county of ventura

Grand Jury 800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009 (805) 477-1600 Fax: (805) 658-4523

grandjury.countyofventura.org

November 19, 2014

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

**CONTACT:** Foreman Robert Stewart

Tel: 805/477-1600

Email: robert.stewart@ventura.org

ATTN: LANCE OROZCO—SPECIAL TO KCLU

## GOT A COMPLAINT ABOUT LOCAL GOVERNMENT? TELL THE GRAND JURY

Did you know that there is a body of volunteers dedicated to investigating public complaints about county agencies, local city governments and special districts such as water, schools and harbors? And that the identity of residents submitting complaints is kept secret?

The Ventura County Grand Jury is a civil investigatory panel of 19 citizens from all walks of life who act as independent eyes and ears for county residents.

The grand jury is authorized to investigate complaints about government mismanagement; verify that public funds are properly accounted for and legally spent; and inquire into charges of misconduct by public officials or employees. Each year, the grand jury reports on findings and recommendations that result from its investigations. These reports are made public via the media and by posting on the grand jury website. Involved elected officials and boards must respond within 60 to 90 days; their responses are posted with the reports.

Complaint forms in English and Spanish may be downloaded from the grand jury's website (just Google "Ventura County Grand Jury") and submitted by mail or fax to the addresses shown. Complaints must be signed and contain an address and phone number, which will be kept confidential. The website also contains previous years' reports and details about its mission and operations.