

Ventura County Grand Jury Final Report

2012-2013

July 1, 2013

To the Residents of Ventura County:

For the first time, the Ventura County Grand Jury elected this year to produce a totally electronic Final Report, or e-Report. In addition to saving the County the cost of paper, printing and binding of the report, the Final Report is a live document that will be augmented with the required and requested responses of the subjects of the report. Comparing the report to the responses is the best way to evaluate the facts, findings and recommendations made by the Grand Jury. Your 2012-2013 Grand Jury invites you to read the report with the responses and make your own judgments.


The Final Report represents the footprint of the 2012-2013 Grand Jury covering all manner of people, places and things investigated this year in the County and affecting the following:

Every voter;
Every K-12 and community college student;
Every senior citizen;
Every inmate, deputy and medical staff member;
Every resident in all ten cities;
County and municipal fuel pumps;
Every driver in the City of Ventura;
Every library patron; and even
Every oak tree in Thousand Oaks.

Another accomplishment of the 2012-2013 Grand Jury is the approval of a Spanish-language Public Complaint form by the Presiding Judge. Now, for residents who learned Spanish as a first language, the process of filing a complaint with the Grand Jury is easier.

Finally, on behalf of the entire Grand Jury, please consider serving a term on a future grand jury to represent your community and to improve Ventura County for all its residents.

Sincerely,


Jay Stephen Whitney, Foreperson,
2012-2013 Ventura County Grand Jury

2012-2013 Ventura County Grand Jury



Final Report

The Ventura County Grand Jury is an independent investigative body with two major functions:

1. Civil Government Oversight - examination of all aspects of county and city government and special districts to ensure that the best interests of county citizens are being served.
2. Citizen Complaints - investigation of the validity of complaints brought by citizens alleging government misconduct, mistreatment, or inefficiencies.

California Penal Code section 933 directs the Grand Jury to prepare and issue a final report. California Penal Code section 916 requires that all problems identified in the final report be accompanied by suggested means for resolution, including financial, where applicable.

On the Cover – Port Hueneme Beach
Reprinted by permission by Nicole Parr

Legal Requirements for Responses

California Penal Code Section 933.05

- (a) For purposes of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to each grand jury finding, the responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:
 - (1) The respondent agrees with the finding.
 - (2) The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefore.
- (b) For the purposes of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:
 - (1) The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.
 - (2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.
 - (3) The recommendation requires further analysis, with 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 head 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.
 - (4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefore.
- (c) However, if a finding or recommendation of a grand jury addresses budgetary or personnel matters of a county agency or department headed by an elected officer, both the agency or department head and the board of supervisors shall respond if requested by the grand jury, but the response of the board of supervisors shall address only those budgetary or personnel matters over which it has some decision making authority. The response of the elected agency or department head shall address all aspects of the findings or recommendations affecting his or her agency or department.
- (d) A grand jury may request a subject person or entity to come before the grand jury for the purpose of reading and discussing the findings of the grand jury report that relates to that person or entity in order to verify the accuracy of the findings prior to their release.
- (e) During an investigation, the grand jury shall meet with the subject of that investigation regarding the investigation, unless the court, either on its own determination or upon the request of the foreperson of the grand jury, determines that such a meeting would be detrimental.
- (f) A grand jury shall provide to the affected agency a copy of the portion of the grand jury report relating to that person or entity two working days prior to its public release and after approval of the presiding judge. No officer, agency, department, or governing body of a public agency shall disclose any contents of the report prior to the public release of the final report.



Brian J. Back
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
January 1, 2013 – Present



Vincent J. O'Neill, Jr.
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2012



2012-2013 VENTURA COUNTY GRAND JURY

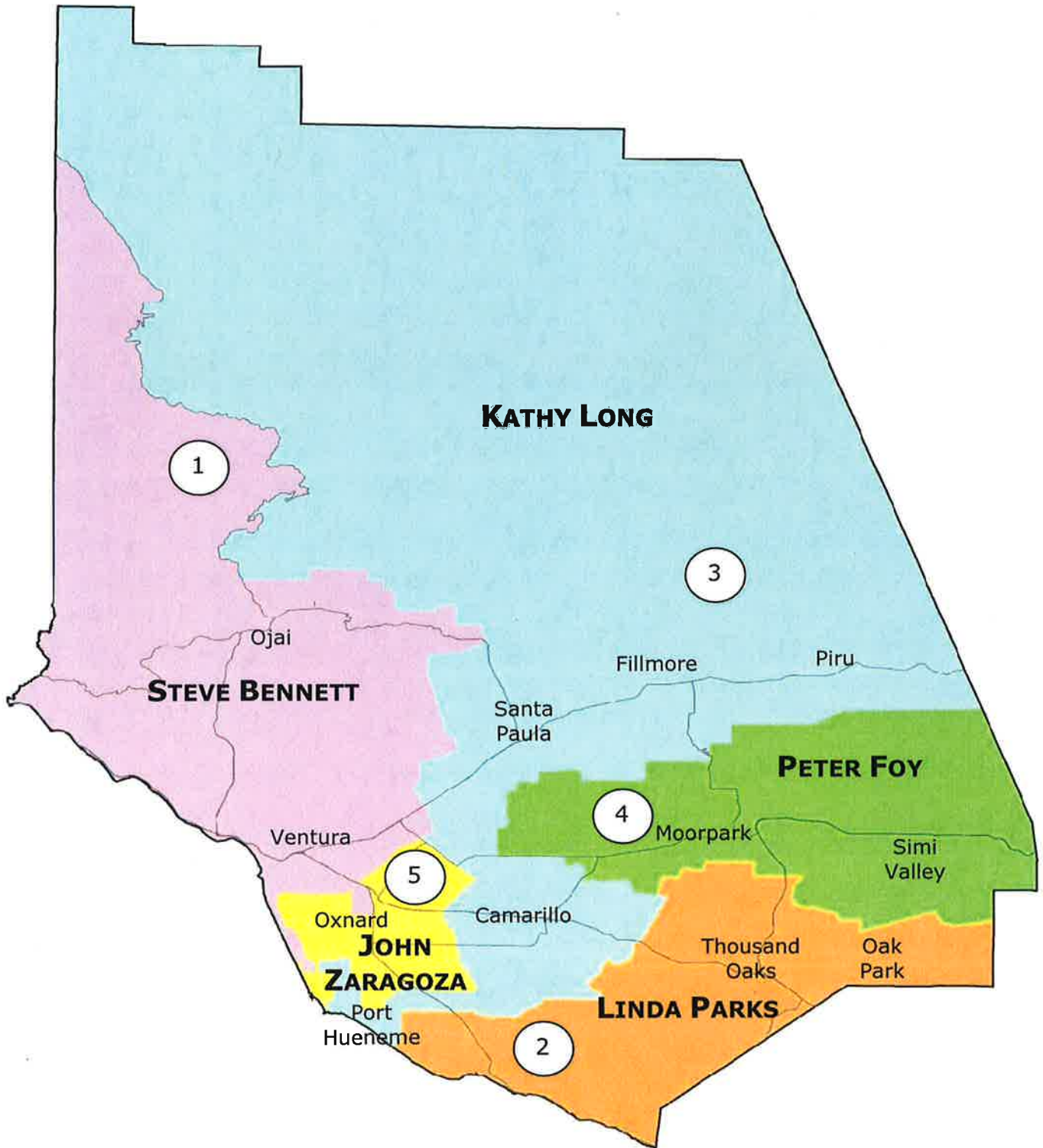
Standing in the Back (L-R): James Delgado, Martin Bolger, John Mercer, Ronald Cameron, Rosemary Reitz, Garnetta Person, Judith Cohen, Rita Klinshaw, Robert Peskay, Donald Williams, Martin Young, Michael Tempin

Seated in the Front (L-R): Frank Rabinowitz, Frank "Bud" Locker, Gail Bianchino, Jay Whitney, Walter Gause, Joyce Overbaugh, Pat Quinon

Ventura County 2012-2013 Grand Jury

Gail Bianchino Foreman Pro Tem	Westlake Village	District 2
Martin Bolger Protocol Officer	Newbury Park	District 2
Ronald L. Cameron Recording Secretary	Camarillo	District 3
Judith Cohen Librarian/Archivist	Ventura	District 1
James Delgado Technology Specialist	Camarillo	District 3
Walter K. Gause Treasurer	Camarillo	District 3
Rita Klinshaw	Oak View	District 1
Frank (Bud) Locker	Camarillo	District 3
John Mercer	Oxnard	District 5
Joyce Overbaugh Correspondence Secretary	Oak View	District 1
Garnetta Person	Ventura	District 1
Robert A. Peskay	Moorpark	District 4
Patrick G. Quinn Parliamentarian	Ventura	District 1
Frank Rabinowitz Sgt-at-Arms	Ventura	District 1
Rosemary Reitz	Ventura	District 1
Michael Templin	Oak View	District 1
Jay Whitney Foreman	Westlake Village	District 2
Donald Williams	Ventura	District 1
Martin Young	Ojai	District 1

Supervisorial Districts in Ventura County



Protocol Visits and Agency Briefings

The purpose of protocol visits and agency briefings is to educate the Grand Jury to governmental functions of the County, cities, and special districts within the County so the jurors can meaningfully perform their statutory oversight functions. These visits have the benefit of acquainting the Jury with employees and officials of the institutions they will be examining and enabling the jurors to better evaluate the governmental, legal, and environmental conditions under which they are administered.

On occasions protocol visits may be made to relevant institutions outside of the County so that by observation and comparison the Jury can better evaluate the local processes being examined and make informed judgments and assessments of local agencies and departments in comparison with those in other counties.

Also, California Penal Code section 919(b) requires that the Grand Jury visit jails within the County to inspect their conditions and management. Accordingly, the 2012-2013 Grand Jury visited all detention facilities and jails in the County.

The 2012-2013 Grand Jury members visited 19 facilities, agencies and departments within the Ventura County and received 30 agency briefings. In addition, Grand Jury members participated in 2012 General Election and monitored polling stations in Ventura County and "ride-alongs."

Protocol Visits

Channel Islands Air National Guard Station
Exotic Animal Training and Management Facility – Moorpark College
Oxnard Harbor District
Port of Hueneme – Oxnard Harbor District
Reagan Library – Medal of Honor Program
Reagan Library – Veteran's Day
Santa Paula Police Department
Todd Road Jail
Ventura County Harbor Department
Ventura County Health Care Agency
Ventura County Juvenile Justice Court
Ventura County Juvenile Justice Detention Facility
Ventura County Main Jail
Ventura County Medical Center, Ventura
Ventura County Medical Examiner
Ventura County Office of Emergency Services
Ventura County Probation Agency Work-Furlough Housing
Ventura County Sheriff's Crime Laboratory
Ventura Harbor District

Agency Briefings

Board of Supervisors, Ventura County, District 1, Steve Bennett
Board of Supervisors, Ventura County, District 2, Linda Parks

Board of Supervisors, Ventura County, District 3, Kathy Long
Board of Supervisors, Ventura County, District 4, Peter Foy
Board of Supervisors, Ventura County, District 5, John Zaragoza
City of Camarillo
City of Fillmore
City of Moorpark
City of Ojai
City of Oxnard
City of Port Hueneme
City of Santa Paula
City of Simi Valley
City of Thousand Oaks
City of Ventura
Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO)
Ventura County Auditor-Controller
Ventura County Assessor
Ventura County Counsel
Ventura County District Attorney
Ventura County District Attorney, Chief of Investigations
Ventura County Environmental Health
Ventura County Executive Officer
Ventura County Fire Chief
Ventura County General Service Agency
Ventura County Healthcare Agency
Ventura County Probation Department
Ventura County Sheriff
Ventura County Transportation Commission

Grand Jury Community Relations Presentations

The Community Relations Committee is charged with educating the public about the Grand Jury. Part of this committee’s assignment is to hold presentations for the public and answer the public’s questions as to the duties and responsibilities of the Jury. This committee introduced the first Spanish language complaint form. Grand Jury members visited the following locations, made presentations, and distributed informational pamphlets during the 2012-2013 Grand Jury term.

Organization	City
Camarillo Presbyterian Church	Camarillo
Friends and Family Open House	Ventura
Grand Jury Open House	Ventura
Kiwanis Club of Simi Valley	Simi Valley
KVTA – Radio Show	Ventura
Radio Lazar	Oxnard
Rotary Club of Camarillo	Camarillo
Superior Court of California, County of Ventura, Jury Assembly Room	Ventura