



# COUNTY of VENTURA

## Civil Grand Jury

800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009  
Tel (805) 477-1600  
Fax (805) 658-4523  
grandjury.countyofventura.org

### Response to 2024-2025 Ventura County Grand Jury Report Form (Please See California Penal Code Section 933.05)

Report Title: Prioritizing Best Practice Street Maintenance

Responding Entity: Santa Paula City Council

*mlb*

RECEIVED  
VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

SEP 04 2025

OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDING JUDGE

#### FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the Findings numbered: F-02, F-07
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered R-03 have not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.  
(Attach a summary indicating the timeframe for implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ require further analysis.  
(Attach an explanation to include: scope and parameters of the analysis or study and timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion with the agency or department head. The timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the report.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 8-6-2025

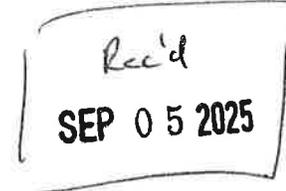
Signed: *[Signature]*

Title: MAYOR

Number of pages attached: 2

**CITY OF SANTA PAULA  
MEMORANDUM**

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Dale Goodman, Public Works Director  
Subject: RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT ENTITLED PRIORITIZING  
BEST PRACTICE STREET MAINTENANCE  
Date: August 6, 2025  
Agenda Item: 11.E



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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the form response letter to the Ventura County Grand Jury and authorize the Mayor to sign the letter.

Presented by: Dale Goodman, Public Works Director

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**BACKGROUND:**

In the State of California, civil grand juries are authorized to "investigate and report upon the operations, accounts, and records of the officers, department, functions, and the method or system of performing the duties of any such city or joint powers agency and make such recommendations as it may deem proper and fit." (Cal. Penal Code 925(a)).

On December 5, 2024, the Ventura County Grand Jury met with, and interviewed Dale Goodman, the City's Director of Public Works, regarding the City's pavement management practices and funding. After the interview, they drove some of the City's streets to get an overall impression of the current conditions of Santa Paula's roads.

On June 5, 2025, the Ventura County Grand Jury issued its report titled "Prioritizing Best Practice Street Maintenance" (the "Report"). In the Report, the Grand Jury had two "Findings", one "Recommendation", and one "Commendation" related to Santa Paula.

**Finding 1 (F-02)** The Civil Grand Jury finds that Santa Paula does not maintain its streets in a best practice condition resulting in costlier deferred maintenance on streets and a hidden cost on residents due to extra vehicle wear.

**Finding 2 (F-07)** The Civil Grand Jury finds that Santa Paula, with its dedicated and knowledgeable staff, would make effective use of the funds allocated for street maintenance.

**Recommendation 1 (R-03)** The Civil Grand Jury recommends that Santa Paula set a goal to reach best practice pavement conditions within 10 years, and create a plan to accomplish that goal by December 2025.

**Commendation** The Civil Grand Jury commends Santa Paula for its positive action in improving conditions by passing two sales tax measures that prioritize street maintenance.

**ANALYSIS:**

Within 90 days after a Grand Jury's issuance of the report, the City Council must comment to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations contained in the report. The attached proposed response to the Report, prepared by the Public Works Director and other key City staff, addresses the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations. The City is in agreement with the Findings and will meet or exceed the one Recommendation, as denoted in the attached response.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

The approval of this agenda item does not directly address the strategic goals within the City's adopted Strategic Plan.

**FISCAL IMPACTS:**

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this item outside of staff's time to respond to the report.

**OPTIONS:**

In addition to the recommended action, the Council can:

1. Propose alternative language and direct that the response be revised.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Santa Paula Response to VCGJ Report.pdf**

**FINDINGS**

- F-01.** The Civil Grand Jury finds that Oxnard does not maintain its streets in a best practice condition resulting in costlier deferred maintenance on streets and a hidden cost on residents due to extra vehicle wear.
- F-02.** The Civil Grand Jury finds that Santa Paula does not maintain its streets in a best practice condition resulting in costlier deferred maintenance on streets and a hidden cost on residents due to extra vehicle wear.
- F-03.** The Civil Grand Jury finds that Simi Valley does not maintain its streets in a best practice condition resulting in costlier deferred maintenance on streets and a hidden cost on residents due to extra vehicle wear.
- F-04.** The Civil Grand Jury finds that Ventura does not maintain its streets in a best practice condition resulting in costlier deferred maintenance on streets and a hidden cost on residents due to extra vehicle wear.
- F-05.** The Civil Grand Jury finds that Camarillo, with its dedicated and knowledgeable staff, effectively utilizes the funds spent on street maintenance, however, has not set a goal to maintain its streets in a best practice condition.
- F-06.** The Civil Grand Jury finds that Oxnard, with its dedicated and knowledgeable staff, would make effective use of the funds allocated for street maintenance.
- F-07.** The Civil Grand Jury finds that Santa Paula, with its dedicated and knowledgeable staff, would make effective use of the funds allocated for street maintenance.
- F-08.** The Civil Grand Jury finds that Simi Valley, with its dedicated and knowledgeable staff, would make effective use of the funds allocated for street maintenance.
- F-09.** The Civil Grand Jury finds that Ventura, with its dedicated and knowledgeable staff, would make effective use of the funds allocated for street maintenance.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- R-01.** The Civil Grand Jury recommends that Camarillo set a goal to maintain best practice pavement conditions by December 2025. (F-05)
- R-02.** The Civil Grand Jury recommends that Oxnard set a goal to achieve best practice pavement conditions within 10 years and create a plan to accomplish that goal by December 2025. (F-01, F-06)
- R-03.** The Civil Grand Jury recommends that Santa Paula set a goal to reach best practice pavement conditions within 10 years and create a plan to accomplish that goal by December 2025. (F-02, F-07)
- R-04.** The Civil Grand Jury recommends that Simi Valley set a goal to reach best practice pavement conditions within 10 years and create a plan to accomplish that goal by December 2025. (F-03, F-08)
- R-05.** The Civil Grand Jury recommends that Ventura set a goal to reach best practice pavement conditions within 10 years and create a plan to accomplish that goal by December 2025. (F-04, F-09)

## RESPONSES

Responses required from the following governing bodies within 90 days:

Camarillo City Council (F-05, R-01)

Oxnard City Council (F-01, F-06, R-02)

Santa Paula City Council (F-02, F-07, R-03)

Simi Valley City Council (F-03, F-08, R-04)

Ventura City Council (F-04, F-09, R-05)

## COMMENDATIONS

The Civil Grand Jury commends Camarillo for maintaining its streets in a best practice condition, which lowers future maintenance costs and the hidden cost from vehicle wear.

The Civil Grand Jury commends Santa Paula for its positive actions in improving street conditions by passing two sales tax measures that prioritize street maintenance.