

The County of Orange Report

January 22, 2021
by Lewis Consulting Group



Update

Supervisors Hold Organizational Meeting

The Board of Supervisors kicked off the New Year with the January 12th meeting. The first order of business for the currently short-handed Board was to elect new officers. Elected unanimously was Andrew Do to serve as Chairman and Doug Chaffee to serve as Vice Chairman.

New Chairman Do announced the special election date to fill Michelle Steel's 2nd District vacancy will be held on March 9, 2021. The filing to fill the 2nd District seat opened on January 5 and will close on January 25. This is a "winner take all" election, there will be no run-off election.

The highlight of the meeting was an update from Dr. Clayton Chau, the Orange County Health Care Agency Director.

The Present Challenge - Orange County has less than 6% of ICU beds available. Once the 10% availability figures were breached, it triggered the Crisis Care Plan for hospitals. 72% of the ICU beds are filled with patients over the age of 60.

The good news is that following the CDC's advice, the County moved residents over the age of 65 to Phase 1A, joining those over the age of 75 and health care workers for immediate COVID-19 vaccine eligibility. However, the system has been overwhelmed

by not enough vaccines, a shortage of dispensing stations and an appointment process that is difficult to access.

It is suggested that those who want to be vaccinated soon, should attempt to make an appointment through www.othena.com. In addition, people can monitor www.ocgov.com for updates and other possible news.

Orange County COVID-19 Stats

ORANGE COUNTY COVID-19 STATS	AS OF 1/21/2021	AS OF 12/15/2020
CUMULATIVE CASES TO DATE	217,849	107,937
CUMULATIVE DEATHS TO DATE	2,546	1,695
DEATHS REPORTED TODAY	38	1
CUMULATIVE TESTS TO DATE	2,494,463	1,754,327
TESTS REPORTED TODAY	20,166	34,205
CASES CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED	1,935 *	1,371 *
CASES CURRENTLY IN ICU	517	296
CUMULATIVE RECOVERED TO DATE	149,396 *	67,699 *

* = INCLUDES *ICU* CASES

Where Orange County Ranks [as of 1/21/2021]

LOCATION	POPULATION	CONFIRMED CASES	DEATHS
CALIFORNIA	40,129,160	3,039,044	35,004
LOS ANGELES COUNTY	10,247,557	1,015,608	14,384
RIVERSIDE COUNTY	2,468,145	248,686	2,676
ORANGE COUNTY	3,228,519	217,849	2,546
SAN DIEGO COUNTY	3,370,418	218,553	2,174
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY	2,217,398	255,921	1,560



Candidate Jumping Into 2nd District Supervisor Race

On March 9, 2021 a “winner-take-all” special election will be held to fill the vacancy created by Michelle Steel’s election to Congress. So far, the following have either declared their candidacy or have begun the process of filing:

KATRINA FOLEY - MAYOR OF COSTA MESA

JOHN MOORLACH - FORMER STATE SENATOR AND FORMER COUNTY SUPERVISOR

KEVIN MULDOON - NEWPORT BEACH CITY COUNCILMEMBER

MIKE POSEY - HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY COUNCILMEMBER

JANET RAPPAPORT - ATTORNEY

MICHAEL VO - MAYOR OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY

All of the candidates except Katrina Foley are Republicans. The Democratic Party has endorsed Foley and the Republican Party has endorsed Moorlach. However, the GOP’s attempt to “narrow the field” of republican candidates has not met with success.

So far, Katrina Foley and John Moorlach have completed their candidate filings. The deadline to file is January 25, 2021.

Census Shifts Political Power Among States

National Census numbers should be released late January, but the winners and losers have already been projected.

California is one of ten states predicted to lose one Congressional seat and one Presidential Electoral vote. Joining California with one seat losses are: Alabama, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and West Virginia. Depending on the exact final numbers, Alabama might be spared the loss, in which case New York would lose two seats.

Winners in the re-allocation include: Texas with three additional seats and Florida with two additional seats. Also, Arizona, Colorado, Montana, North Carolina and Oregon each picked up an additional seat.



ORANGE COUNTY
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First Meeting of the Year

Orange County LAFCO held its first meeting of 2021 on January 13th. Of note, posted on the Consent Calendar is a timetable set up for appointment or re-appointment of the Public Member alternate LAFCO seat. The alternate for Special Districts, Katherine Freshley, has already been selected. The new City alternate, Peggy Huang, was appointed on January 14th and the County alternate, Don Wagner will probably retain his post. Below is the Public Member time line:

<i>Appointment Process Schedule for OC LAFCO Alternate Public Member Seat</i>	
ACTION	DATE
Announcement of Alternate Public Member Seat vacancy distributed to city clerks, special district board secretaries, clerk of the BOS, OC libraries and published in the OC Register	April 1, 2021
Application submittal period for Alternate Public Member Seat vacancy	April 1, 2021 – April 30, 2021
Application Screening Process conducted by the Commission’s Executive Committee	May 10, 2021 – May 21, 2021
Commission interviews and appointment of Alternate Public Member	June 9, 2021
Oath of Office Administered and Member Seated	July 14, 2021

Also discussed was the mid-year update of the 2020-2021 Work Plan. Subjects included in the update are Project Applications; the 4th Cycle of Sphere of Influence Reviews and Updates & Municipal Service Reviews; the Unincorporated Areas Program; South Orange County Future Governance; and Outreach and External Relations; as well as administrative projects. The chart below is the list of current and anticipated OCLAFCO applications:

Table A: OC LAFCO Applications			
Project	Type	Status	Anticipated Commission Hearing
Anaheim/Orange Reorganization	City detachment/annexation and concurrent sphere changes	Not filed.	June 2021
Costa Mesa SD Annexations	District annexations	Not filed.	July 2021
Givens Property Detachment from City of Orange	City detachment and concurrent sphere change	Filed October 2020; Annexation proceedings underway.	March 2021
Laguna Woods/Laguna Hills Reorganization	City detachment/annexation and concurrent sphere changes	Not filed.	July 2021
Newport Beach Harbor Patrol MSR	MSR focused on harbor patrol services	Filed December 2020.	July 2021
Orange County SD Annexations	District annexations	Not filed.	May 2021
Pomeroiy Detachment from City of Tustin	City detachment and concurrent sphere change	Filed December 2020	May 2021
San Juan Capistrano Water/Wastewater Annexation	District annexation and concurrent sphere change	Filed December 2020.	May 2021