

**VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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May 17, 2006

Honorable John R. Smiley, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, Ventura County
Hall of Justice, #2120
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

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VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Dear Judge Smiley:

The Ventura County Transportation Commission has received a copy of the Ventura County 2005-06 Grand Jury Report titled, *Camarillo Metro Link Station*. We appreciate the time and effort spent by the Grand Jury looking into this matter.

The Grand Jury made two recommendations for VCTC's consideration. The first, that VCTC develop clear policies and procedures for the procurement of public art and that those policies be adopted by the VCTC Board after review of the proposed procedures, is a recommendation which we support and plan to implement as soon as reasonably possible. All of VCTC's federal/state funding programs have been fully allocated and there are no other public art projects funded or anticipated to be funded in the near future. Nonetheless, we believe that it would be prudent to develop and adopt specific policies and we plan to do so.

The second recommendation that "[t]he VCTC Board should obtain prior or concurrent advice of legal counsel when taking action other than under the California Public Utilities Code, especially when entering into contracts for procurements..." is the procedure that VCTC always follows, so no new action is required. At the time the Grand Jury reviewed the matter of the Camarillo Metrolink Station, we had just changed attorneys. Mary Gayle, our attorney of over 15 years who retired, began the legal process for VCTC that was subsequently assumed by our current attorney, Mitchel Kahn. All procedures, contracts, procurements, claims, etc, were and are reviewed by counsel before any action is taken by staff or the Commission. Legal advice that may be given at a VCTC meeting, may not always appear in the minutes of the meeting, however all meetings are taped and videotaped for broadcast on cable. Those records are kept and available for review. In general, VCTC maintains action, not verbatim, minutes.

VCTC would like to thank the Grand Jury for its consideration of this matter. We are very impressed by the dedication and thoughtfulness of the members of the Grand Jury.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ginger Gherardi".

Ginger Gherardi
Executive Director