

City of Seal Beach



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July 22, 2024

Maria Hernandez
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA
92701

Dear Judge Hernandez:

The City of Seal Beach is in receipt of the 2023-2024 Orange County Grand Jury report, *E-Bikes Friend of Foe*. This report has been thoroughly reviewed by City Staff and the Seal Beach Police Department. Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933 and 933.05, this letter serves as a response to the inquiries of the Grand Jury.

I am pleased to report that the City of Seal Beach and the Seal Beach Police Department agree with all three (3) of the findings presented by the Grand Jury. Additionally, all three (3) recommendations have been implemented by the City of Seal Beach and the Seal Beach Police Department, a summary is provided below.

R1. Each Orange County city should have specific policies that define the rules of the road for E-bikes in their communities by December 1, 2024.

The City of Seal Beach has already adopted an ordinance which defines and regulates the use of an “electric bicycle” (“E-bike”) and other electric mobility devices within the City boundaries, in accordance with the California Vehicle Code and applicable state regulations.

The following are relevant sections of the Seal Beach Municipal Code:

- § 7.65.005. *Definitions.*
- § 7.65.010. *Operation of Regulated Mobility Devices.*
- § 7.65.015. *Enforcement.*
- § 7.65.020. *Exemptions.*

Additionally, the Seal Beach Municipal Code allows an individual who has violated the above-mentioned local regulations to complete a safety course on E-bikes and/or mobility devices, presented by the Seal Beach Police Department, in lieu of paying the fine associated with the violation.

R2. Each Orange County city should have a mechanism in place to report accidents, injuries and deaths involving E-bikes by December 1, 2024

The City of Seal Beach documents all reported accidents, deaths, and injuries involving all motor vehicles, bicycles and E-bikes with a standard collision report or incident report within our Records Management System (RMS).

R3. Each Orange County city should research and develop outreach and education programs regarding the safe operation of E-Bikes for their residents by December 1, 2024.

The Seal Beach Police Department has organized and presented a “bicycle rodeo” for elementary level schools within the city limits to educate children and parents about E-Bike safety. Additionally, the Seal Beach Police Department encourages all residents to complete the California Highway Patrol E-bike online safety course.

Link: <https://rise.articulate.com/share/yB3Hip8AYzOGdY0dqnd42mQ3k0c6Jza1#/>

Finally, the Seal Beach Police Department, in partnership with the Office of Traffic Safety, holds grant-funded community meetings which are focused on traffic-related issues, including E-bikes regulations, rules of the road, and safety requirements.

We extend our gratitude to the Grand Jury for its thorough investigation and valuable insights. The City of Seal Beach and the Seal Beach Police Department remain committed to providing the highest level of safety on our roadways. Thank you for your continued dedication to improving public safety.

Regards,



SHELLY SUSTARSIC
Mayor, City of Seal Beach