

City of Seal Beach



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September 27, 2022

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

Judge Larsh:

On behalf of the City of Seal Beach, enclosed is the response to the findings and recommendations of the 2021-2022 Orange County Grand Jury report, "Where Have All the CRVs Gone?"

Please contact Patrick Gallegos, Assistant City Manager, at pgallegos@sealbeachca.gov / 562-431-2527 ext. 1308 if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Jill R. Ingram, ICMA-CM
City Manager

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

Finding	Response
<p>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.</p>	<p>(1) The City of Seal Beach agrees with the finding.</p>
<p>F2 Because redemption site locations have diminished in number, waste haulers are the beneficiaries to the CRV fees paid originally by resident consumers.</p>	<p>(1) The City of Seal beach agrees with the finding.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>(2) The City of Seal Beach disagrees partially with the finding. The CRV program is a state program that is administered locally. Even with the possibility of grant funding, it can be challenging for the City to spend staff time and resources associated with writing a proposal, developing a program, managing the program, and meeting state requirements. It is not simply a matter of funding; it is also a matter of limited staff and time available to properly manage a new initiative.</p>

Recommendation	Response
<p>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)</p>	<p>(3) The recommendation requires further analysis. The City has researched available grants and made contact with the City of Irvine to learn more about their pilot program. Based on this research, it is unclear at this time if it is feasible to apply for the grant and start a pilot program due to limited resources. It is also unclear if a nonprofit, such as the one utilized in the City of Irvine, would be interested in partnering with the City of Seal Beach.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>n/a As this does not affect the City of Seal Beach, the City does not have a response to this recommendation.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>(2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The City is currently in negotiations with our waste hauler, Republic Services, and will keep this in mind as negotiations continue.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>(3) The recommendation requires further analysis. As the CRV program is a state program, the success of the program truly lies with the State. Local jurisdictions can be a partner but should not be expected to fix program challenges. If the program is no longer popular, feasible, or efficient, the State should address the problems and find solutions as identified in the Grand Jury's report.</p>