



September 20, 2022

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

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2021-2022 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT
“WHERE HAVE ALL THE CRVS GONE?”**

Dear Judge Larsh:

The City of Los Alamitos (City) has reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury Report titled “Where Have All the CRVs Gone?” As required by California Penal Code §933 and §933.05, the City is responding to the findings and recommendations included within the report. The required responses are contained below:

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: Disagree

There are currently three CRV redemption sites within a three-mile radius of Los Alamitos City Hall, all of which have an online presence. As such, the City does not concur with the Grand Jury’s 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: Disagree

As residents of Los Alamitos have access to and/or are in close proximity to multiple CRV redemption sites, there are no barriers to their ability to obtain CRV redemption should they choose to.

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: Partially Agree

While the CRV redemption program has worked well in the past, smaller cities that contract out their waste hauling services are often unable to meet specific requirements in order to take advantage of specific funding programs. In the event cities are able to access this funding, it is for a short period of time. As such, cities are required to continuously apply for new grant funding in order to sustain programs initiated by the State.

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 will not be implemented

While the City of Los Alamitos will always look to identify grants to offset city operational costs, the City has not identified any barrier to access of these facilities in our community. As such, CalRecycle should determine if there is an opportunity to return funding to CRV redemption vendor/participants in a manner that makes the program financially more attractive to participants.

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: The recommendation will not be implemented

The City of Los Alamitos has no jurisdiction in determining what the County should or should not do with CRV in unincorporated areas of the County. That said, the closest unincorporated area to the City of Los Alamitos enjoy the same access to CRV sites as our residents do.

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. (F2, F4)

Response: Recommendation has been implemented

The City of Los Alamitos has and will continue to implement the recommendation. The City of Los Alamitos recently when out to bid for solid waste collection services. Part of

the analysis of proposals included the evaluation of all revenue and expenses when determining customer rates and that any the revenue they generate.

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)

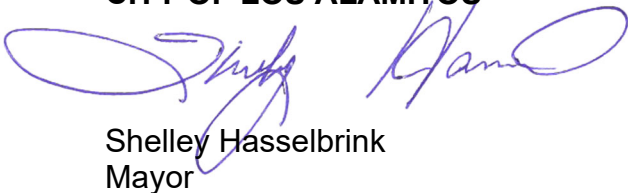
Response: Recommendation has been implemented

The City of Los Alamitos has a robust public engagement campaign aimed improving the success of all State-mandated recycling programs. We will continue to work with our contract hauler to reinforce the accessibility of these programs in the future.

In the event that you need additional information regarding the City's responses, please contact City Manager, Chet Simmons, via email at csimmons@cityoflosalamitos.org.

Sincerely,

CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS



Shelley Hasselbrink
Mayor