



# CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

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July 25, 2011

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VENTURA COUNTY  
GRAND JURY

The Honorable Vincent O'Neill, Jr.  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
County of Ventura  
800 S. Victoria Ave.  
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Judge O'Neill:

The City of Simi Valley has received the 2010-2011 Grand Jury report, "Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Rangers" and in accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05, we submit this response to the Grand Jury findings.

The City Council appreciates the efforts of the Grand Jury in examining governmental duties and operations so we may continue to deliver services to the communities we serve in a cost effective and appropriate manner. Further, the Simi Valley Police Department values the work of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Rangers and the Ventura County Sheriff's Department and has long enjoyed a collaborative working relationship with these agencies as it relates to addressing the full range of law enforcement issues.

The Grand Jury requires a response to findings FI-02, FI-03, and FI-04.

## Findings

*FI-02. All District properties fall within the jurisdiction of either the SVPD or the VCSD. These agencies have the duty to provide law enforcement and public safety at all District properties. Rangers patrolling 47 District parks and facilities distributed over a large area are superfluous and ineffective.*

Response to FI-02:

While District properties are within either the Simi Valley Police Department or the Ventura County Sheriff's Department jurisdiction, the Ranger program serves a distinct purpose beyond that performed by the respective law enforcement agencies. While Rangers patrol the parks, they also educate park goers as to park regulations and rules, which is a task that Simi Valley Police Department personnel would not typically perform. The Simi Valley Police Department and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in place, which provides that the Rangers contain incidents when they occur, and places

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responsibility for managing investigations with the Simi Valley Police Department. The presence of Rangers in the parks assists in deterring crime, and allows for a timely response and more effective allocation of resources.

*FI-03. The level of law enforcement provided by the SVPD on District properties and the few contacts from the rangers requesting SVPD assistance demonstrate the relative importance of the SVPD in serving park properties.*

Response to FI-03:

As previously stated, the Simi Valley Police Department has an existing MOA in place with the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. While the two entities work in concert, the Rangers perform functions that the Simi Valley Police Department does not currently have the staffing levels to manage.

*FI-04. The expenditure of public funds for the Ranger Program should be called into question given the presence and jurisdiction of the SVPD and the VCSD.*

Response to FI-04:

The Simi Valley Police Department concurs with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department response to the Grand Jury on this finding. Given resource limitations, it cannot be assumed that the Simi Valley Police Department would be positioned to fill a void created by the elimination of the Ranger program without placing stress on City resources.

The City Council considered the Grand Jury report at its July 25, 2011 meeting and authorized this response. The contents of this letter shall also constitute the response requested of the Chief of Police. We appreciate the efforts of the Grand Jury in looking at this matter and this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Robert O. Huber  
Mayor

cc: **Foreman, Ventura Grand Jury**  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
Chief of Police  
Assistant City Manager, Government Affairs  
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: RANCHO SIM Recreation and Park District RANDBERS

Report Date: MAY 19, 2011

Response by: ROBERT O. HUBER Title: MAYOR

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: \_\_\_\_\_
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: FI-02, FI-03, FI-04  
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered N/A have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered N/A have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered N/A require further analysis.  
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered N/A will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 7/25/11 Signed: [Signature]

Number of pages attached 2