



CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA

22112 El Paseo • Rancho Santa Margarita • California 92688-2824
949.635.1800 • fax 949.635.1840 • www.cityofrsm.org

September 15, 2022

Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: Response to 2021-2022 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Where Have All the CRVs Gone?"

Dear Honorable Judge Erick L. Larsh:

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita has reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury Report entitled, "Where Have All the CRVs Gone?". As required by California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the City of Rancho Santa Margarita is responding to the findings and recommendations included within the report. Each of the findings and recommendations is listed below in italics, followed by the City's response.

Findings:

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: Based on the information presented in this report, the City of Rancho Santa Margarita agrees with this finding.

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

Response: Based on the information presented in this report, the City of Rancho Santa Margarita agrees with this finding.

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: Based on the information presented in this report, the City of Rancho Santa Margarita disagrees partially with this finding. The City of Rancho Santa Margarita regularly seeks out and applies for all CalRecycle programs and grants for which the City is eligible.

Mayor
Anne D. Figueroa

Mayor Pro Tempore
Jerry Holloway

Council Member
L. Anthony Beall

Council Member
Carol A. Gamble

Council Member
Bradley J. McGirr

City Manager
Jennifer M. Cervantez

Recommendations:

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.

Response: This recommendation has already been implemented. The City of Rancho Santa Margarita regularly applies for, receives and utilizes CalRecycle's Beverage Container Recycling Grant Program on an annual basis. Additionally, the City regularly reviews and applies for similar grants for which the City 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.

Response: The City of Rancho Santa Margarita will not implement this recommendation because both the Agency (OC Waste & Recycling) and the focus areas (unincorporated Orange County) are not within the City's jurisdiction, control or authority.

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 jurisdiction and creatively leverage this revenue for the benefit of their residents.

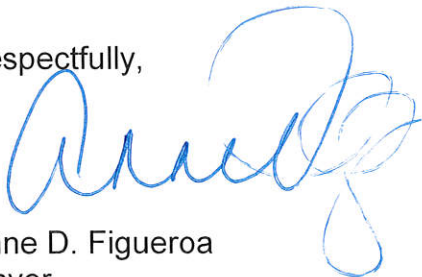
Response: This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The City recently entered into a new Franchise Agreement with its waste and recycling hauler for a minimum period of five years; therefore, the soonest that this recommendation can be considered for implementation would be 2027, depending on whether or not the Agreement is extended by operation of its own terms.

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.

Response: This recommendation requires further analysis as to the number, types and availability of such facilities that can be recommended to the public, along with appropriate outreach protocols. Such analysis shall be performed within four to six months.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Brendan Dugan, Public Works Director/City Engineer, at (949) 635-1800 or via e-mail at bdugan@cityofrsm.org.

Respectfully,



Anne D. Figueroa
Mayor

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