



City of San Clemente

Sean Joyce, Interim City Manager

Phone: (949) 361-8200

joyces@san-clemente.org

December 13, 2022

The Honorable Judge Erick L. Larsh
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 CRV's Gone?"

Dear Honorable Judge Erick L. Larsh:

The City of San Clemente has reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury Report entitled, "Where Have All the CRVs Gone?" As required by California Penal Code section 933 and 933.05, the City of San Clemente is responding to the findings and recommendations included within the report.

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 San Clemente generally agrees with this finding. However, with regard to online information, the City of San Clemente's website includes an environmental programs webpage with information about recycling, including the location of a CRV Redemption Center (Ponce Recycling) in the City of San Clemente.

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 San Clemente generally agrees that waste haulers are likely collecting more CRV materials and potentially collecting additional revenue compared to when there were more redemption centers.

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 San Clemente partially agrees with this finding. The City of San Clemente applies for grant funding through CalRecycle when available and cost effective, such as, the Beverage Container Recycling City/County Payment Program.

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: The recommendation has been implemented; the City of San Clemente evaluates and applies for grants that benefit customers and residents. Annually, the City applies for City/County Beverage Grant Payment Program.

R2: By January of 2023, the Orange County Board of Supervisors should require OC Waste and 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 San Clemente will not implement this recommendation because both OC Waste and Recycling and unincorporated Orange County areas 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.

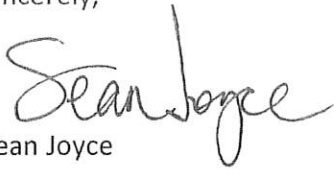
Response: The City of San Clemente has not yet implemented the recommendation, but it will be implemented in the future. The City is in the process of negotiating its Solid Waste and Recycling Agreement and will evaluate CRV with its waste hauler to explore potential benefits to residents and customers.

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: The City of San Clemente has implemented this recommendation through its website, which includes information on CRV and recycling centers with a link to CalRecycle.

If you need additional information, please contact David Rebensdorf, Utilities Director, at 949 361-6130 or via e-mail at rebensdorfd@san-clemente.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Joyce". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" at the beginning.

Sean Joyce
Interim City Manager