



February 13, 2026

Director Tom Koutroulis  
County of Orange Waste and Recycling  
601 N. Ross Street, 5th Floor,  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**RE: Community Concerns Regarding Odor Complaints and Regulatory Compliance at Frank R. Bowerman Landfill**

Dear Director Koutroulis,

As the Irvine Councilmember representing District 1, which borders the Frank R. Bowerman Landfill, I deeply value the partnership between the City of Irvine and OC Waste and Recycling, and the importance of maintaining the region's waste management. However, it has come to my attention from residents in North Irvine, specifically Portola Springs, Great Park, Stonegate, and Orchard Hills Summit, regarding air quality and foul odor concerns.

It is my understanding that the [South Coast Air Quality Management District \(AQMD\)](#) has documented a state of non-compliance, which is impacting the lives of our Irvine residents. Specifically, I have highlighted the following developments, which are causing considerable distress to our neighbors:

- [South Coast AQMD](#) issued three Notices of Violation within 20 days, required under Rule 402 and CA Health and Safety Code Section 417000.
- These citations appear to relate to over 130 public complaints lodged since January 1, 2026, describing orders of potential issues with the Gas Collection and Control Systems.
- Residents are concerned that the ongoing Pshare VIIB/C expansion and the Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) plant are disrupting the facility's ability to effectively contain emissions.

***Given the proximity of the landfill to District 1, I am writing directly to you about our residents' concerns to protect their health. It is requested that the OC Waste and Recycling provide the following information and immediate actions:***

- Provide a detailed overview of the steps OC Waste and Recycling have taken to address the state of non-compliance following the South Coast AQMD inspection.
- Make immediate engineering repairs to the landfill's gas extraction system.
- Install high-resolution, fence-line hydrogen sulfide monitors that provide real-time, public-facing data.
- Allow for an independent third-party audit to ensure appropriate gas management protocols are being followed during the Phase VIIB/C expansion.

We sincerely appreciate your department's ongoing dedication and hard work regarding this issue. We value our continued collaboration and are committed to working together to ensure the welfare and safety of the Irvine community.



**Melinda Liu, Councilmember District 1**

[cityofirvine.org](http://cityofirvine.org)

1 Civic Center Plaza, Irvine, CA 92623-9575

949-724-6310

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melinda Liu".

**Melinda Liu**

Councilmember, District 1

City of Irvine

cc: Sean Crumby, City Manager