



August 13, 2024

Honorable Marie Hernandez, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Orange
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Response to 2023-24 Orange County Grand Jury Report “E-Bikes Fired or Foe”

Dear Judge Hernandez,

The City of Laguna Beach has reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury Report titled “E-Bikes Friend or Foe.” In accordance with California Penal Code §933.05(a) and (b), the City of Laguna Beach submits the following responses to the findings and recommendations included within the report.

Findings:

F1. The majority of Orange County’s 34 cities do not have ordinances or policies in place, which makes it difficult to address the safe operation and regulation of E-bikes leading to confusion.

Response: The City agrees with the finding.

F2. Due to the increasing incidence of E-bike injuries and deaths, there is a need for consistent and accurate tracking by law enforcement and first responders, which does not exist now.

Response: The City agrees with the finding.

F3. Training and education on E-bike use and safety varies from city to city causing confusion amongst bike riders.

Response: The City agrees with the finding.

Recommendations:

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

Response: The recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The City of Laguna Beach Police Department is currently working with the City Attorney’s office to review existing E-bike regulations and policies from other cities and will propose an E-bike ordinance to the City Council this year. The ordinance will define E-bikes classifications, safety standards, designated routes, parking regulations, and enforcement procedures.

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

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Laguna Beach Police Department reports accidents, injuries, and deaths through the state-controlled system by the California Highway Patrol (CHP), utilizing CHP form 555. The City of Laguna Beach utilizes a third-party vendor, Crossroads, to facilitate the submission of CHP Form 555.

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.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Laguna Beach Police Department has worked with the Laguna Beach Unified School District to implement a training and educational program for kids and teenagers. The kids and teenagers must take this course to obtain permission to ride their E-bikes to school. Other cities across the state have requested our curriculum. Additionally, the Laguna Beach Police Department has created information about E-bike safety through a social media campaign.

Respectfully,



Sue Kempf
Mayor

cc: Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center West
Santa Ana, CA 92701