

# The County of Orange Report

Prepared for the Mesa Water District

March 18, 2021  
by Lewis Consulting Group

## John Moorlach Denied Return to Board of Supervisors Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley Wins Handily

### WITH NEARLY ALL VOTES COUNTED

FOLEY	48,345	43.8%
MOORLACH	34,746	31.5%
MULDOON	12,773	11.6%
VO	9,886	9.0%
RAPPAPORT	4,695	4.2%

With the votes tabulated for the special election, Orange County continued its recent trend of being defined as a purple county.

Costa Mayor Katrina Foley will now join Doug Chaffee as the second elected Democrat on the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

The Orange County Republican establishment proved to be no match for Orange County Unions in this election, as there was no answer to the campaign mail that pilloried John Moorlach throughout the district.

Unless new redistricting maps can cement a future GOP majority, Democrats appear to be headed for a Board majority in no more than four years.



## Board of Supervisors March 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The Board of Supervisors COVID-19 briefing this meeting had a sense of optimism as progress seemed to be the word of the day. March 9<sup>th</sup> was also the date that ended a full week of improving metrics which following a second week of the same, allowed Orange County to move from the purple COVID-19 tier to the less onerous red tier. Of the three metrics that are considered, the daily case rate, the positivity rate and the health equity rate, one is currently in the red zone, while two others have met orange targets. A county may not improve two tiers at a time, but it is possible Orange County could be in the **orange tier** as early as March 24, 2021.

With the Johnson & Johnson vaccine being introduced in Orange County, more vaccination sites will continue to open.

### WHAT THE TIERS MEAN FOR US

SECTORS	Widespread Tier 1	Substantial Tier 2	Moderate Tier 3	Minimal Tier 4
<b>Critical Infrastructure</b>	Open with modifications	Open with modifications	Open with modifications	Open with modifications
<b>Limited Services</b>	Open with modifications	Open with modifications	Open with modifications	Open with modifications
<b>Outdoor Playgrounds &amp; Outdoor Recreational Facilities **</b>	Open with modifications	Open with modifications	Open with modifications	Open with modifications
<b>Hair Salons &amp; Barbershops</b>	Open Indoors with modifications	Open indoors with modifications	Open indoors with modifications	Open indoors with modifications
<b>All Retail</b> (including critical infrastructure, except standalone grocers)	Open Indoors with modifications • Max 25% capacity	Open Indoors with modifications • Max 50% capacity	Open Indoors with modifications	Open Indoors with modifications
<b>Shopping Centers (Malls, Destination Centers, Swap Meets)</b>	Open Indoors with modifications • Max 25% capacity • Closed common areas • Closed food courts	Open indoors with modifications • Max 50% capacity • Closed common areas • Reduced capacity food courts (see restaurants)	Open indoors with modifications • Closed common areas • Reduced capacity food courts (see restaurants)	Open Indoors with modifications • Reduced capacity food courts (see restaurants)

SECTORS	Widespread Tier 1	Substantial Tier 2	Moderate Tier 3	Minimal Tier 4
<b>Hotels and lodging</b>	Open with modifications	Open with modifications • +Fitness centers (+10%)	Open with modifications • +Fitness centers (+25%) • +Indoor pools	Open with modifications: • +Fitness Centers (50%) • +Spa facilities etc
<b>Gyms and Fitness Centers</b>	Outdoor Only with modifications	Open Indoors with modifications • Max 10% capacity	Open Indoors with modifications • Max 25% capacity • +indoor pools	Open indoors with modifications • +Saunas • +Spas • +Steam rooms • Max 50% capacity
<b>Restaurants</b>	Outdoor Only with modifications	Open indoors with modifications • Max 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer	Open indoors with modifications • Max 50% capacity or 200 people, whichever is fewer	Open indoors with modifications • Max 50% capacity
<b>Wineries</b>	Outdoor Only with modifications	Outdoor Only with modifications	Open indoors with modifications • Max 25% capacity indoors, or 100 people, whichever is fewer	Open indoors with modifications • Max 50% capacity or 200 people indoors, whichever is fewer

## **County Sponsors Tom Daly O.C. Flood Control Bill**

The Board approved positions on a handful of bills at the Board meeting including a sponsorship position of Assembly Bill 781 authored by Orange County Assemblyman Tom Daly. The following is the Office of Legislative Affairs analysis of the bill.

### **Current Law:**

Existing law authorizes specified works of improvement for the control, conservation, and utilization of destructive flood waters and the reclamation and protection of lands that are susceptible to overflow by flood waters. Existing law prohibits, if there are any major project changes, as provided, money from being reallocated by the state in aid of that portion of the project until a revised plan has been reviewed and approved by the Department of Water Resources.

### **Background:**

Federal authorization for the Westminster-East Garden Grove Flood Risk Management Project was included in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020.

The project area is located within the Westminster watershed in western Orange County. The watershed is approximately 87 square miles in area and is almost entirely urbanized. Cities in the watershed include Anaheim, Stanton, Cypress, Garden Grove, Westminster, Fountain Valley, Los Alamitos, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, and Huntington Beach.

The project area includes portions of four non-federal drainage channels within the watershed and the receiving waters of Outer Bolsa Bay in the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. Flood Control channels within the Westminster watershed receive local storm water runoff and vary in age, size, geometry, and lining material. The channels include the Bolsa Chica Channel (1.5 miles), Westminster Channel (7.8 miles), East Garden Grove/Wintersburg Channel (11.6 miles), and Ocean View Channel (4.1 miles).

Once amended this bill would add the Westminster-East Garden Grove Flood Risk Management Project in the Orange County to the list of eligible projects to receive state flood subvention funding

As authorized by the federal government as part of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020, the Westminster-East Garden Grove Flood Risk Management Project has a current estimated cost of \$1.25 billion, with a total federal cost share of \$315 million, and a local share of \$910 million. Orange County's current 20-year plan has identified \$443 million in revenue to fund the local share, leaving a gap of approximately \$467 million needed to bring the project to completion. As with all WRDA flood control projects, state legislation is required to make the Westminster-East Garden Grove project eligible to receive state flood subvention funding.

Over the past decades, urbanization of the Westminster watershed has increased the potential for flood related damages, and impacts associated with the overtopping of channel systems during short duration, high intensity rainfall events. Urbanization has also increased the total amount of impermeable area, resulting in higher volumes of stormwater being directed to the flood control channels due to limited infiltration opportunities.

Once completed, the project will provide flood control improvements, lead to increased flood protection, prevent approximately \$4 billion in damage from a 100-year flood event, and alleviate home and business owners in the affected communities from paying flood insurance premiums totaling over \$13 million annually.

The state subvention fund enables California to partner with local agencies and share in the costs of federally-authorized projects. If this project is entered into the program, the state would contribute if funds were available between 50% and 70% of Orange County's cost share for the National Economic Development components. AB 781 will make the project eligible for state flood subvention funding.



The Orange County LAFCO met March 10 and concluded its business within an hour. The highlight of the meeting was the unanimous adaption of the agency's proposed 2021/2022 budget. The proposed budget will now be sent out to the County, cities and Special Districts for review and comments.

The proposed budget includes a 7% or \$88,000 increase in expenditures over the current fiscal year. This amounts to a budget of \$1,345,280. 66% of OCLAFCO's spending is the funding of salaries and benefits. 86% of the agency's funding is derived from funding apportionments made up of equal 1/3 amounts from the County, cities and Special Districts. Below is the Special District apportionments:

District	ISDOC Formula Calculation FY 2021-22
Silverado-Modjeska Rec. & Park	\$ 463.30
Surfside Colony Stormwater	463.30
Rossmoor/Los Alamitos Area Sewer District	463.30
Surfside Colony CSD	463.30
Capistrano Bay CSD	2,277.87
Rossmoor CSD	2,277.87
Three Arch Bay CSD	2,277.87
Emerald Bay CSD	2,277.87
Buena Park Library District	2,277.87
Placentia Library District	2,277.87
Orange County Cemetery District	3,436.11
Orange County Vector Control District	4,594.35
<b>Total Non-Enterprise Districts</b>	<b>\$ 23,550.88</b>
Sunset Beach Sanitary District	4,594.35
Serrano Water District	13,783.06
East Orange Co. Water District	13,783.06
Midway City Sanitary District	18,338.80
Trabuco Canyon Water District	13,783.06
Costa Mesa Sanitary District	18,338.80
El Toro Water District	22,933.15
Mesa Water District	22,933.15
Yorba Linda Water District	22,933.15
South Coast Water District	27,527.50
Moulton Niguel Water District	32,121.86
Santa Margarita Water District	32,121.86
Municipal Water District of O.C.	36,716.20
Orange County Water District	41,310.56
Irvine Ranch Water District	41,310.56
<b>Total Enterprise Districts</b>	<b>\$ 362,529.12</b>
<b>Total Special Districts</b>	<b>\$ 386,080.00</b>

In other actions, it was noted that this year's Strategic Planning meeting will be held in June. A decision has not yet been made whether it will be in person or virtual. Also, due to a lack of activity, the April OCLAFCO meeting is cancelled. The next meeting will be held on May 12, 2021.



## Orange County COVID-19 Stats

ORANGE COUNTY COVID-19 STATS	AS OF 3/18/2021	AS OF 2/18/2021
CUMULATIVE CASES TO DATE	249,181	243,665
CUMULATIVE DEATHS TO DATE	4,522	3,685
DEATHS REPORTED TODAY	11	41
CUMULATIVE TESTS TO DATE	3,213,470	2,913,132
TESTS REPORTED TODAY	11,880	13,950
CASES CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED	213 *	663 *
CASES CURRENTLY IN ICU	49	230
CUMULATIVE RECOVERED TO DATE	240,465 *	220,609 *

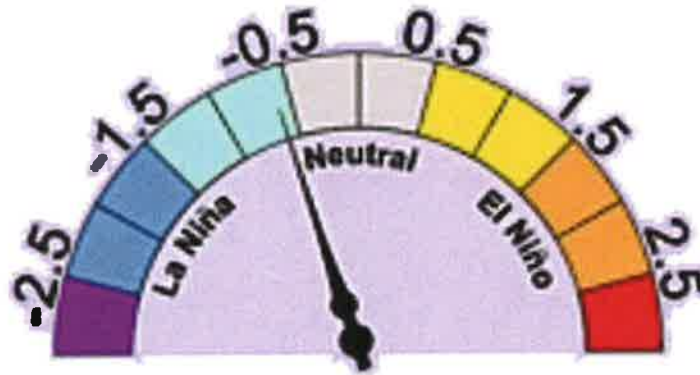
\* = INCLUDES *ICU* CASES

## Where Orange County Ranks [as of 3/18/2021]

LOCATION	POPULATION	CONFIRMED CASES	DEATHS
CALIFORNIA	40,129,160	3,535,534	55,795
LOS ANGELES COUNTY	10,247,557	1,173,416	22,602
<b>ORANGE COUNTY</b>	<b>3,228,519</b>	<b>249,181</b>	<b>4,522</b>
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY	2,217,398	284,170	4,049
RIVERSIDE COUNTY	2,468,145	281,649	3,925
SAN DIEGO COUNTY	3,370,418	266,313	3,470

# La Niña Abets Continued Drought

## ENSO METER



On March 2<sup>nd</sup> the California Department of Resources conducted it's latest analysis of the California snow-pack. It found that this year's snow-pack held a water content of only 61% of the March 2<sup>nd</sup> average. This coupled with below average reservoirs storage portends a challenging water year.

To compound matters, snow-pack in the upper Colorado River basin stands at 87% of average, while water content is just 77% of average. Lake Powell water inflows for this water year are 46% of the March 17<sup>th</sup> average.

**For March 18th, 2021**  
 Snowpack is 86% of avg  
 Total Precip is 77.00% of avg

**Lake Powell is currently  
 437.28 feet deep at the  
 dam**

### Water Summary

*Today is day 169 of 365 for the Water Year 2021. We are 46% through the Water Year.*

**Last Reading: 3569.28 on Mar 17, 2021**

Powell was last within 2" of this elevation on Mar 16, 2021

**There are currently 2,948,633,491,238 gallons of water in Lake Powell!**

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- [Detailed Map of Powell](#)
- [15 Day Weather Forecast](#)
- [SW Satellite Weather](#)
- [SW Water Vapor](#)

Elevation & Content	Water Inflow Data	Glen Canyon Dam Release Data
Lake Powell is 130.72 feet below Full Pool (Elevation 3,700)	Total inflows for water year <b>2021</b> : 1,365,370 acre feet	Total releases for water year <b>2021</b> : 3,789,397 acre feet
By content, Lake Powell is 37.21% of Full Pool (24,322,000 af)	This is 45.6% of the March 17th average of 2,994,481 acre feet	This is 50.53% of the minimum required of 7,500,000 acre feet
<b>During WY 2021, water storage has fallen by 2,307,525 AF and total outflows have exceeded total inflows by 2,424,027 AF</b>		
<b>The 28 tracked reservoirs above Lake Powell are currently at 69.99% of capacity. <a href="#">Click for Details</a></b>		
<b>Inflows for WY 2021 are 57.25% of WY 2020 <a href="#">Rivers feeding Lake Powell are running at 53.01% of the Mar 18th avg. <a href="#">Click for Details</a></a></b>		

**Lake Powell is down -32.10 feet from one year ago. Lake Powell is up 0.10 feet from the low for water year.**