

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

Santa Barbara Area  
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November 20, 2014

File No: 760.15856.11409

Supervisor Doreen Farr  
County of Santa Barbara  
105 E. Anapamu St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Supervisor Farr:

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) has an increased concern regarding the use of skateboards on county roadways with descending grades. There has been an increase in incidents and reports of skateboarders using graded county roadways to propel themselves at excessive speeds without due regard for life and property. We recently responded to an injury traffic collision on Old San Marcos Road where two young men struck a vehicle while skateboarding, knocking the front teeth out of one of them. It was by chance this collision did not end in an even worse tragedy. I have attached a disk with footage of this activity which demonstrates the risks placed on both the skateboarders and motoring public. This footage was taken on Old San Marcos Road, however we are experiencing calls for service on highways throughout the county.

Section 21967 of the Vehicle Code states a local authority may adopt rules and regulations by ordinance or resolution prohibiting or restricting persons from riding or propelling skateboards on highways, sidewalks, or roadways. I am writing this letter with the hope that the Board of Supervisors will consider enacting a countywide ordinance to help law enforcement deal with this growing public safety concern.

An ordinance adopted with the following suggested language would be similar to that of other counties, including what is used in Los Angeles County:

Skateboards prohibited on greater than three percent grade

*No person shall ride on or propel any skateboard on any county road, street, highway, lane or ally which has a grade in excess of three percent, nor shall any person ride on or propel any skateboard on any county road, street, highway, lane or any alley in excess of 10 miles per hour.*



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Should this ordinance be adopted, we would take the opportunity to inform the public and provide the media with a press release describing our combined education and enforcement efforts on behalf of both Santa Barbara County and local law enforcement. The CHP believes a combined education and enforcement effort, in addition adding appropriate signage on some of the most frequented roadways, including Old San Marcos Road and Painted Cave Road, will serve the public well.

With your assistance, we can further our mission to save lives and provide increased service to the public. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (805) 967-1234.

Sincerely,



M. D. D'ARELLI, Captain  
Commander  
Santa Barbara Area

Attachments

## Los Angeles County

### 15.54.010- Skateboards

Prohibited on greater than three percent grade.

No person shall ride on or propel any skateboard as defined in Section 15.08.185, on any county road, street, highway, lane or ally which has a grade in excess of three percent, nor shall any person ride on or propel any skateboard on any county road, street, highway, lane or any alley in excess of 10 miles per hour.

Under authority of 21967 V.C, which states a local authority may adopt rules and regulations by ordinance or resolution prohibiting of restricting persons from riding or propelling skateboards on highways, sidewalks, or roadways. Effective January 1, 1988.