

# The Need for Automatic Electronic Defibrillators in Ventura County

## Background

This report was initiated by the 2001-2002 Ventura County Grand Jury based on the belief that the mortality and morbidity rate from Sudden Cardiac Death in the County of Ventura might be significantly reduced by the planned and widespread distribution of Automatic Electronic Defibrillators (AED) at key locations throughout the County.

AED units are computerized shock delivery systems designed for use by non-medically trained personnel to reverse a life ending cardiac rhythm that is the number one cause of sudden death.

## Methodology

In order to determine the appropriate locality for and valid need of AEDs within Ventura County, the Grand Jury reviewed literature pertinent to the subject of AEDs and interviewed personnel from the American Heart Association, Ventura County Fire Department, Ventura County Emergency Medical Services and the City of Thousand Oaks. Information was also solicited from various non-governmental establishments where 'at risk' and/or large numbers of people routinely gather, to ascertain the presence and utilization of AED units.

## Findings

- F-1. According to American Heart Association statistics, cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death in United States. There are over 480,000 deaths each year from heart attacks and the complications from those heart attacks. Over half, or 250,000, of those are from Sudden Cardiac Death. There are more victims of Sudden Cardiac Death than there are of lung cancer, breast cancer and AIDS combined.
- F-2. Sudden Cardiac Death typically occurs within the first one to two hours following a heart attack, before the victim arrives at a hospital. Sudden Cardiac Death, in most adult victims, is from ventricular fibrillation. Ventricular fibrillation is a chaotic quivering of the heart muscle, which renders the pumping action of the heart useless.
- F-3. Children and teenagers can also be stricken with life threatening and life ending disruptions of cardiac rhythm. Though the AED is not recommended for use on young children, there are AED units on high school campuses throughout the country. They are on stand-by for use on campus and at sporting event locations in the event they may be needed for these adult sized young people.

- F-4. The only treatment for ventricular fibrillation is an administered shock called defibrillation. American Heart Association studies show Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), prompt defibrillation and timely transport to a hospital setting greatly increase the chance of survival. For each minute that defibrillation is delayed, the chance of survival is reduced by 7-10%. Defibrillation administered within the first five minutes after the onset of ventricular fibrillation increases the chance of survival by 50%. The survival rate is enhanced further if CPR has been administered.
- F-5. American Heart Association studies have shown that the cost to the taxpayer and/or to third party payers for a survivor of Sudden Cardiac Death is less than the expenses incurred for the post operative treatment of a cardiac transplant patient or for the monies expended for individuals on most cholesterol lowering medications.
- F-6. There are AEDs available for as little as \$2,700.00 per unit. Additional costs are incurred to maintain equipment and train qualified operators.
- F-7. All acute care medical facilities within Ventura County are equipped with defibrillators, which are not AEDs. All paramedic units within this County are equipped with defibrillators, which are not AEDs. Most of those units require a knowledge and interpretation of cardiac rhythm and disturbances before they can be safely used.
- F-8. The AED uses computer technology to analyze the cardiac rhythm and tell the trained operator when to use the machine appropriately. Therefore, the layperson does not have to be knowledgeable of cardiac rhythm to defibrillate a victim of Sudden Cardiac Death.
- F-9. The City of Thousand Oaks has 12 AEDs in place throughout their community and has trained over 120 employee-volunteers to operate the equipment. Their forward thinking program was initiated in 1999. To date one life has been saved. Their commitment is serious and thorough. Maintenance of the defibrillator equipment and continuing education of the operators is ongoing. Locations of the Thousand Oaks' AEDs include the library, the senior citizens' center, the city hall, the civic auditorium and Los Robles Golf Course.
- F-10. Leisure Village in Camarillo was one of the first in the County to utilize AEDs. There are three defibrillator units at Leisure Village. Two are kept in the security vehicles that patrol the community; one is in the recreation center. Both security and recreation center staff are trained to use the equipment. It is the Grand Jury's understanding that the AEDs at Leisure Village have been utilized many times since their introduction in 1998.
- F-11. There are an unknown number of AED units throughout the County at various business locations.
- F-12. In January 2002, the Ventura County Emergency Medical System received funding from the Tobacco Settlement Program to purchase 50 AED units and train personnel in the use of those units through-

out Ventura County. The Emergency Medical System is also attempting to identify all of the AED units located at private businesses in the County to insure proper training of operators and systematic maintenance of equipment.

## Conclusions

- C-1. The technology of today provides the ability to save lives. Thousands could be saved if AEDs and trained operators were available in facilities and areas where large numbers of people congregate. (F-1 through F-10)
- C-2. By having AEDs readily available and the AED operators additionally trained in CPR, precious minutes toward survival can be gained prior to the arrival of advanced life support providers (fire, police personnel and paramedics) and precedent to emergency room treatment. (F-1 through F-10)
- C-3. Considering the potential benefit to be derived from planned and widespread placement of AED units throughout the County, the cost of the defibrillators is certainly reasonable; their value in terms of a human life saved is inestimable. (F-5, F-6)
- C-4. While there are some fine examples of recognizing the need for AEDs and of their utilization within Ventura County, there is a definite need for more units throughout the County. (F-9 through F-12)
- C-5. In the future, the liability to municipalities and certain 'at risk' locations for not having AEDs and trained AED operators could be a serious consideration. (F-1 through F-12)

## Recommendations

- R-1. Initiate the widespread placement of AEDs and CPR trained operators throughout all county and city facilities where large numbers of people or 'at risk' citizens congregate. Locations for consideration would include city halls, courthouses, jails, auditoriums, libraries, senior citizens' centers, high schools and golf courses, as well as units available for use at concerts, fairs and other large events.
- R-2. Support the Ventura County Emergency Medical System's attempt to coordinate the utilization and training required for the proper use of AEDs throughout the County.
- R-3. The city and county governing bodies initiate an incentive program which would encourage the purchase of AED units and the training of employees in their use at business locations throughout the County.

## Commendations

The Ventura County Grand Jury commends the City of Thousand Oaks, its employees, administrators and elected officials for their foresight and thoughtful implementation of a life-saving AED program.

The Ventura County Emergency Medical System's foresight and planning in obtaining funding for AEDs throughout the County.

Also to be commended are the businesses within Ventura County who have taken the initiative to purchase AEDs and train operators in their use.

**Responses Required (R1 - R3)**

City Managers of:

Camarillo

Fillmore

Moorpark

Ojai

Oxnard

Port Hueneme

Santa Paula

Simi Valley

Thousand Oaks

Ventura

Ventura County Board of Supervisors

Ventura County Emergency Medical Services

Ventura County Sheriff's Department

Ventura County Superintendent of Schools



# City of Thousand Oaks

CITY MANAGER SUPERIOR COURTS  
MARYJANE V. LAZZ

**FILED**

March 4, 2002

MAR 7 2002

Honorable Bruce A. Clark  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Ventura County Hall of Justice  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

MICHAEL D. PLANET  
Executive Officer and Clerk  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Dep

*[Handwritten signature]*  
3-14

**Re: 2001-2002 Ventura County Grand Jury Report – The Need for Automatic Electronic Defibrillators in Ventura County**

Dear Judge Clark:

On behalf of the City of Thousand Oaks, please accept our sincere appreciation to the Ventura County Grand Jury for their commendation of our newly implemented AED program.

The City of Thousand Oaks respectfully responds to recommendations of the above-referenced report as follows:

**Recommendation R-1**

The City of Thousand Oaks concurs with Recommendation R-1 and supports widespread placement of AED's and trained operators throughout county and city facilities where large numbers of "at-risk" citizens congregate.

**Recommendation R-2**

The City of Thousand Oaks concurs with the recommendation to support the Ventura County Emergency Medical System's attempt to coordinate utilization and training of AED's throughout Ventura County.

**Recommendation R-3**

The City of Thousand Oaks concurs and agrees that City and County governing bodies should initiate a program encouraging the purchase of AED units and training of employees at business locations throughout Ventura County.

If we may be of any further assistance to the Grand Jury, please do not hesitate to contact us. For specific information, please call Brandee Sisting at (805) 449-2142.

Sincerely,

*MaryJane V. Lazz*  
MaryJane V. Lazz  
City Manager

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2100 Thousand Oaks Boulevard • Thousand Oaks, California 91362-2903 • (805) 449-2121 • FAX (805) 449-2125



CITY OF FILLMORE  
CENTRAL PARK PLAZA  
250 Central Avenue  
Fillmore, California 95015 - 9907  
(805) 524-5700 - FAX (805) 524-5787

SUPERIOR COURTS  
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MAR 14 2002

MICHAEL D. PLANET  
Executive Officer and Clerk

BY \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy

March 13, 2002

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Log 6

Honorable Bruce A. Clark  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Ventura County Hall of Justice  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, Ca 93009

RE: 2001-2002 Ventura County Grand Jury Report - *The Need for Automatic Electronic Defibrillators in Ventura County*

Dear Judge Clark:

In response to your letter dated February 21, 2002, the City of Fillmore concurs with the findings of the Grand Jury. The City of Fillmore has recognized the value of the automatic defibrillator since the early nineties, when AED's were put into service on our Fire Department apparatus. The City of Fillmore Fire Department currently has two of its staff members in the process of being certified to teach the use of the AED and will complete the certification within two weeks. The instructors will teach the use of the AED during all CPR certification classes. These classes are available community wide on the average of twice a month and are highly advertised on the local cable access channel and in the local newspapers. Currently two of the AED training devices are being purchased by the City of Fillmore. The training for the use of the AED will be included in the CPR recertification classes for all City of Fillmore staff members. The City of Fillmore will apply to Ventura County Emergency Medical Services (VCEMS) for the use of the Tobacco Settlement Monies to purchase an AED for city hall and other city buildings. If the City of Fillmore is unsuccessful in obtaining funds from VCEMS for the AED's we

Response 2 - Fillmore

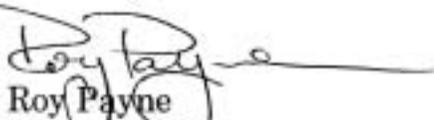
will include the purchase price of an AED in the normal budget procedures. However this does not guarantee that it will be approved for purchase, if budget constraints dictate otherwise.

The Fillmore High School has been made aware of AED's and has been encouraged to approve the use of the AED and to include AED training in future CPR recertification classes taught by city personnel. The city staff will make the same offer of training to all other agencies and large employers within the City of Fillmore. City staff will also encourage the Fillmore Unified School district to apply through the VCEMS for funds to purchase AED's and, if not successful, to add it to their budget process.

The City of Fillmore will continue to support the efforts of the VCEMS to coordinate the utilization and training required for the proper use of AED's throughout the County.

Last, the Fillmore City Council will consider initiation of an incentive program that would encourage the purchase of AED units and the training of employees in their use at business locations throughout the city.

Sincerely,



Roy Payne  
City Manager

C: Mayor and City Council  
Fire Chief Pat Askren



# City of Port Hueneme

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March 22, 2002

Honorable Bruce A. Clark  
 Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
 Ventura County Hall of Justice  
 800 South Victoria Avenue  
 Ventura, CA 93009

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 MAR 28 2002  
 VENTURA SUPERIOR COURTS  
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MAR 25 2002 *AG 3-29*  
 MICHAEL D. PLANET  
 Executive Officer and Clerk  
 BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy

**REF: LETTER FROM THE GRAND JURY, DATED FEBRUARY 21, 2002, REGARDING NEED FOR AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC DEFIBRILLATORS IN VENTURA COUNTY**

Honorable Judge Clark:

Pursuant to the instructions given in the letter from Marvin J. Reeber, Grand Jury Foreman, I offer the following responses:

**FINDINGS**  
 I concur with Findings F-1 through F-4 and F-6 through F-12. As to F-5, I concur in part. As drafted, the Finding infers that the use of a defibrillator, in lieu of prescribed medications, can save lives and reduce costs. I would argue that use of the defibrillator and the use of prescribed medications can lower health costs.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

R-1: I am not aware if the widespread placement of AEDs and CPR trained operators has been initiated throughout all county and cities facilities. The City of Port Hueneme recently purchased two AEDs for use at City facilities. Additional purchases may be considered during the next budget review process.

R-2: I am not aware of the Ventura County Emergency Medical System's attempt to coordinate the utilization and training required for the proper use of AEDs throughout the County. As to implementation, I am not aware of the County's plan, if any, to coordinate such an effort.

R-3: I am unclear as to the intent of the recommendation. It is unclear if the recommendation is supporting a cooperative effort among the cities and the County or refers to each entity initiating its own incentive program. Further, the idea of an incentive program which would encourage the purchase of AED units

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<http://www.ci.port-hueneme.ca.us>

Response 3 - Port Hueneme

**LETTER FROM THE GRAND JURY, DATED FEBRUARY 21, 2002  
MARCH 22, 2002  
PAGE 2**

and the training of employees is vague. No definition of 'incentive program' is provided. Second, I am uncertain as to why an incentive program is needed if a city decides to purchase the AED and train its employees. It would seem the cost to purchase the AEDs and train the staff would be included as part of the budget process. It is unclear if the intent is for the public agencies to create some type of incentive program for the purchase and training of private sector employees throughout the County (R-1 speaks of "county and city facilities"; however, R-3 speaks of "business locations"). With such uncertainty, the question of implementation is unanswerable.

Please advise if any additional comment is required.

Sincerely,



**ROBERT L. HUNT  
CITY MANAGER**

c: City Council



**VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CA 93009 PHONE (805) 654-2380 FAX (805) 645-1391

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BOICBROOKS  
SHERIFF  
KJL 2/20/02  
CRAIG HUSSEY  
UNDERSHERIFF

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APR 17 2002

April 5, 2002

Honorable Bruce Clark  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, California 93009

MICHAEL D. PLANET  
Executive Officer and Clerk  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy  
LOGGED 4/23  
RGT

Re: Response to the 2002-2003 Ventura County Grand Jury Report entitled *The Need for Automatic Electronic Defibrillators in Ventura County*

Dear Judge Clark:

As required by California Penal Code section 933.05, this letter is a response to the findings and recommendations of the 2002-2003 Ventura Grand Jury Report entitled *The Need for Automatic Electronic Defibrillators in Ventura County*. The following are my responses:

Recommendations

**R-1** The Ventura County Sheriff's Department will collaborate with the Ventura County Health Care Agency to identify those locations within the Sheriff's Department that may be deemed appropriate for the placement of an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED) unit. All AED equipment and maintenance will be provided by the Health Care Agency. Preliminary locations identified are the Pre-trial Detention Facility, Todd Road Jail and the East County Patrol Station. If additional AED's are provided a determination will be made to expand the program should training and equipment resources allow.

**R-2** Representatives of the Health Care Agency will provide training to selected members of the Sheriff's Department and will ensure appropriate documentation is maintained. Each location will identify appropriate personnel to participate in the program.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COUNTY POLICE SERVICES 800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009 (805) 654-2380 FAX (805) 645-1391	<input type="checkbox"/> EAST COUNTY POLICE SERVICES 2160 East Ocean Road Thousand Oaks, CA 91320 (805) 484-8291 FAX (805) 484-8295	<input type="checkbox"/> DETENTION SERVICES 800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009 (805) 654-2385 FAX (805) 654-1300	<input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT SERVICES 800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009 (805) 654-2025 FAX (805) 654-2109
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Response 4 - Ventura County Sheriff's Department

The Sheriff's Department will continuously monitor AED training and will encourage employee participation. A re-evaluation of the program will be conducted in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Brooks", written in a cursive style.

BOB BROOKS  
Ventura County Sheriff

*Response 4 - Ventura County Sheriff's Department (continued)*



# City of Santa Paula

April 11, 2002

970 VENTURA STREET  
SANTA PAULA, CALIFORNIA 93001  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 509  
Phone: 805 525-4471  
FAX: 805 525-6273

VENTURA  
SUPERIOR COURTS  
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APR 15 2002

MICHAEL D. PLANET  
Executive Officer and Clerk  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy

Honorable Bruce A. Clark  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Ventura County Hall of Justice  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, Ca. 93009

Re: Response to 2002-2002 Grand Jury Report:  
The Need for Automatic Electronic Defibrillators in Ventura County

*H-16-  
B/C*

As directed, this is my response to the above-referenced Grand Jury report.

FINDINGS: I concur with the Grand Jury's findings.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R-1 The City of Santa Paula will not initiate the widespread placement of AEDs and CPR trained operators at this time, due to financial constraints. Although the cost of an AED is as low as \$2,700, the continuing maintenance and replacement costs and the costs of training and retraining operators are expenses that the City is not prepared to assume. However, if the Emergency Medical Services Agency will provide the units, the continuing maintenance and replacement costs of the units, and the costs of training and retraining operators, the City would of course be interested in participating.

R-2 The City of Santa Paula would be willing consider supporting Ventura County Emergency Medical System's attempt to coordinate the utilization and training in the proper use of AEDs within the City, subject to the financial limitations stated above.

R-3 The City of Santa Paula does not plan to initiate a financial incentive program for businesses to purchase AED units and train employees in their use. On the other hand, the City would certainly be willing to "recognize," at a Council meeting for example, businesses that implemented an AED placement and training system.

*"Citrus Capital of the World"*

Honorable Bruce A. Clark

April 11, 2002

Page 2

I commend the Grand Jury for investigating this issue. As Chief of the Santa Paula Fire Department, I was deeply involved in establishing the department's defibrillator program several years ago.

Unfortunately for Santa Paula, according to data for the year 2000, California's general tax revenue system results in Santa Paula's citizens receiving approximately \$260 per capita annually while Camarillo and Thousand Oaks citizens receive approximately \$305 and \$398 per capita annually, respectively, and this disparity prohibits us from enjoying the levels of service our neighbors enjoy. A citywide defibrillator program is another example of a worthy project that we cannot afford unless it can be completely funded from outside sources.

Sincerely,



Paul L. Skeels  
Interim City Manager

PLS:jgh

cc: City Council

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# MOORPARK

799 Moorpark Avenue Moorpark, California 93021

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APR 9 2002  
MICHAEL D. PLANET  
Executive Officer and Clerk  
Deputy

April 4, 2002

Honorable Bruce A. Clark  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Ventura County Hall of Justice  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

RE: Response to Grand Jury Report on Automatic Electronic Defibrillators

Dear Judge Clark:

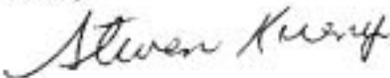
The City of Moorpark has reviewed the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations regarding Automatic Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs) and provides the following response.

The City is exploring the feasibility of placing AEDs in City facilities where large numbers of people or at-risk citizens gather, such as the city hall, community center, recreation center, and senior center. Staff is looking at funding and liability issues, as well as joint use (since the County plans to place an AED in the Moorpark Library adjacent to the Civic Center).

Last month, the City Council approved a program to provide CPR and First Aid training to the City Council and City employees. The goal is to help the City Council and City employees recognize and provide basic care for injuries and sudden illnesses until medical personnel arrive. The City will contract with the American Red Cross to teach an Adult, Infant, and Child CPR and First Aid course. Participants will receive a CPR Certificate valid for one year and a First Aid Certificate valid for three years. Enrollment will be voluntary since mandatory participation would require meet and confer negotiations with the City's employee groups. (The City does not have public safety personnel on staff. The Ventura County Fire Protection District and the Ventura County Sheriff's Department provide public safety services.)

The City supports the County's efforts to identify the sites of AEDs to ensure they meet operator training and equipment maintenance requirements. While budget constraints prevent the City from giving incentives to business to purchase AEDs, the City will highlight the importance of these tools in emergency management publications.

Sincerely,



STEVEN KUENY  
City Manager

SK:KCC

c: Ventura County Grand Jury  
Honorable City Council  
Hugh R. Riley, Assistant City Manager  
Deborah S. Traffenstedt, City Clerk

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PATRICK HUNTER Mayor	ROSEANN MIKOS Mayor Pro Tem	CLINT HARPER Councilmember	KEITH F. MILLHOUSE Councilmember	JOHN E. WOZNIAR Councilmember
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Response 6 - Moorpark



**CITY OF  
SIMI VALLEY**

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APR 24 2002



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April 19, 2002

Honorable Bruce A. Clark  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Ventura County Hall of Justice  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**RE: THE NEED FOR AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC DEFIBRILLATORS IN VENTURA COUNTY**

Dear Judge Clark:

Regarding your request for response on the report entitled *The Need for Automatic Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs) in Ventura County*, the City of Simi Valley concurs with the findings of the report and shares the Grand Jury's interest in the deployment of AEDs throughout public facilities.

As a result, the City has surveyed its offices, police station, patrol units, transit facilities, and other facilities for the potential placement of AEDs. Additionally, CPR training for City employees includes AED training. The City is interested in coordinating with the Ventura County Emergency Medical System in the utilization and further training necessary for the proper use of AEDs within the City.

The largest obstacle to the deployment of AEDs within City facilities has been funding. Due to the number of AED units required for an effective deployment (estimate of 44 units for initial placement) and current budgetary uncertainties facing the City, we have been unable to make these units available. We are currently exploring funding options to facilitate AED deployment in our facilities.

Should you have further questions, please contact Police Sergeant Sterling Johnson at 583-6993 or James Bartholomew, Risk Manager, at 583-6739. We look forward to working with the County on the deployment of these lifesaving devices.

Sincerely,

  
Mike Sedell  
City Manager

cc: City Council  
Grand Jury

**OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDING JUDGE**

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APR 30 2002

KC  
BG  
4-30  
LOGGEI

**BILL DAVIS**  
Mayor

**ELEN T. BECERRA**  
Mayor Pro Tem

**BARBRA WILLIAMSON**  
Council Member

**PAUL MILLER**  
Council Member

**STEVEN T. SOLKA**  
Council Member

**CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA**

April 10, 2002

*BOBG LOGGED 4-30 HEW*  
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Brian Brennan, Deputy Mayor  
Neal Andrews, Councilmember  
James J. Friedman, Councilmember  
James L. Morahan, Councilmember  
Carl E. Morehouse, Councilmember  
Sandy E. Smith, Councilmember

The Honorable Bruce A. Clark  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Ventura County Hall of Justice  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

APR 23 2002  
OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDING JUDGE

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2001-2002 GRAND JURY REPORT ENTITLED *THE NEED FOR AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC DEFIBRILLATORS IN VENTURA COUNTY***

Dear Judge Clark:

The City has reviewed the 2001-2002 Ventura County Grand Jury report entitled *The Need for Automatic Electronic Defibrillators in Ventura County*. As requested, two copies of this response are being provided to the Grand Jury.

**Findings**

The Grand Jury's letter of February 21, 2002 requested that the City of Ventura state whether we concur, concur in part, or disagree with the Grand Jury's finds as well as explain the reasons why we disagree, in whole or part, with each applicable finding.

The City of Ventura **concur**s with the findings F-1 through F-3, F-5 through F-7, and F-9 through F-12. We concur in part, with F-4 and F-8 as explained in the following notations:

**F-4** *The only treatment for ventricular fibrillation is an administered shock called defibrillation. American Heart Association studies show Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), prompt defibrillation and timely transport to a hospital setting greatly increase the chance of survival. For each minute that defibrillation is delayed, the chance of survival is reduced by 7-10%. Defibrillation administered within the first five minutes after the onset of ventricular fibrillation increases the chance of survival by 50%. The survival rate is enhanced further if CPR has been administered.*

Defibrillation is the definitive treatment for ventricular fibrillation and we agree that prompt defibrillation should be the initial treatment for ventricular fibrillation. There are some cases of ventricular fibrillation, however, which do not respond to defibrillation alone and require oxygenation and medication therapy along with defibrillation. Also, some cardiopulmonary arrests do not result in ventricular fibrillation making the AED ineffective.

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Response 8 - City of San Buena Ventura

The Honorable Bruce A. Clark  
Page 2  
April 8, 2002

**F-8** *The AED uses computer technology to analyze the cardiac rhythm and tell the trained operator when to use the machine appropriately. Therefore, the layperson does not have to be knowledgeable of cardiac rhythm to defibrillate a victim of sudden cardiac death.*

Although we agree with the wording in F-8, we think it is important to note that the layperson does have to be knowledgeable about when to use the AED and any special conditions that may require additional actions, i.e. the presence of a pacemaker or wet surfaces.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

In addition, the Grand Jury's letter of February 21, 2002 requests that the City Managers as well as various other County agencies and boards provide the responses to Recommendations R-1, R-2, and R-3.

**R-1** *Initiate the widespread placement of AEDs and CPR trained operators throughout all county and city facilities where large numbers of people or 'at risk' citizens congregate. Locations for consideration would include city halls, courthouses, jails, auditoriums, libraries, senior citizens' centers, high schools, and golf courses, as well as units available for use at concerts, fairs, and other large events.*

#### **Implemented**

Ventura City Fire Department has operated a first-responder AED program since 1989. There are seven AEDs strategically placed throughout the city on fire companies and sixty-eight personnel trained in their use. In addition, American Medical Response ambulance service has four ambulances equipped with defibrillators stationed throughout the city. We are in the process of obtaining an AED for the Harbor Patrol and have initiated the training needed for implementation. In 2001, AEDs were placed at both Olivas Park and Buenaventura Golf Courses.

Ventura City Fire Department recently purchased Medtronic Physio-Control Lifepak 12 defibrillators to integrate with the County EMS AED program, (see map of AED locations). In addition, Ventura City Fire Department trains approximately 250 persons per year in their citizen CPR program supporting the chain of survival in the city.

**R-2** *Support the Ventura County Emergency Medical System's attempt to coordinate the utilization and training required for the proper use of AEDs throughout the County.*

The Honorable Bruce A. Clark  
Page 3  
April 8, 2002

**Implemented**

The City has supported Ventura County EMS's attempts to coordinate the utilization and training of AEDs throughout the county by the Fire Department's active participation in the

Prehospital Services Committee and by working to integrate our defibrillation program with the public access defibrillators.

*R-3 The city and county governing bodies initiate an incentive program which would encourage the purchase of AED units and the training of employees in their use at business locations throughout the County.*

**Requires further study**

The City strongly supports and encourages the increased use of AEDs in our city. The City will partner with the County and other cities in the efforts to support PAD programs.

The City recognizes that making early defibrillation more readily available will increase the chance of survival from cardiac arrest and improve the emergency medical care provided to the citizens of Ventura.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury's report. Please feel free to contact Fire Chief Dennis Downs at (805) 339-4310 if any additional information is needed.

Sincerely,



Donna Landeros  
Ventura City Manager

c. City Council

Attachment

*Response 8 - City of San Buena Ventura (continued)*



RECEIVED  
VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

EDMUND F. SOTELO  
City Manager

APR 23 2002

OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDING JUDGE

April 17, 2002

Honorable Bruce A. Clark  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Ventura County Hall of Justice  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

Bob G  
LOGGED  
4-30  
HEW

Dear Judge Clark:

The City of Oxnard has reviewed the 2001-2002 Ventura County Grand Jury report entitled "The Need for Automatic Electronic Defibrillators in Ventura County." We agree with the findings of the report with the following notations:

Findings

- F-4 Defibrillation is the definitive treatment for ventricular fibrillation and we agree that prompt defibrillation should be the initial treatment for ventricular fibrillation. There are some cases of ventricular fibrillation, however, which do not respond to defibrillation and require oxygenation and medication therapy along with defibrillation. And some cardio-pulmonary arrests do not result in ventricular fibrillation making the AED ineffective.
- F-8 Although we agree with the wording in F-8, we think it is important to note that the layperson does have to be knowledgeable about when to use the AED and any special conditions that may require additional actions; i.e., the presence of a pacemaker or wet surfaces.

The City has or will implement the recommendation as follows:

Recommendations

- R-1 Implemented

The City of Oxnard has operated a first responder AED program since 1990. There are nine AEDs strategically placed throughout the City on



City Manager's Office

Honorable Bruce A. Clark

-2-

April 17, 2002

fire apparatus and 78 personnel are trained in their use. In addition, Gold Coast Ambulance Service has six ambulances and three supervisor vehicles equipped with defibrillators stationed throughout the City. In April 2002, River Ridge Golf Course put an AED in service and trained 85 personnel in its use. The City will continue to evaluate additional locations for the potential placement of AEDs.

R-2 Implemented

The City has supported Ventura County EMS's attempts to coordinate the utilization and training of AEDs throughout the county by the fire department's active participation in the Prehospital Services Committee and by working to integrate our defibrillation program with the public access defibrillators.

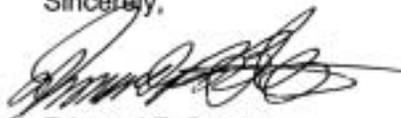
R-3 Requires further study

The City strongly supports and encourages the increased use of AEDs in our City. The City will further support PAD programs by:

- Pursuing funding sources
- Investigating other incentive programs
- Exploring appropriate locations for AEDs in high-risk or high-density populations.

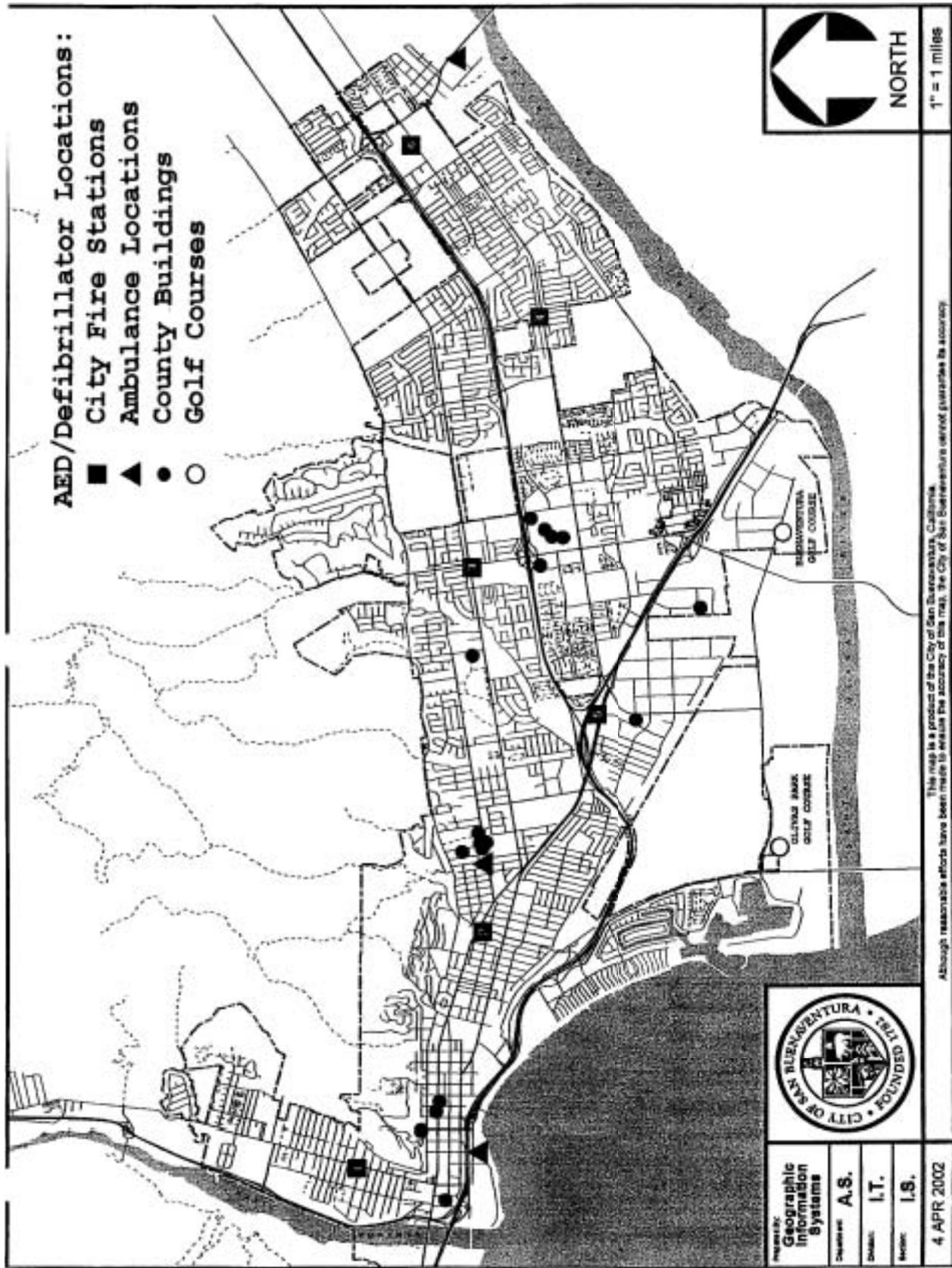
By making early defibrillation more available, we increase the chance of survival from cardiac arrest and improve the emergency medical care provided to the citizens of Oxnard.

Sincerely,



Edmund F. Sotelo  
City Manager

*Response 9 - City of Oxnard (continued)*



Map of AED/Defibrillator Locations in the city of Ventura