

SEP 24 2015

VENTURA COUNTY  
GRAND JURY**EXHIBIT 2****FY 2014-2015 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT****RESPONSES TO FINDINGS (FI) AND RECOMMENDATIONS (R)**

Report Number (& Date)	Report Title	Respondents (With FI and R #)
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**REPORT NO. 02 June 1, 2015**

Title: **Countywide Bicycle Safety**

**Required**

Respondent:  
(for approval)

**Board of Supervisors**

(FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-04, FI-05, FI-06, FI-07, FI-08, FI-09, FI-10 and FI-11; plus R-01, R-02, R-03 and R-04)

**Required**

Respondent:  
(for information)

**Sheriff's Office**

(FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-05, FI-06, FI-07 and FI-08; plus FI-09, FI-10 and FI-11; plus R-01, R-02 and R-03)

**Requested**

Respondent:  
(for information)

**City of Thousand Oaks Police Department\***

(FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-05 and FI-08; plus R-01)

\*NOTE: As the City of Thousand Oaks is a Sheriff's Office contract city, its response is incorporated within the Sheriff's Office response.

# Response to 2014 - 2015 Grand Jury Report

Report Title: Countywide Bicycle Safety

Report Date: June 1, 2015 Responding Agency/Dept. County Board of Supervisors

Response Prepared by: Frank Chow Title: PMA, County Executive Office

## FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: FI-04
- I (we) agree, with qualification, with the findings numbered: FI-01 thru FI-03, FI-04 thru FI-1  
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefore.)

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-01 have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered None have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered R-02 thru R-04 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 None will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9-15-15

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Kathy Long*

Kathy Long - Chair Board of Supervisors

Number of pages attached: \_\_\_\_\_

4

ATTEST: MICHAEL POWERS  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura, State of California

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*Appeliano*  
Deputy Clerk of the Board



**Response to 2014-2015 Grand Jury Final Report**  
**Countywide Bicycle Safety**  
**From Ventura County Board of Supervisors**

**Findings**

*FI-01. Throughout the County, law enforcement personnel rarely enforce helmet laws. They do not enforce bicycle licensing ordinances.*

Agree with qualification. The Board of Supervisors has no direct data from which to determine the validity of this statement. However, based on the response provided by the Sheriff, it appears this finding is likely true. Additionally, there appears to be unique circumstances that warrant a different response depending on the jurisdiction. It is therefore recommended the Grand Jury refer to the Sheriff and other local law enforcement responses to this finding.

*FI-02. Licensing or registering bicycles with the police assists in the return of lost or stolen bicycles to owners, thereby reducing the number of unclaimed bicycles.*

Agree with qualification. The Board of Supervisors has no direct data from which to determine the validity of this statement. However, based on the response provided by the Sheriff, it appears this finding is likely true. Additionally, there appears to be unique circumstances that warrant a different response depending on the jurisdiction. It is therefore recommended the Grand Jury refer to the Sheriff and other local law enforcement responses to this finding.

*FI-03. Bicycle helmet laws for children are not routinely complied with nor enforced.*

Agree with qualification. The Board of Supervisors has no direct data from which to determine the validity of this statement. However, based on the response provided by the Sheriff, it appears this finding is likely true. Additionally, there appears to be unique circumstances that warrant a different response depending on the jurisdiction. It is therefore recommended the Grand Jury refer to the Sheriff and other local law enforcement responses to this finding.

*FI-04. Adult bicycle deaths may be reduced if adults wear helmets.*

Agree.

*FI-05. Of all the factors contributing to bicyclists' deaths and injuries, motor vehicle driver error is the most prevalent. Rear-ending of cyclists is the most common error.*

Agree with qualification. While this may be true, the Board of Supervisors has no direct data from which to determine the validity of this statement and there was not enough information presented in the report. On findings regarding bicycle statistics countywide, it is recommended the Grand Jury refer to the Sheriff and other local law enforcement responses to this finding as well as any research available from the Sheriff, local law enforcement agencies and the Ventura County Transportation Committee (VCTC).

*FI-06. Instruction related to bicycle laws and bicycle safety is insufficient throughout the County.*

**Response to 2014-2015 Grand Jury Final Report**  
**Countywide Bicycle Safety**  
**From Ventura County Board of Supervisors**

Agree with qualification. While the Board agrees more instruction would intuitively be beneficial, the Board of Supervisors has no direct data from which to determine the validity of this statement and there was not enough information presented in the report. On findings regarding bicycle statistics countywide, it is recommended the Grand Jury refer to the Sheriff and other local law enforcement responses to this finding as well as any research available from the Sheriff, local law enforcement agencies and the Ventura County Transportation Committee (VCTC).

*FI-07. Statistics on bicycle accidents imply a lack of compliance with the laws and rules of the road. There is a need for the public to be aware of the laws. It is incumbent upon cyclists and drivers to know and obey the laws.*

Agree with qualification. While the Board agrees greater awareness of the laws and rules of the road would be intuitively beneficial, the Board of Supervisors has no direct data from which to determine the validity of this statement and there was not enough information presented in the report. On findings regarding bicycle statistics countywide, it is recommended the Grand Jury refer to the Sheriff and other local law enforcement responses to this finding as well as any research available from the Sheriff, local law enforcement agencies and the Ventura County Transportation Committee (VCTC).

*FI-08. Salmoning places cyclists at greater risk as motor vehicle drivers are not expecting riders to be coming directly toward them. Many people are unaware that salmoning is illegal in the State.*

Agree with qualification. While the Board agrees salmoning is intuitively dangerous and the references within the report on this finding are consistent with this statement, the Board of Supervisors has no direct data from which to determine the validity of this statement and there was not enough information presented in the report. On findings regarding bicycle statistics countywide, it is recommended the Grand Jury refer to the Sheriff and other local law enforcement responses to this finding as well as any research available from the Sheriff, local law enforcement agencies and the Ventura County Transportation Committee (VCTC).

*FI-09. Cities and counties utilizing bicycle advisory commissions/committees have been able to create better bicycling conditions and infrastructure, such as bike lanes, tunnels, and paths that provide for safer bicycle usage.*

Agree with qualification. While the Board agrees the limited references within the report on this finding are consistent with this statement, the Board of Supervisors has no direct data from which to determine the validity of this statement and there was not enough information presented in the report.

*FI-10. City and county bicycle advisory commissions/committees have been able to better educate people to be aware of bicyclists. They help bicyclists become more*

**Response to 2014-2015 Grand Jury Final Report**  
**Countywide Bicycle Safety**  
**From Ventura County Board of Supervisors**

*knowledgeable of the rules of the road and thus become safer cyclists.*

Agree with qualification. While the Board agrees the limited references within the report on this finding are consistent with this statement, the Board of Supervisors has no direct data from which to determine the validity of this statement and there was not enough information presented in the report

*.FI-11. Bicycle advisory commissions/committees, working in conjunction with city councils and/or transportation agencies, have been able to assist local governments in obtaining State, federal, and other grant monies to be used to build bicycling infrastructure and educate the public about pertinent laws and safe riding practices.*

Agree with qualification. The Board agrees the limited references within the report on this finding are consistent with this statement.

### **Recommendations**

*R-01. The Grand Jury recommends that the County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of all cities within the County encourage their respective law enforcement personnel to increase enforcement of bicycle and related motor vehicle laws.*

Already Implemented. The Board encourages the enforcement of all laws, including bicycle and related motor vehicle laws, and through participation on VCTC, the pursuit of related grants that address such issues. However, as circumstances in each city or area of the county is unique, we defer the decision to increase enforcement of bicycle laws from current levels to the Sheriff and each local law enforcement agency, as they are the experts on this issue for their jurisdiction and the cost versus benefit of such increased enforcement.

*R-02. The Grand Jury recommends that the County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of all cities within the County that do not already have a Bicycle Advisory Commission/Committee establish one to perform such tasks as:*

- *Identify roads in need of bicycle lanes*
- *Research federal, State, and other funding sources for projects related to bicycle infrastructure and use*
- *Issue motor vehicle and bicycle public safety announcements*
- *Promote use of bicycles as a viable form of transportation and for health and ecological reasons*
- *Offer safety education and bike rodeos for children*
- *Provide liaison between city councils, transportation agencies, and the community on bicycle-related issues and concerns*
- *Assist in the development and dissemination of educational materials related to bicycle laws and safety*

**Response to 2014-2015 Grand Jury Final Report**  
**Countywide Bicycle Safety**  
**From Ventura County Board of Supervisors**

- *Review and comment on private development plans that include bicycle facilities or have an impact on bicycle safety and access*
- *Review and promote the enforcement of city and State laws related to bicycle safety*
- *Encourage the public to register bicycles and keep a record of the serial numbers to facilitate the return of stolen or lost bicycles.*

Requires Further Analysis. The board of Supervisors recommends that the VCTC would be the proper agency to establish a countywide Bicycle Commission. All 10 cities and all 5 County Supervisors are represented on the Commission, and bicycle issues are part of VCTC's core mobility functions. Additionally, there is a VCTC Committee, the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) which is comprised of representatives from each city and the county. CTAC is charged with reviewing the Article 3 Bicycle/Pedestrian Grant Funding annually. They also review the Bicycle Master Plan and could serve as a countywide Bicycle Commission if directed by the Commission. Members of our Board will request that this recommendation be placed on an upcoming VCTC meeting agenda for discussion.

*R-03. The Grand Jury recommends the County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of all cities within the County, continually promote bicycle laws and safety to people of all ages, concentrating on school-age children through events such as bike rodeos, bicycle rallies, and other educational activities.*

Requires Further Analysis. The Board supports this recommendation, however as noted in the previous recommendation response, recommends the VCTC as the appropriate entity to facilitate countywide increased promotion and education of bicycle and related road laws, as well as promote such events. Members of our Board will request that this recommendation be placed on an upcoming VCTC meeting agenda for discussion.

*R-04. The Grand Jury recommends the County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of all cities within the County use local media (e.g., public service announcements, public events, and government websites) to educate the motor vehicle driving public and bicyclists of their responsibility to know and obey bicycle-related laws.*

Requires Further Analysis. The Board supports this recommendation, however as noted in the previous recommendation response, recommends the VCTC as the appropriate entity to facilitate countywide increased promotion and education of bicycle and related road laws, as well as promote such events. Members of our Board will request that this recommendation be agerized at an upcoming VCTC meeting agenda for discussion.



# VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- GEOFF DEAN  
Sheriff
- GARY PENTIS  
Undersheriff
- STEVE DE CESARI  
Assistant Sheriff
- GUY STEWART  
Assistant Sheriff

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

August 26, 2015

The Honorable Judge Donald D. Coleman  
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Grand Jury Report, Countywide Bicycle Safety (June 01, 2015)

Dear Judge Coleman:

This letter is in response to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations pertaining to the countywide bicycle safety report, as it relates to the Ventura County Sheriff Office's unincorporated areas and the cities that contract law enforcement services from the Sheriff's Office (Fillmore Police Department, Moorpark Police Department, Ojai Police Department, and Thousand Oaks Police Department). The Camarillo Police Department's response will be incorporated with the City of Camarillo's response.

## **FILLMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

**Finding:** FI-01. Throughout the County, law enforcement personnel rarely enforce helmet laws. They do not enforce bicycle licensing ordinances.

**Response:** The Fillmore Police Department agrees with the Grand Jury that helmet laws are rarely enforced and we do not enforce the bicycle licensing ordinance.

We currently have a volunteer licensing program available to the public. The Fillmore Police Department plans to continue this volunteer program in the best interest of public relations. We will encourage the public to participate more in the registration process for the reasons stated by the Grand Jury in FI-02.

**Finding:** FI-02. Licensing or registering bicycles with the police assists in the return of lost or stolen bicycles to owners, thereby reducing the number of unclaimed bicycles.

**Response:** The Fillmore Police Department agrees with the finding. We currently have a volunteer licensing process and will continue our current procedures stated in FI-01.

SPECIAL SERVICES  
(805) 383-8791 Fax (805) 189-6549

PATROL SERVICES  
(805) 494-8260 FAX (805) 494-8295

DETENTION SERVICES  
(805) 654-2305 FAX (805) 654-3500

SUPPORT SERVICES  
(805) 654-5134 FAX (805) 677-877

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**Finding:** FI-03. Bicycle helmet laws for children are not routinely complied with nor enforced.

**Response:** The Fillmore Police Department agrees with the finding. Refer to FI-01

**Finding:** FI-05. Of all the factors contributing to bicyclists' deaths and injuries, motor vehicle driver error is the most prevalent. Rear-ending of cyclists is the most common error.

**Response:** The Fillmore Police Department agrees with the finding.

**Finding:** FI-08. Salmoning places cyclists at greater risk as motor vehicle drivers are not expecting riders to be coming directly toward them. Many people are unaware that salmoning is illegal in the State.

**Response:** The Fillmore Police Department agrees with the finding. We will make a greater effort to enforce traffic laws (CVC 21200 requires bicyclist follow the same traffic laws motorists must follow.)

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendation:** R-01 The Grand Jury recommends that the County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of all cities within the County encourage their respective law enforcement personnel to increase enforcement of bicycle safety and related motor vehicle laws. (FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-05, FI-08)

**Response:** The Fillmore Police Department agrees with this recommendation. The Fillmore Police Department will continue to focus on education and awareness campaigns to educate children and their parents of the requirements for wearing helmets and enforce laws related to bicycle safety. The Fillmore Police Department has, in the past, used a two-pronged effort in bicycle safety, both education and enforcement.

### **Education**

The Fillmore Police Department is planning to sponsor, with other local non-profits, (Fillmore Fire Foundation has agreed to purchase helmets) a bicycle rodeo this summer with bicycle/rider safety as the primary message. An agreement has been reached for helmets to be provided by one of our non-profit organizations.

### **Enforcement**

The Fillmore Police Department will increase our enforcement efforts toward bicycle traffic laws and will contact/cite bicyclists that violate traffic laws. (CVC 21200 requires bicyclist follow the same traffic laws motorists must follow.)



Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Grand Jury report. If additional explanation is needed, please feel free to contact Captain Dave Wareham at 524-2233 or [dave.wareham@ventura.org](mailto:dave.wareham@ventura.org)

**MOORPARK POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

**Finding:** FI-01. Throughout the County, law enforcement personnel rarely enforce helmet laws. They do not enforce bicycle licensing ordinances.

**Response:** The Moorpark Police Department agrees with the Grand Jury that helmet laws are rarely enforced. The Moorpark Police Department has previously offered programs providing free helmets to children not wearing them and in need of helmets and also rewarded those who were wearing helmets through certificates from local businesses, reinforcing good habits through positive contacts in the community.

The Moorpark Police Department agrees with the Grand Jury that bicycle licensing is under enforced. The Moorpark Police Services Center does offer all citizens who reside in the City and surrounding County areas the opportunity to license their bicycles. Prior to participating in agency sponsored bicycle safety events and rodeos, participants must license their bikes.

The California Vehicle Code Section 39002 authorizes Cities and Counties to adopt by Resolution or Ordinance bicycling licensing procedures. The County's Ordinance dealing with the licensing procedures could be construed as somewhat antiquated. The City of Moorpark initially modeled their Resolution closely after the County's Ordinance. The Moorpark Resolution will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

**Finding:** FI-02. Licensing or registering bicycles with the police assists in the return of lost or stolen bicycles to owners, thereby reducing the number of unclaimed bicycles.

**Response:** The Moorpark Police Department agrees with the finding.

**Finding:** FI-03. Bicycle helmet laws for children are not routinely complied with nor enforced.

**Response:** The Moorpark Police Department agrees with the finding. The Moorpark Police Department utilizes a sensible approach applying the spirit of the law, letter of the law, and positive community contacts when taking enforcement actions. As much as law enforcement has involvement, good parenting practices must also be drawn upon. As mentioned in the above response to FI-01, the Moorpark Police Department has offered programs in the past is still providing free helmets and also rewarding those who are wearing helmets through certificates from local businesses.

**Finding:** FI-05. Of all the factors contributing to bicyclists' deaths and injuries, motor vehicle driver error is the most prevalent. Rear-ending of cyclists is the most common error.

**Response:** The Moorpark Police Department doesn't necessarily disagree with the unscientific statistical finding used by the Grand Jury, however, a more accurate analysis may be attained by specifically reviewing the ten (10) in-county fatal collisions to identify the party at fault and the *primary collision factor* as determined by the investigating law enforcement agency

**Finding:** FI-08. Salmoning places cyclists at greater risk as motor vehicle drivers are not expecting riders to be coming directly toward them. Many people are unaware that Salmoning is illegal in the State.

**Response:** The Moorpark Police Department agrees with the finding and has previously provided news articles and will continue to educate the public regarding bicycle rules of the road that also address this.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendation:** R-01. The Grand Jury recommends that the County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of all cities within the County encourage their respective law enforcement personnel to increase enforcement of bicycle safety and related motor vehicle laws. (FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-05, FI-08)

**Response:** The Moorpark Police Department agrees with this recommendation. The Moorpark Police Department utilizes a sensible approach applying the spirit of the law, letter of the law, and positive community contacts when taking enforcement actions.

The Moorpark Police Department has conducted shift briefings to law enforcement personnel on bicycle safety and the applicable bicycle and motor vehicle laws deputies are responsible to enforce. This was done to increase awareness and safety. The Moorpark Police Department has continued enforcement and education through routine and directed patrols, bicycle rodeos and safety events, education from bicycle patrol members riding in the field, news articles relating to helmet safety, bike lane safety laws, bicycle vehicle code laws, providing enhanced patrol and enforcement during the first days back to school, and providing bicycle safety informational flyers that are available in the Moorpark Police Services Center lobby.

**Recommendation:** R-02: The Grand Jury recommends the County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of all cities within the County that do not have a Bicycle Advisory Commission/committee establish one.

**Response:** If the City of Moorpark establishes a Bicycle Advisory Commission/Committee, the Moorpark Police Department / Ventura County Sheriff's Office will actively support and as needed participate.

**Recommendation:** R-03. The Grand Jury recommends the County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of all cities within the County, continually promote bicycle laws and safety to people of all ages, concentrating on school-age children through events such as bike rodeos, bicycle rallies, and other educational activities.

**Response:** The Moorpark Police Department will seek to educate the community and school children on bicycle safety whenever possible through the School Resource Officer and other special events authorized by the City as they occur.

**Recommendation:** R-04. The Grand Jury recommends the County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of all cities within the County use local media (e.g., public service announcements, public events, and government websites) to educate motor vehicle driving public and bicyclists of their responsibility to know and obey bicycle-related laws.

**Response:** The Moorpark Police Department will seek opportunities to utilize local media to educate the community including drivers, bicyclists, and school age children on bicycle safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Grand Jury report. If additional explanation is needed, please feel free to contact Captain Stephen Wade at (805)832-2705 or [Stephen.Wade@Ventura.Org](mailto:Stephen.Wade@Ventura.Org)

#### **OJAI POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

**Finding:** FI-01. Throughout the County, law enforcement personnel rarely enforce helmet laws. They do not enforce bicycle licensing ordinances.

**Response:** The Ojai Police Department agrees with the Grand Jury that helmet laws are rarely enforced and will be working on an incentive program for children found wearing helmets. The Ojai Police Department offers bicycle licensing services to the Ojai community on a voluntary basis.

**Finding:** FI-02. Licensing or registering bicycles with the police assists in the return of lost or stolen bicycles to owners, thereby reducing the number of unclaimed bicycles.

**Response:** The Ojai Police Department agrees with the finding, however it should be noted that stolen bicycles frequently have all forms of identification removed. The Ojai Police Department offers bicycle licensing services to the Ojai community on a voluntary basis.

**Finding:** FI-03. Bicycle helmet laws for children are not routinely complied with nor enforced.

**Response:** The Ojai Police Department agrees with the finding and will be working on an incentive program for children found wearing helmets.

**Finding:** FI-05. Of all the factors contributing to bicyclists' deaths and injuries, motor vehicle driver error is the most prevalent. Rear-ending of cyclists is the most common error.

**Response:** The Ojai Police Department agrees with the finding and has and will continue to educate the public through social media, news stories and directed enforcement.

**Finding:** FI-08. Salmoning places cyclists at greater risk as motor vehicle drivers are not expecting riders to be coming directly toward them. Many people are unaware that salmoning is illegal in the State.

**Response:** The Ojai Police Department agrees with the finding and has and will continue to educate the public through social media, news stories and directed enforcement.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendation:** R-01. The Grand Jury recommends that the County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of all cities within the County encourage their respective law enforcement personnel to increase enforcement of bicycle safety and related motor vehicle laws. (FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-05, FI-08)

**Response:** The Ojai Police Department agrees with this recommendation. The Ojai Police Department has conducted shift briefings on bicycle safety and the applicable bicycle and motor vehicle laws officers to increase awareness and safety. The Ojai Police Department has increased enforcement and education of the public through routine and directed patrols, and created a bicycle informational flyer that was posted on community social media outlets, distributed at local schools, and is also available in the police station lobby. The Ojai Police Department will continue to offer bicycle licensing services to the Ojai community on a voluntary basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Grand Jury report. If additional explanation is needed, please feel free to contact Captain Dave Kenney at 646-1414 or [David.Kenney@Ventura.Org](mailto:David.Kenney@Ventura.Org)

**THOUSAND OAKS POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

**Finding:** FI-01. Throughout the County, law enforcement personnel rarely enforce helmet laws. They do not enforce bicycle licensing ordinances.

**Response:** The Thousand Oaks Police Department agrees with the Grand Jury that helmet laws are rarely enforced.

**Finding:** FI-02. Licensing or registering bicycles with the police assists in the return of lost or stolen bicycles to owners, thereby reducing the number of unclaimed bicycles.

**Response:** The Thousand Oaks Police Department agrees with the finding.

**Finding:** FI-03. Bicycle helmet laws for children are not routinely complied with nor enforced.

**Response:** The Thousand Oaks Police Department agrees with the finding.

**Finding:** FI-05. Of all the factors contributing to bicyclists' deaths and injuries, motor vehicle driver error is the most prevalent. Rear-ending of cyclists is the most common error.

**Response:** The Thousand Oaks Police Department agrees with the finding.

**Finding:** FI-08. Salmoning places cyclists at greater risk as motor vehicle drivers are not expecting riders to be coming directly toward them. Many people are unaware that salmoning is illegal in the State.

**Response:** The Thousand Oaks Police Department agrees with the finding.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendation:** R-01. The Grand Jury recommends that the County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of all cities within the County encourage their respective law enforcement personnel to increase enforcement of bicycle safety and related motor vehicle laws. (FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-05, FI-08)

**Response:** The Thousand Oaks Police Department agrees with this recommendation. The Thousand Oaks Police Department will continue to focus on education and awareness campaigns to educate children and their parents of the requirements for wearing helmets and enforce other laws related to bicycle safety. As a matter of practice, the Thousand Oaks Police Department has been using a two pronged effort in bicycle safety, both education and enforcement:

### **Education**

The Thousand Oaks Police Department (TOPD) gives at least 12 (once a month on average) bicycle safety talks at local schools, mostly at elementary school level. The TOPD conducted the most recent one, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Carden Conejo Elementary School. The TOPD has applied for and received grant funding from the Office of Traffic Safety, in partnership with the National Highway Transportation, over the past few years. A portion of the grant funds Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP), which require TOPD: *“Conduct six Traffic Safety educational presentations impacting 180 community members. Note: Presentations may include topics such as distracted driving, DUI, speed, bicycle and pedestrian safety, seatbelts and child passenger safety.”*

### **Enforcement**

The TOPD regularly enforce traffic laws and contact/cite bicyclist that violate traffic laws. (CVC 21200 requires bicyclist follow the same traffic laws motorists must follow.)

Our STEP grant requires TOPD conduct two bicycle specific enforcement operations throughout the 12 month grant year. TOPD will be conducted our second bicycle operation on August 15, 2015. These operations consist of three motor officers spending seven hours specifically contacting/citing bicyclists.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Grand Jury report. If additional explanation is needed, please feel free to contact Captain James Fryhoff at 494-8248 or [james.fryhoff@ventura.org](mailto:james.fryhoff@ventura.org)

### **UNINCORPORATED AREAS WITHIN VENTURA COUNTY:**

**Finding:** FI-01. Throughout the County, law enforcement personnel rarely enforce helmet laws. They do not enforce bicycle licensing ordinances.

**Response:** The Ventura County Sheriff's Office agrees with the Grand Jury that helmet laws are rarely enforced and bicycle registration ordinances are not enforced.

With regard to helmet enforcement, the Sheriff's Office utilizes a balanced approach of spirit of the law, letter of the law, positive community contacts, and parental responsibility when deciding to take enforcement action.

With regard to bicycle registration enforcement, the Sheriff's Office does not enforce Ventura County Ordinance 6275, which governs bicycle registration. The law was enacted in 1976 and many of its subsections could be viewed as obsolete in today's society (e.g., bicycle owners are required to notify the Sheriff's Office within 10 days of selling or disposing of a registered bicycle; any person who purchases or acquires a registered bicycle must apply for a transfer of the registration within 10 days and pay a

\$1.00 fee; if the bicycle license or registration is lost, the owner must within 10 days make application for a new license and pay a \$1.00 fee; bicycle owners are *required* to notify the Sheriff's Office when a bicycle is stolen.) The fine for violating any part of VCO 6275 is \$5.00.

**Finding:** FI-02. Licensing or registering bicycles with the police assists in the return of lost or stolen bicycles to owners, thereby reducing the number of unclaimed bicycles.

**Response:** The Ventura County Sheriff's Office agrees with the finding. In addition to the response in FI-01, compliance by the general public is very small if at all.

**Finding:** FI-03. Bicycle helmet laws for children are not routinely complied with nor enforced.

**Response:** The Ventura County Sheriff's Office agrees with the finding. As stated in FI-01, the Sheriff's Office utilizes a balanced approach of spirit of the law, letter of the law, positive community contacts, and parental responsibility when deciding to take enforcement action.

**Finding:** FI-05. Of all the factors contributing to bicyclists' deaths and injuries, motor vehicle driver error is the most prevalent. Rear-ending of cyclists is the most common error.

**Response:** The Ventura County Sheriff's Office doesn't necessarily disagree with the unscientific statistical finding used by the Grand Jury, however, a more accurate analysis may be attained by specifically reviewing the ten in-county fatal collisions to identify the party at fault and the *primary collision factor* as determined by the investigating law enforcement agency.

**Finding:** FI-07. Statistics on bicycle accidents imply a lack of compliance with the new laws and rules of the road. There is a need for the public to be aware of the laws. It is incumbent upon cyclists and drivers to know and obey the laws.

**Response:** The Ventura County Sheriff's Office agrees with the finding.

**Finding:** FI-08. Salmoning places cyclists at greater risk as motor vehicle drivers are not expecting riders to be coming directly toward them. Many people are unaware salmoning is illegal in the State.

**Response:** The Ventura County Sheriff's Office agrees with the finding. When practical, the Sheriff's Office enforces California Vehicle Code section 21650.1 (Bicyclists are required to ride in the same direction as traffic).

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendation:** R-01. The Grand Jury recommends the County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of all cities within the County encourage their respective law enforcement personnel to increase enforcement of bicycle safety and related motor vehicle laws. (FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-05, FI-08)

**Response:** The Ventura County Sheriff's Office agrees with this recommendation. The Ventura County Sheriff's Office will, in a manner balanced in the spirit of the law and letter of the law and considering the value of developing and maintaining good community relationship with those we serve, encourage staff to enforce bicycle safety and related motor vehicle laws.

**Recommendation:** R-02. The Grand Jury recommends the County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of all cities within the County that do not have a Bicycle Advisory Commission/committee establish one.

**Response:** If the County Board of Supervisors establishes a Bicycle Advisory Commission/Committee, the Sheriff's Office will actively participate in it.

**Recommendation:** R-03. The Grand Jury recommends the County Board of Supervisors and the city councils of all cities within the County, continually promote bicycle laws and safety to people of all ages, concentrating on school-age children through events such as bike rodeos, bicycle rallies, and other educational activities.

**Response:** The Ventura County Sheriff's Office will seek to educate the community and school children on bicycle safety whenever possible through the School Resource Officer and other special events as they occur.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Grand Jury report. If additional explanation is needed, please feel free to contact Captain Patti Salas at 654 2881 or [patti.salas@ventura.org](mailto:patti.salas@ventura.org)

Sincerely,



GEOFF DEAN  
Sheriff

cc: Foreman, Ventura County Grand Jury  
Undersheriff Gary Pentis  
Assistant Sheriff Steve DeCesari  
Frank Chow, CEO Analyst