



Dear Valued Customers,

As essential public service providers for the residents of the City of Yorba Linda (City), the Yorba Linda Water District (YLWD) and the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) take great pride in serving our community while upholding the highest standards of safety and water reliability. This letter aims to highlight the exceptional fire protection measures and water infrastructure currently in place in our service area, established through the collaborative efforts of YLWD and OCFA.

Many homeowners in Yorba Linda are currently facing significant challenges with their insurance providers, as many policies are being canceled or not renewed due to the increased fire risk in our area. In response to these concerns, YLWD and OCFA have implemented comprehensive fire protection and response strategies to mitigate the risk in our region. The key reasons why our fire protection and water infrastructure are industry-leading are as follows:

- **Advanced Infrastructure:** YLWD has made strategic investments in infrastructure, including state-of-the-art water supply systems and fire hydrant networks, ensuring rapid and reliable access to water sources essential for firefighting efforts. Fire hydrants in Yorba Linda are fully operational and provide adequate water supply, allowing local fire authorities to respond promptly to emergencies. YLWD staff conduct annual inspections of 4,052 fire hydrants, checking hydrant pressure and water flow as part of the YLWD's preventative maintenance program. Additionally, YLWD has invested in multiple natural gas back-up generators, including a portable generator, for emergency back-up power. These generators are designed to activate during power outages or scheduled electrical shutdowns, significantly bolstering YLWD's booster pump station reliability, especially in a wildfire event.
- **Collaborative Planning:** YLWD and OCFA have collaborated to develop comprehensive emergency response plans, which are regularly updated to include the latest firefighting techniques and technologies. Additionally, YLWD and OCFA maintain robust partnerships with the City of Yorba Linda and CAL FIRE, who frequently provide training for their fire pilots at YLWD's Heli-Hydrants.
- **Technological Innovations:** In 2019, YLWD introduced the first permanent Heli-Hydrant, the Marc Marcantonio Heli-Hydrant, followed by the Wells Fargo Heli-Hydrant in 2021. These Heli-hydrants are examples of YLWD's proactive

commitment to enhancing fire safety and safeguarding our community. The Heli-Hydrants serve as advanced firefighting tools, enabling local fire authorities to save crucial time in order to combat wildfires. They offer a strategically located, quick-fill, pilot-operated water source that can be filled in just a few minutes. Dedicated YLWD and OCFA professionals diligently monitor weather conditions and take necessary precautions to safeguard our region and infrastructure. By raising reservoir levels higher than normal, and pre-filling both Heli-Hydrants during wind advisories or red flag warnings, we elevate our readiness and proactive posture. (Download YLWD's Heli-Hydrant Factsheet: <https://bit.ly/42qGBPQ>)

- **Defensible Space and Vegetation Management:** The City of Yorba Linda collaborates year-round with OCFA to mitigate wildfire risks in our community, focusing on defensible space and vegetation management. Defensible space is crucial for protecting properties from wildfires, involving the creation of buffer zones around buildings by clearing or reducing flammable vegetation and debris. This space not only helps slow the spread of fire but also provides a safer environment for firefighters to defend structures. The City enhances these efforts through extensive vegetation management practices such as brush clearing, tree trimming, goat grazing, and weed abatement. Additionally, the City's annual weed abatement program ensures that both residential yards and larger land parcels are cleared of combustible materials.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Both YLWD and OCFA prioritize continuous improvement through rigorous training programs for firefighters, ongoing maintenance of fire suppression equipment, and proactive inspections of water infrastructure.

We are fortunate to have dedicated professionals who work tirelessly to protect lives and property. Together, the Yorba Linda Water District and the Orange County Fire Authority are dedicated to delivering the utmost level of fire protection for our community.

If you have any questions or wish to learn more about our fire protection measures, please feel free to reach out to us. Your safety and peace of mind are our highest priorities.



Mark Toy, P.E. BC.WRE  
General Manager

Yorba Linda Water District

\*Licensed in Arizona and Virginia



Brian Fennessy  
Fire Chief

Orange County Fire Authority



Mark Pulone  
City Manager

City of Yorba Linda