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Date: April 28, 2026

County of Ventura Board of Supervisors
800 S. Victoria Ave
Ventura CA, 93009

Subject: Direction for Report Back Regarding E-Bike Safety Strategies, Enforcement, Pilot Programs, and Youth Education Partnerships

Recommendation:

- It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors direct the County Executive Officer to work with the Sheriff's Office in coordination with relevant County agencies, to evaluate best practices and California pilot programs related to e-bike safety—including education, enforcement, and regulatory approaches—and develop policy options for Ventura County, with a focus on youth riders, school commutes, and high-use areas, and return to the Board within six months with findings and recommendations.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the recommended actions at this time.

Costs associated with staff time to prepare the report and coordinate with partner agencies are expected to be minimal and can be absorbed within existing departmental resources.

Discussion:

E-bike usage has grown significantly across Ventura County in recent years, providing residents with a convenient, affordable, and environmentally friendly transportation option. At the same time, this increase has raised concerns from community members regarding safety—particularly on roadways, in neighborhoods, and on multi-use trails.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office has demonstrated strong leadership in addressing these concerns through proactive education, community outreach, and targeted enforcement efforts. These initiatives have helped raise awareness about safe riding practices and applicable laws, contributing to improved safety outcomes.

A key area of concern is youth safety. Across Ventura County, children are increasingly using e-bikes to travel to and from school and for recreational purposes. While this reflects changing mobility patterns, it has also led to growing concerns from parents, schools, and community

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members regarding unsafe riding behaviors, including excessive speeds, lack of helmet use, and operation of modified or non-compliant e-bikes that do not meet legal standards. These concerns are part of a broader trend seen across California and the nation.

In response, several jurisdictions and the State of California have begun piloting new approaches to e-bike safety, particularly focused on youth riders. These efforts include age-based restrictions, mandatory helmet use, training or certification requirements, and school-based safety programs tied to campus access. These emerging models signal a shift toward more structured safety expectations as e-bike use continues to grow.

While Ventura County has made meaningful progress through education and enforcement, the continued increase in e-bike usage suggests that additional tools may be necessary to further enhance safety. This includes exploring options that promote responsible use, improve compliance with existing laws, and establish clearer expectations for safe operation—particularly among younger riders.

This Board Letter directs the development of a comprehensive review of best practices and pilot programs to provide the Board with well-informed options that could be considered to strengthen safety outcomes. This may include evaluating education requirements, operational standards, and enforcement strategies that align with community needs.

In addition, e-bike activity on trails and in recreational areas has become an increasing concern. Coordination with partners such as County Parks, Conejo Recreation and Park District, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, and State Parks will be critical to ensuring consistent messaging, appropriate enforcement, and safe use of shared spaces across jurisdictions.

Taking a proactive and collaborative approach will help ensure that Ventura County continues to prioritize public safety while supporting responsible recreation and mobility options for residents.

Strategic Plan

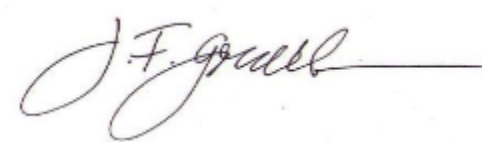
This item supports the County's Strategic Plan by promoting safe and healthy communities, enhancing public safety, and improving quality of life for Ventura County residents.

Reviewing Agencies

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, County Counsel, the Sheriff's Office, and County Parks.

If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Supervisor Gorell at jeff.gorell@venturacounty.gov.

Sincerely,



Jeff Gorell
Chair of the Board
Ventura County Supervisor, 2nd District