



January 21, 2025

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

Re: 2023-2024 Orange County Grand Jury report "E-Bikes: Friend or Foe"

Dear Judge Hernandez:

The City of La Palma ("City") is pleased to provide the below required responses to the Orange County Grand Jury's findings and recommendations for our city, outlined in its June 20, 2024 report titled "E-Bikes: Friend or Foe." The original Grand Jury findings and recommendations are repeated below in bold typeface, and the City's responses thereto are in italics.

## 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.**

*The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefor.*

*The City lacks knowledge and information sufficient to reach this conclusion. The City does not know what ordinances or policies related to the operation and regulation of E-bikes have been enacted by the majority of Orange County cities.*

- 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.**

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*The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefor.*

*The City lacks knowledge and information sufficient to reach this conclusion. The City is not fully informed as to the existing, if any, tracking by other law enforcement agencies and first responders of E-bike-related injuries and deaths.*

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

*The respondent 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.**

*The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.*

*City staff will research and review existing E-bike policies from Orange County cities, and, if deemed appropriate, draft a policy to be prepared for presentation to the City by June 30, 2025.*

- 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 recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation..*

*Rather than initially creating a stand-alone solution, the City will review its existing forms used by the La Palma Police Department and revise as appropriate by March 31, 2025.*

- R3. Each Orange County city should research and develop outreach and education programs regarding the safe operation of E-bikes for their**

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**residents by December 1, 2024.**

*The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.*

*The City will research and develop outreach and education programs by June 30, 2025.*

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Grand Jury report.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Conal McNamara', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Conal McNamara  
City Manager

CC: Orange County Grand Jury  
La Palma City Council

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