

ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

EXTERNAL MEMO

To: Leon Page, County Counsel
From: Michelle Anderson, County Emergency Manager *MLA*
Date: September 23, 2026
RE: Status Report, Item 14 for September 29, 2026, Agenda: Review the Need for Continuance of the Local Emergency



The Garden Grove Hazardous Materials incident occurred on Thursday, May 21 at approximately 3:22PM, when a tank holding the chemical Methyl Methacrylate (MMA) was in danger of a boiling liquid expanding vapor explosion (BLEVE), affecting the cities of Garden Grove, Stanton, Anaheim, Cypress, Buena Park, and Westminster. Unified Command was established initially between the Orange County Fire Authority, Garden Grove Police Department, and the Orange County Health Care Agency and included throughout the incident the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Anaheim Police Department, Anaheim Fire, and the Cypress Police Department.

The City of Garden Grove proclaimed a local emergency on May 22, 2026, and has extended their emergency proclamation through November 22, 2026. Per the Garden Grove City Council action on September 22, 2026, although the expected failure of the chemical tanks has been abated, clean-up and remediation efforts continue at the site. Two of the three chemical tanks were completely drained; the failed tank continues in its red-tag condition. The assessment and determination of whether the tanks will be removed from the site has not been completed. The recommendation to extend the County local emergency proclamation is to support Garden Grove as these efforts continue. No other cities are seeking continuance.

Recommended Action: Approve continuation of Local Emergency for 2026 Garden Grove Hazardous Material Incident; and set review to determine continuing need for emergency action for 11/17/26, 9:30 a.m. and every 60 days thereafter.

cc: Interim County Executive Officer KC Roestenberg
Clerk of the Board Robin Stieler
Undersheriff Jeff Hallock, Sheriff-Coroner Department