



# CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS

*City Council*

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September 27, 2022

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

**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 by the Orange County Grand Jury letter dated June 28, 2022, the City of Laguna Hills is responding to Findings F1, F2, and F3, and Recommendations R1, R2, R3, and 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: Agrees with the finding.** Resident customers have contacted the City of Laguna Hills, other cities, and the County of Orange to find locations for CRV redemption. The CRV locations are not always convenient to the customer locations and require extra effort and travel benefit from the redemption program.

The recent passage of Senate Bill (SB) 1013 may lead to an increase of CRV redemption sites throughout the state. SB 1013 allows for dealers – retail establishments that offer sales of beverages in beverage containers – to create and join dealer cooperatives for the purpose of providing redemption opportunities to resident consumers. Consequently, in the near future, the state may see an increase of CRV redemption sites and increased opportunities for resident consumers to receive a beverage container redemption payment.

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

**Response: Agrees with the finding.** With the added effort resident customers must put forth to benefit from CRV redemption, many choose to forego the fees they would receive and dispose of the material instead. Waste haulers have better access to the redemption sites than resident customers, although it is not confirmed the waste haulers are benefiting from this availability.

However, with the recent passage of Senate Bill (SB) 1013 on September 9, 2022, the CRV redemption value increase to 10-cents on most of the bottles. It also establishes a 25-cent refund on “difficult to recycle” wine packaging including boxes, bladders, pouches and similar plastic containers. This redemption value increase may result in more resident consumers recycling their beverage containers to obtain the beverage container redemption payment.

**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: Agrees with the finding.** The City of Laguna Hills (City) considers available funding opportunities from CalRecycle including the grant and reporting requirements compared to the resources needed to implement new programs with CRV-related funding. Since the City has limited staffing and human resources directly related to recycling programs and waste hauling, certain grant and funding opportunities for the implementation of new recycling programs are not necessarily beneficial to the City. The City will continue to proactively explore all CalRecycle related CRV grants.

### **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 already been implemented.** The City of Laguna Hills (City) 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 area of OC that focus on returning more CRV funds to their residents. (F3)**

**Response: The recommendation will not be implemented** because both the 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. (F2, F4)**

**Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.** The City's agreement with its waste hauler expires June 30, 2024. The City is currently developing procurement documents for the next 10-year solid waste franchise agreement, and the recommendation will be considered for implementation during the procurement document development process.

**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 been implemented.** The City of Laguna Hills (City) promotes recycling programs and the recycling of bottles and cans, including CRV redemption opportunities in its education and outreach materials, including on the City's website, social media, printed materials such as flyers and booklets, and at various public events held throughout the year.

Additionally, Orange County Waste & Recycling promotes recycling bottles and cans, including CRV redemption opportunities in all education and outreach opportunities. According to the County of Orange, these include the online recycling resource located online at [OCRecycleGuide.com](http://OCRecycleGuide.com) which includes access to detailed information on CRV redemption locations provided by CalRecycle; the [OCLandfills.com](http://OCLandfills.com) website; at community events and through regular outreach materials.

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*End of Responses*

Should you have any questions or need additional information pertaining to the City of Laguna Hill's responses to the Orange County Grand Jury report, please contact Jarad Hildenbrand, City Manager, at (949) 707-2600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Wheeler", written over a horizontal line.

Dave Wheeler, Mayor  
City of Laguna Hills

Cc: Gwen P. Isarowong, Foreperson  
2021-2022 Orange County Grand Jury  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701