

Exhibit 3

Proposed Amendments to the Ventura County General Plan in Legislative Format

Editor's Note: Proposed amendments that change existing tables or text are shown as underlined text. Changes shown with **green** are corrections to clerical errors, made after the Planning Commission hearing. Proposed Staff comments, which are not part of the amendments package, are shown in *[blue italicized font]* and provide an explanation.

1. *Section 4.10 of the General Plan Goals, Policies & Programs is proposed to be amended as follows:*

4.10 Parks and Recreation

In Ventura County the abundance of natural recreation resources has given rise to establishment of many recreation facilities. A wide variety of agencies provide these facilities. At the Federal level, Ventura County contains the Los Padres National Forest, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and the Channel Islands National Monument. State parks and open space lands are located along the coast, within the Santa Monica Mountains area and at Hungry Valley State Recreation Area. The above facilities attract patronage from a much greater area than Ventura County alone. The Casitas Municipal Water District and United Water Conservation District provide facilities at Lake Casitas and Lake Piru respectively. At the local level, facilities are provided by the County, the cities and three recreation and park districts.

Recreation facilities can be divided into two main categories: regional and local. A *regional recreation area* is an extent of land which, by its unique natural character or unusual or extensive development, offers recreation opportunities that attract patronage from beyond the local vicinity without regard to physical, political or municipal boundaries. *Local parks* provide facilities to serve the daily needs of a neighborhood or group of neighborhoods within an urban community. The specific facilities should be determined by assessing the needs of the community. Recreation areas can also serve the ancillary purposes of preserving open space, providing water resources, buffering urban land uses and preserving biological, cultural and scenic resources.

The majority of County residents receive local park service from a local city or recreation and park district. The Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District provides local park facilities in the Camarillo area. The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District serves the Simi Area and the Rancho Conejo Recreation and Park District provides local and some regional facilities and an extensive trail system in the Thousand Oaks vicinity. The above District's service areas extend into unincorporated territory outside the principal cities. Other incorporated cities provide recreation services through their own recreation departments. Some cities also operate regional recreation facilities. The Public Facilities and Services Appendix contains a more extensive listing of recreation facilities.

The County of Ventura provides recreation services through the General Services Agency, Recreation Services. The primary focus of the County is to provide regional recreation facilities. The County also provides local park facilities in unincorporated areas of the County not served by other agencies. The County operates community recreation centers in Oak View, Casitas Springs, El Rio, Saticoy and Piru.

Trails are another category of recreation facility. The Los Padres National Forest and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area contain extensive trail systems. Local trails exist in many areas of the County. The County, and many other public and private organizations, have been attempting to establish an interconnected trail network throughout the County. Trails can be established on public lands and easements or by obtaining easements through private lands. In addition, the County has partnered with a private non-profit organization, Santa Rosa Valley Trail, Inc., and to prepared the

Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan, approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 9, 2014 and herein incorporated, which establishes a trail system to serve equestrians, pedestrians and bicyclists in the Santa Rosa Valley.

Funding limitations on recreation services are a perennial problem. Decreasing availability of Federal and State revenues together with local funding shortages threaten the ability of the County to keep pace with service demand. Innovative utilization of donations, grant sources, volunteer labor and public-private joint ventures can fill the revenue gap. The County has adopted local parkland dedication requirements, (Quimby Ordinance), pursuant to the State Subdivision Map Act to fund the development and renovation of neighborhood and community recreation facilities.

The goals, policies and programs which apply to recreation facilities are as follows:

[Staff Comment: A reference to adoption of the Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan and a partnership with a non-profit organization to prepare the Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan was added to the introduction to Parks and Recreation, as shown above.]

4.10.1 Goals

1. Acquire, develop and operate a system of recreation facilities to meet the recreation needs of County residents.
2. Pursue an equitable, independent, and reliable method of financing the planning, acquisition, *development*, operation and maintenance of recreation facilities.
3. Promote a coordinated effort by all government entities to assure the provision of a complete range of recreational opportunities for all ages and interests in all areas of Ventura County.
4. Promote the multi-use of existing physical resources through coordination with other public and quasi-public agencies (i.e., utility easements, flood control easements, school district facilities, etc.) and private non-profit entities.
5. Establish or assist in the establishment of a Countywide network of trails which will meet the needs of equestrians, bicyclists, hikers and other trail user groups.
6. Provide, or encourage the provision of, *local park* and recreation facilities and *programs* to serve the residents of the unincorporated territory of Ventura County where an equitable financing plan can be established with minimal use of County General Fund revenues.
7. Ensure compatibility between recreation facilities and adjoining land uses.

[Staff Comment: Goal 4 was amended to promote coordination with non-profit organizations, as shown above.]

[Staff Comment: The following text in Section 4.10.2 includes a clerical correction.]

4.10.2 Policies

1. The County shall maintain and enforce the local parkland dedication requirements (Quimby Ordinance), to acquire and develop neighborhood and community recreation facilities. Parkland dedication shall be based on a standard of five acres of local parkland per thousand population, including neighborhood and community parks.
2. *Discretionary development* which would obstruct or adversely impact access to a publicly-used recreation resource shall be conditioned to provide public access as appropriate.
3. Developers shall be encouraged to make unused open space available for recreation.
4. The County shall require reservation of land for public purchase, pursuant to the County Subdivision Ordinance, where requested by a recreation agency.

5. County facilities (e.g., flood control channels and easements) shall be made available for recreational use as appropriate.
6. New recreation facilities shall be consistent with the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

[Staff Comment: The following text in Sections 4.10.3 includes no proposed change and is shown to provide context.]

4.10.3 Programs

1. The General Services Agency will prepare and update a County Recreation Plan to evaluate demand, establish facility needs, and prioritize proposed facility development.
2. The General Services Agency will develop, implement and maintain an ordinance to collect development fees to provide for regional recreation facility development.
3. The General Services Agency will coordinate the location, planning, and functional use of all County recreation facilities with affected local governmental entities and, where feasible, promote joint acquisition and/or development to assure effective coverage of all needs.
4. The General Services Agency and Planning Division will review discretionary entitlement requests for impact to recreation opportunities and resources.
5. The General Services Agency shall prepare, for consideration by the Board of Supervisors, a Regional Recreation Facilities Fee Ordinance to fund regional recreational facilities. The proposed funds would finance acquisition of land and construction of a variety of facilities along the regional trails within the General Services Agency's jurisdiction, including equestrian, hiking and backpacking trailheads.

2. *Section 4.2.1 of the General Plan Public Facilities & Services Appendix is proposed to be amended as follows:*

Modes of Transportation

Modes of transportation utilizing the County Regional Road Network vary considerably from the predominate automobile to trucks carrying commodities and goods, bus transit, and bicycles, which are described in the following paragraphs:

Automobile - The automobile remains the most popular form of transportation in Ventura County. The California Department of Motor Vehicles reports that 566,000 fee paid automobiles and trucks were registered in Ventura County as of December 31, 1999. During that same year there were 500,000 licensed drivers. The resulting ratio of licensed drivers to fee paid automobiles is 1.13. This ratio indicates that the population, in general, relies heavily on the use of the automobiles for transportation.

Trucks - According to Public Works Agency Transportation Department estimates, approximately 10% of all vehicle trips are trucks.

Bus Transit - For a complete discussion of bus transit in Ventura County, refer to Section 4.2.2 (Transit Service).

Walking - The communities of Somis, Piru and the Ojai Valley would be more pedestrian oriented if there were sidewalks and other pedestrian enhancements in these existing communities. Such improvements should be required for future development. Planning via an Area Plan can address these improvements. Walking is not feasible for inter-city travel because

distances are too long. Only the automobile and bus transit are reasonably feasible for inter-city travel.

Bicycles - The bicycle is a realistic and viable alternative to the automobile for shorter trips. Its use can improve air quality and vehicle congestion, and it can make significant reductions in vehicles' noise pollution, fuel consumption and parking needs. The bicycle can be a commute mode by itself or be used as a feeder to mass transit operations. Bicycling is not reasonably feasible for inter-city travel because distances are too long. Only the automobile and bus transit are regarded as feasible for inter-city travel.

Bikeways are one element of an effort to improve bicycling safety and convenience, either to help accommodate motor vehicle and bicycle traffic on shared roadways, or to complement the road system to meet needs not adequately met by roads. The "General Road Design Policies" portion of the County of Ventura Public Works Agency Road Standards states that "turning lanes at intersections and bicycle lanes may require right-of-way and improvement widths greater than those shown on the B series plates."

Due to high road construction costs, only a few County roads where either parking is prohibited in each direction or the right-of-way width is increased, actually contain bicycle lanes. Class II bicycle lanes (paved area within road for preferential use by bicycles) require an additional ten feet of right-of-way and pavement (i.e., five feet in each direction).

An alternative would be to maintain and improve the width and quality of the surface of the right hand portion of existing roads so they are suitable for bicycle traffic (Class III bicycle route).

Bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects in Ventura County are regularly funded by VCTC's Executive Committee with TDA Article 3 allocations of SB 821 money. Countywide bicycle plans are developed to the extent possible by cooperative effort between County and city staffs in order to coordinate planning and funding. For example, the County worked with the cities of Ojai and Ventura to construct the Ojai Valley Trail, described below. The County also worked with the cities of Oxnard and Ventura to construct a bicycle bridge over the Santa Clara River, which connects with the Harbor Boulevard Bike Lane between Oxnard and Ventura. In addition, the County has partnered with a private non-profit organization, Santa Rosa Valley Trail, Inc., and to prepared the Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan, approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 9, 2014 and herein incorporated, which establishes a trail system to serve equestrians, pedestrians and bicyclists in the Santa Rosa Valley.

Description of County Bicycle Facilities:

- **Victoria Bikeway** - This was constructed in the mid-1970's. A Class I path parallels Victoria Avenue from Olivas Park Drive to Gonzales Road and a Class II bike lane is available for bicyclists from Gonzales Road to Channel Islands Boulevard.
- **Harbor Boulevard Bike Lane** - This Class II coastal facility has been striped along Harbor Boulevard based on the availability of local funding. As a link between projects in Oxnard and Ventura, the County constructed a bicycle bridge over the Santa Clara River to provide safe travel between the two cities.
- **Ojai Valley Trail** - This is a 9.5-mile by 50-foot multi-purpose Class I trail utilizing the abandoned Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way from the City of Ojai to Foster Park. A split-rail fence separates the horses from the pedestrians and bicyclists. One side of the trail is paved with asphalt for bicyclists, and the other with wood chips and gravel, a more suitable roadbed for horses.
- **Santa Paula Branch Line Bike Trail** – This is a planned 32-mile bike trail from Ventura to Santa Clarita. The alignment is generally along the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way.

There is an existing portion in Fillmore. The Santa Paula portion of the trail is currently being designed, and construction is anticipated to begin in late 2005. The trail is a combination of Class I and Class II trail, about 8-12 feet wide.

[Staff Comment: A reference to adoption of the Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan and to a partnership with a non-profit organization to prepare the Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan was added to the discussion of partnerships with other agencies to develop trails, as shown above.]

3. *Section 4.10.2 of the General Plan Public Facilities & Services Appendix is proposed to be amended as follows:*

4.10.2 Provision Of Recreation Facilities

Within Ventura County many agencies provide recreation facilities. The cities and Recreation and Park Districts focus on providing local park facilities. Federal, State and quasi-public agencies primarily provide regional facilities. The County of Ventura provides regional facilities Countywide and local facilities in unincorporated urban areas. Regional and local facilities are distinguished as follows:

A regional recreation area is an extent of land which, by its unique natural character or unusual or extensive development, offers recreation opportunities that attract visitors from beyond the local vicinity without regard to physical, political or municipal boundaries.

A **local park** provides facilities to serve the daily needs of a defined neighborhood or group of neighborhoods within an urban community. Local parks should be able to provide at least three main types of recreation: open areas for passive recreation and relaxation; active sports areas for baseball, basketball and other court games; and a neighborhood center for groups such as Boy Scouts, senior citizens, craft classes, etc. The specific facilities should be determined by needs of the community.

Three special Recreation and Park Districts provide local recreation services to urban residents. The Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District, the Conejo Recreation and Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District serve the incorporated municipalities of Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, and Simi Valley, and unincorporated areas located adjacent to their primary cities. Figure 4.10.1 shows the service areas of these districts. A number of unincorporated urban areas exist that are not within the jurisdiction of the cities or of special districts. Over 88,000 people currently reside within the unincorporated territory of Ventura County. Although some of these people receive recreation services from the existing special districts, areas such as the Ventura River Valley, El Rio, Casitas Springs, and Piru, for example, receive recreation services from Ventura County.

In addition to the cities, and Recreation and Park Districts, two independent political jurisdictions provide facilities for recreation use: the Casitas Municipal Water District with its extensive operation at Lake Casitas, and the United Water Conservation District operating facilities at Lake Piru. In addition, the private non-profit Santa Rosa Valley Trails, Inc., maintains a system of equestrian and pedestrian trails for use by the public within the Santa Rosa Valley.

The physical setting of Ventura County and its proximity to the Los Angeles metropolitan area has inspired the State of California to acquire and develop extensive recreation facilities along the coastal shoreline to relieve the continuous impact generated from out of County visitors. Ventura River Group Camp, McGrath, and Point Mugu State Parks provide overnight accommodations and specialized facilities of statewide significance. Lake Casitas and Lake Piru are also heavily used by this regular influx of visitors from the Southern California metropolitan region. The Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area is a 18,780 acre heavily used off-road vehicle use area which straddles the Los Angeles/Ventura County Line in the northeast corner of the County. Open vehicular use, trail use, competitive events and camping take place there.

In addition to State and local facilities, various Federal facilities are located within the County. The U.S. Forest Service affords recreational resources of statewide significance within its extensive holdings in the Los Padres National Forest. The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and Channel Islands National Park are also located within the County.

Regional services that emphasize day use activities are also provided by each of these levels of government. Both Lake Casitas and Lake Piru offer launching facilities for a variety of boating activities, fishing, and day use picnic areas. The State of California operates day use beaches at San Buenaventura State Beach Park, McGrath State Beach, and Point Mugu State Park.

Recreational boating, sport fishing and swim beaches are provided at the County's two ocean marinas. Channel Islands Harbor in Oxnard is operated by the Ventura County General Services Agency. The Harbor holds 2,300 small craft and future expansion is being planned. Ventura Harbor is operated by the Ventura Port District. Both offer commercially operated recreation activities such as sport fishing, tours, scuba diving and sailing.

The County of Ventura provides recreation services through the General Services Agency. Generally, County policy is to primarily provide regional facilities which serve all residents of the County, and secondarily, to provide local recreation facilities in unincorporated urban communities. The County local park program includes community centers in El Rio and Casitas Springs and community centers with local parks in Oak View, Saticoy and Piru.

With regard to regional park facilities, the General Services Agency, Recreation Services is pursuing development of a County Regional Recreation Areas Plan. When adopted, this plan will identify facility needs, establish criteria for facility development and delineate priorities for new facilities. The County currently owns 24 regional parks.

[Staff Comment: A reference to Santa Rosa Valley Trails, Inc., a non-profit organization, was added to the discussion of organizations which provide recreational facilities.]

4. *Figure 4.10.2 of the General Plan Public Facilities & Services Appendix is proposed to be amended as follows:*

[Staff Comment: As shown in Attachment A to this Exhibit, Table 4.10.2 is proposed to be amended to include the Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan in the list of Regional Recreational Facilities, and identify them as being both County and private facilities with existing and proposed trails.]

5. *Figure 4.10.3b of the General Plan Public Facilities & Services Appendix is proposed to be amended as follows:*

[Staff Comment: As shown in Attachment A to this Exhibit, Figure 4.10.3b is proposed to be amended to include the Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan on the "South Half" map as a Regional Recreational Facility.]