



## CITY OF FILLMORE

CENTRAL PARK PLAZA

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September 22, 1999

Ventura County Grand Jury  
Attn: Ginger Gherardi, Director, Ventura County Transportation Commission  
950 County Sq. Drive. # 207  
Ventura, CA 93003

Subject: Response to Grand Jury report on the Hwy 126 Vista Transit Service

Dear Ginger,

The City of Fillmore very much appreciates the work and effort that the Grand Jury has put into the review of the Vista system. The City is also very concerned about providing quality public transit service in accordance with the State Transportation Development Act. The Grand Jury requested that the City of Fillmore respond to specific Grand Jury recommendations. The numbered headings in this response letter correspond to the numbering in the Grand Jury report.

### ADMINISTRATION

R-1 Set up Public Transit as independent departments in each jurisdiction.

**Response:** In the City of Fillmore there are not adequate staff to create separate departments for small staffing needs such as Public Transit. This task requires about 0.1 man years per year and therefore is assigned to an individual responsible for other tasks. In the City of Fillmore, this task is assigned to the City Engineer. The Grand Jury's concern that led to this recommendation was that the Public Works officials such as the City Engineer would have a conflict of interest between meeting the financial needs of the public transit system and the financial needs of the street maintenance work because TDA funds can be used in both of these areas. However, the legislation governing the use of TDA monies is very clear that unmet transit needs must be met first and then road needs may be met. The unmet transit needs criteria are very helpful because they set practical guidelines for appropriate use of TDA monies. The guidelines also insure that the TDA monies are used as efficiently as possible to meet the transit needs.

R-3 Require transit decision-makers to use public transit regularly.

**Response:** The City believes this recommendation to be unconstitutional. However the City Engineer does voluntarily use the Vista 126 transit system about 3 days a week. The primary reason he uses the bus is to increase productivity. By using the 1.5 hours of commute time on the very comfortable and quite Vista Express buses he can accomplish more work each day. This use of the Vista system has aided the City Engineer with the administration of the Vista 126 transit program.

### INFORMATION

R-4 Increase percentage of budget for marketing and advertising to attract automobile drivers.

**Response:** The City Engineer has been surprised to find a number of persons that live in Fillmore and work very close to a Vista stop in the Ventura area, and yet, they are not familiar with the services provided by the Vista system. His recommendation has been that the advertising target the business and education facilities surrounding the destination points of the Vista system. Marketing should also include the communities of Piru, Fillmore and Santa Paula. There is still plenty of room on many of the buses and the additional fair revenue could offset operating expenses.

R-5 Improve access to transit scheduling and other information on the Internet for the benefit of employee transportation coordinators and the public.

**Response:** The City of Fillmore will add this to it's Web Site and also publish this information on channel 10, the local cable television channel for the City of Fillmore.

R-8 Arrange with newspapers to print schedules on a regular basis every week, as theater schedules are printed.

**Response:** Since the bus schedule does not change, a once a week publication would be to frequent, however, a once a month publication would probably be appropriate.

R-9 Contact major employers, mall operators, schools and public agencies about subsidizing employees' bus costs.

**Response:** The City of Fillmore can implement this recommendation however, at a cost of \$1 per ride the cost factor is probably not a

significant element in the decision making process for most potential transit users.

- R-10 Use staff members and volunteer speakers to address high school students, senior citizen groups, service clubs and social clubs on transit options available.

**Response:** In the past, the Fillmore City Engineer has used these public forum as a means to advertise the services of the Highway 126 Vista System. This is another good avenue to help educate the public on the high quality service provided by the Vista 126 system.

- R-12 Insert bus and train schedules in the City Council proceedings on television.

**Response:** The City of Fillmore will consider implementing this recommendation.

### SERVICE

- R-13 Maintain close contact with CalWORKS to respond in a timely manner to new workers' transportation needs.

**Response:** The City of Fillmore can implement this recommendation.

- R-15 Shorten wait times and extend hours that busses run.

**Response:** This task is difficult to meet and still stay within the unmet transit needs definition as prescribed by law. It would be unwise to run busses that are not meeting a need. The City of Fillmore along with VCTC regularly monitors the need for increasing the service levels offered by VISTA. During the last year alone Saturday service was added and additional dial a ride busses were added in Fillmore. Next year a trolley is will be added to the Fillmore/Piru/Santa Paula VISTA service. This new addition will add Sunday service.

- R-16 Provide well lit shelters with benches at bus stops, with large maps and schedules posted, to make bus stops more visible and more comfortable.

**Response:** The City of Fillmore has budgeted a major improvement to the Fillmore VISTA bus stop. The improvements will include benches, lighting, weather shelter, maps and schedule information. Bicycle lockers and improved vehicle parking will also be provided.

R-17 Increase local and commuter transit service to major employers, schools and regional transit transfer points.

**Response:** The present schedule of stops in Ventura already utilizes all of the available time to enable a one hour headway for the VISTA express bus. If more stops were added the VISTA service would become more of a Ventura city bus. Riders may make connections using their bicycles or using the SCAT bus. Within the City of Fillmore the dial a ride provides door to door services to all major employers.

For further information about the City of Fillmore's participation in the Vista 126 system you may call Bert J. Rapp, City Engineer, at (805) 524-1500 ext231.

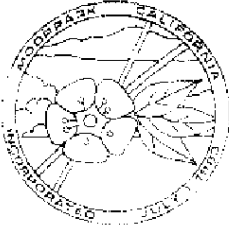
Sincerely yours,

CITY OF FILLMORE



Bert J. Rapp, P.E. City Engineer

Cc: City Council  
Roy Payne, City Manager



# MOORPARK

799 Moorpark Avenue Moorpark, California 93021 (805) 529-6864

July 9, 1999

Honorable Charles Campbell  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Ventura County Hall of Justice  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: 1998-99 Ventura County Grand Jury report titled: *The  
Ventura County Transportation Commission and Its Role in  
Public Transit*

Dear Judge Campbell:

The City of Moorpark is not required to respond to the referenced report. However, I would like to provide one comment. In the second bullet point of the "Conclusions" section, it states: "All local transit officials work under the direction of Public Works departments..." At the City of Moorpark, the staff responsible for the transit function is in the Community Services Department, which is separate from the city's Public Works Department.

As indicated, I have no other comments and appreciate the opportunity to review this report.

Sincerely,

Steven Kueny  
City Manager

SK:db

cc:

The Honorable City Council  
John E. Nowak, Assistant City Manager  
Ken Gilbert, Public Works Director  
Mary Lindley, Community Services Director

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