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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF VENTURA
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January 11, 2011

Board of Supervisors
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 1605
ESTABLISHING A SPEED LIMIT ON LA LUNA AVENUE, OJAI AREA.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. On January 11, 2011Q , introduce and read in title only an ordinance (Exhibit "A") repealing Ordinance No. 1605 (Exhibit "B"), waive further reading, and place the ordinance on the Board of Supervisors agenda for January 25, 2011; and
2. On January 25, 2011, adopt the ordinance, to become effective 30 days hence.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory: No
Fiscal Impact: Negligible
Impact on other departments: None

DISCUSSION:

Ventura County Ordinance No. 1605 was adopted on November 10th, 1964 (Exhibit "B"). This ordinance set the speed limit on La Luna Avenue at 35 mph. In the 1960's, speed limits were commonly set by ordinance.

Since 1964, additional homes have developed on North La Luna, as well as surrounding areas, and the traffic volume on N. La Luna has increased significantly. While residential in character, N. La Luna also serves as a shortcut for motorists travelling from southern Highway 33 to the northern leg of Highway 33, including many who use northern Highway 33 for recreational driving. Speed limit enforcement on this rural road is infrequent.

My office received requests from N. La Luna residents to lower the speed limit from the posted 35 MPH to 25 MPH. Residents also questioned why N. La Luna was not treated as a residential street with a prima facie speed limit of 25 MPH. The residents noted the windy and narrow nature of the street, the many homes close to the road, the fact that the older homes often lack off-street parking, and the number of children in the neighborhood.

At my request, the Public Works Agency studied N. La Luna and determined that it now meets the State standards for a "residence zone" and would therefore become a 25 MPH residential street were Ordinance 1605 repealed. This issue was placed on the agenda of the Ojai Valley Municipal Advisory Council and notice of the meeting was mailed to property owners on N. La Luna. Residents and the MAC were in unanimous support of repealing the current ordinance in order to achieve a prima facie speed limit of 25 MPH, with full recognition of the fact that, under state law and the present traffic conditions, a 25 MPH speed limit on N. La Luna cannot be enforced by radar.

This letter and ordinance have been reviewed by the Public Works Agency and County Counsel.

Please join me in taking this action to provide an additional measure of speed control on North La Luna Avenue.

Cordially,



Steve Bennett
Supervisor, First District

Exhibit "A" – proposed ordinance
Exhibit "B" - Ordinance 1605