

October 14, 2025
City Council Meeting

Written Public Comments

Item 3.13

Revision to Funding Designation for
617, 625, and 637 W. La Veta Avenue

CITY OF ORANGE
2025 OCT 14 PM 5:21



www.kennedycommission.org
17701 Cowan Ave., Suite 200
Irvine, CA 92614
949 250 0909

October 14, 2025

Mayor Dan Slater
Members of City Council
City of Orange
300 E. Chapman Avenue
Orange, CA 92866

RE: Agenda Item 3.13 – Revision to Funding Designation for the Sale of 617, 625, and 637 West La Veta Avenue for the Development of Six Affordable Housing Units

Dear Honorable Mayor Slater and Orange City Council,

The Kennedy Commission (the Commission) is a broad-based coalition of residents and community organizations advocating for the production of homes affordable for families earning less than \$30,000 annually in Orange County. Since 2001, we have successfully partnered with jurisdictions across the county to create housing and land-use policies that increase affordable housing opportunities for lower-income working families.

The Commission supports staff’s recommendation to revise the funding allocation to ensure compliance with fund use requirements and to preserve the integrity of the City’s Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Asset Fund. These adjustments represent an important administrative action that will properly record the residual receipts loan under a fund where affordable housing activities are eligible, helping to safeguard resources for future housing developments.

We commend the City of Orange for utilizing surplus public land to create affordable housing through its partnership with Shelter Providers of Orange County, Inc. (HomeAid). The reuse of surplus parcels to develop six affordable homes reflects a positive example of how the City can leverage public land to advance its Housing Element goals and strengthen the overall supply of affordable homes.

However, we note that the staff report does not specify the affordability levels for these six units. As the City continues implementing its Housing Element, we strongly encourage that future surplus land opportunities prioritize homes affordable to **low- and very-low-income households**, who experience the most severe housing cost burdens in Orange. Ensuring that limited public resources serve the households most in need will help the City make meaningful progress toward fulfilling its lower-income RHNA obligations.

This action demonstrates responsible stewardship of affordable housing funds and the value of public land in addressing local housing needs. We appreciate the City’s continued efforts to create and preserve affordable housing opportunities for working families in Orange.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (949) 250-0909 or cesarc@kennedycommission.org.

Sincerely,

Cesar Covarrubias
Executive Director

Item 9.2

Fire Code Ordinance

Corina Perez

From: Janice Brownfield
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 9:04 PM
To: City Council Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item #9.2

Canyon Fires 1 and 2 in Anaheim Hills were a frightening and devastating experience in 2017 that destroyed 15 homes, damaged 45 others, increased air pollution and caused ash to fall on our homes and surroundings. Increasingly, wildfires are coming into urban spaces from wildlands, meeting at the wildland-urban interface. The WUI Code is "a State-mandated building code, effective January 1, 2026, that sets minimum standards to protect life and property from wildfire in high-risk areas by addressing both building construction and defensible space." The Code "mandates the use of ignition-resistant building materials and establishes requirements for fuel reduction around structures to a zone up to 100 feet away from the building, known as defensible space."

Orange is affected by updated California Fire Hazard Severity zones, which classify areas as Moderate, High or Very High risk based on factors like fire history, vegetation and weather patterns. Five new cities - Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, Laguna Hills and Placentia - were added to the fire hazard severity zones in May.

Every ZIP code in California is exposed to wildfire smoke, which researchers estimate caused more than 52,000 premature deaths between 2008 and 2018 due to chronic, long-term smoke exposure. Wildfire smoke has led to a spike in people with asthma seeking treatment at emergency rooms for increased breathing problems.

By taking action on the Citywide Sustainability Plan for climate resiliency and adaptation, the City can help prevent our air quality from deteriorating from "poor" and "unhealthy" to "very unhealthy." A July 2025 study in *Nature* of "never-smokers indicated that air pollution is a significant factor in the development of lung cancer, potentially being more mutagenic than secondhand smoke" and "suggests that policies aimed at regulating toxic emissions and promoting clean energy technologies are crucial for public health."

Orange City Council

Meeting Time: 10-14-25 18:00

eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Orange City Council	10-14-25 18:00	37	2	1	1	0

Orange City Council

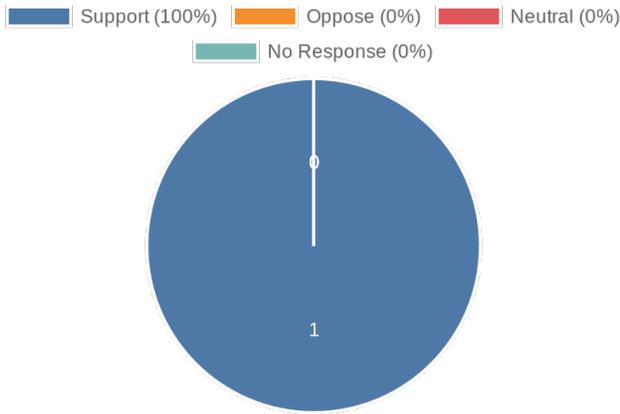
10-14-25 18:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS At this time, members of the public may address the Council on matters not listed on the agenda within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City Council, provided that NO action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. Public Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker unless a different time limit is announced.	1	1	0	0
9.2. Introduction and First Reading of an ordinance adopting the 2025 California Wildland-Urban Interface Code and the 2025 California Fire Code, adding Chapter 15.31 and amending Chapter 15.32 of the Orange Municipal Code. Resolution No. 11638 and Ordinance No. 17-25.	1	0	1	0

Agenda Item: eComments for 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time, members of the public may address the Council on matters not listed on the agenda within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City Council, provided that NO action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. Public Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker unless a different time limit is announced.

Overall Sentiment



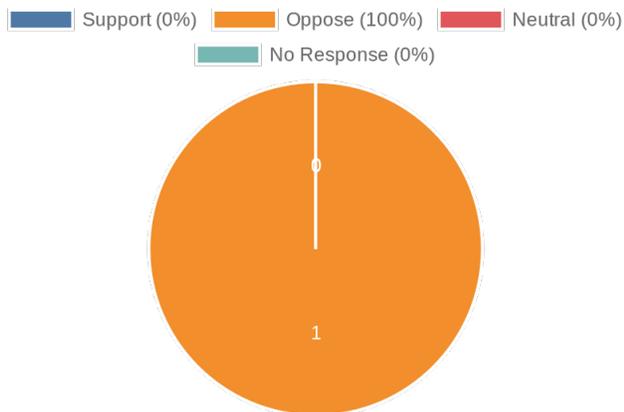
Adrienne Gladson

Location:

Submitted At: 4:23pm 10-14-25

The Grant Thornton report sets a singular priority of attracting a Costco to Orange. All of you know this has been talked about for decades. It's time for that to happen asap and it will require work for sure as private land and a private deal will be needed. Due to ethical conflicts, Council wisely should stay clear of it. I suggest a group of smart, unbiased, community first folks serve on a welcoming group (I volunteer to be on it) to assist city staff with this effort, especially as we stand up a new Economic Development Team. I found this story yesterday from the OC Register from 2013 from a person called Mr. Orange (is he still around/) who had a column in the Register where he addressed a rumor of Costco coming to Yorba and East Chapman. Also wonder if that Costco representative is still on their team? I find the answers to our future city revenue decisions is to simply looking back and learn why it didn't happen then so we can get it done now.

Overall Sentiment



Leslie Manderscheid

Location:
Submitted At: 11:04pm 10-13-25

This Resolution and Ordinance needs to be revised and updated to incorporate the requirements of Governor’s Executive Order N-18-25 (2025): Urban Conflagration (Increasing Wildfire Resilience).

This Zone Zero Executive Order mandates the creation of an ember-resistant zone within five feet of structures, requiring the removal of flammable materials to reduce the risk of ignition from winddriven embers. This initiative is part of a broader effort to adapt to future wildfires and strengthen community resilience. The executive order also tasks the State Board of Forestry with accelerating the adoption of these regulations and requires CAL FIRE and Cal OES to collaborate with local, federal, and tribal partners for improvements in wildfire response systems. Financial assistance and educational initiatives are also proposed to help homeowners understand and comply with these measures.

See attached.