



EDMUND F. SOTELO
City Manager

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
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July 2, 2009

Ventura County Grand Jury
Attention: Ronald J. Zenone, Foreman
800 South Victoria Avenue
L#2751
Ventura, CA 93009

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VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Dear Ventura County Grand Jury,

Thank you for your comprehensive report regarding the use of red light enforcement cameras in the Cities of Oxnard and Ventura. The report, which took into account data from 2008 and 2009, yielded results which were both helpful and encouraging. On behalf of the Mayor and City Council, I would like to respond to your recommendations.

R-03. The Cities of Oxnard and Ventura should emphasize traffic engineering as a means to mitigate the public safety concerns of red light violations, in addition to the installation of automated RLC enforcement. (C-07, C-08)

Response: The Respondent agrees with the recommendation.

The City of Oxnard has upgraded all 8-inch signal display heads with larger 12-inch signal display heads at all traffic signals under the City of Oxnard's jurisdiction. Along with the conversion of all signal displays from incandescent light sources to brighter Light Emitting Diode (LED) light sources this ensures the signal display heads are clear and visible.

R-04. The Cities of Oxnard and Ventura should continue to address public safety concerns with the use of RLCs as an enhancement to traditional enforcement of red light violations by uniformed police officers. (C-01, C-02)

Response: The Respondent agrees with the recommendation

The Oxnard Police Department working closely with the Traffic Engineering Division responds to public input and incident reports received to improve signal coordination and efficiently deploy resources.

R-05. The Cities of Oxnard and Ventura should add the minimum dollar amount of the fine to signage alerting the public at RLC-enforced intersections. (C-08)

Response: The Respondent disagrees partially with the recommendation.

When conveying information to drivers, it is important not to overwhelm the driver with too much information. When approaching a traffic signal controlled intersection, the driver is already processing several pieces of information such as right of way assignment, pedestrian activity, street name sign and speed limit indication. At photo enforced intersection there is an additional sign warning the driver of use of camera enforcement. A sign indicating the monetary amount of the penalty is informative but at the same time may not be necessary.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this response, please contact our City Traffic Engineer, Jason Samonte, at 805-385-7872.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edmund F. Sotelo', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Edmund F. Sotelo
City Manager

cc: Honorable Kevin J. McGee, Presiding Judge,
Superior Court of California, Ventura County, P. O. Box 6489, Ventura 93003
Oxnard Mayor and City Council
Jason Samonte, Public Works