outreach with the use of social media within the next six (6) months.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to the Grand Jury's report. If you have further questions, please contact the City's Recycling Coordinator, Ms. Christine Groves at [cgroves@lakeforestca.gov](mailto:cgroves@lakeforestca.gov).

Respectfully,

The City of Lake Forest

  
Robert Pequeño  
Mayor

cc: City Council  
Debra Rose, City Manager  
Lisa Berglund, City Clerk