

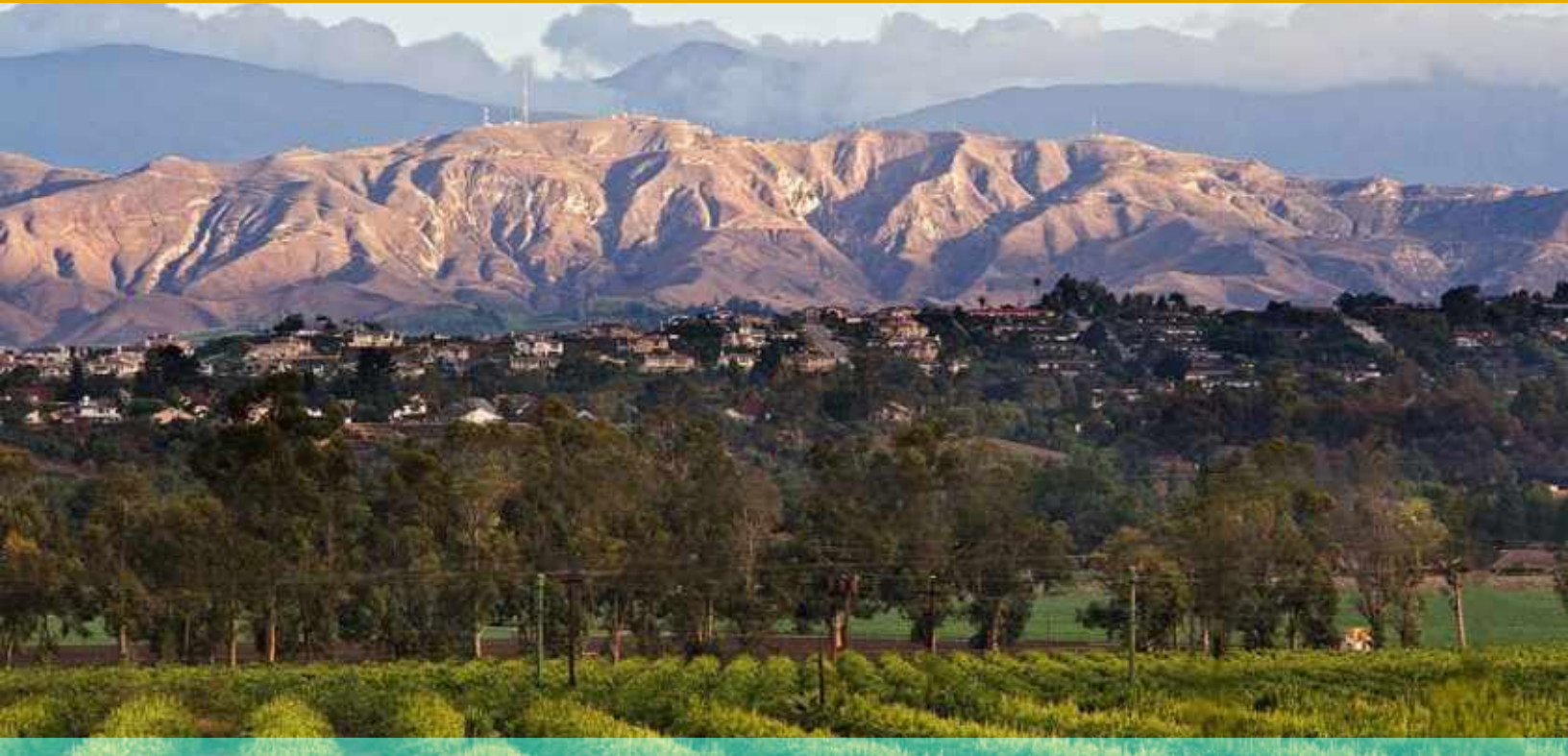
County of Ventura  
Board of Supervisors Hearing  
September 15, 2020  
Case No. PL17-0141

**Exhibit 22.a**

**2040 General Plan, Elements 1 - 10**

Ventura County

# 2040 General Plan



*September 2020*



Ventura County  
**2040**  
GENERAL PLAN

*Please see the next page.*





# Policy Document

*September 2020*

**Prepared for:**  
County of Ventura  
County Government Center Hall of Administration  
800 S. Victoria Ave.  
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Ventura County would like to thank the members of the public who gave their time and energies in assisting in the development of the General Plan by participating in the community workshops and corresponding with members of the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission.

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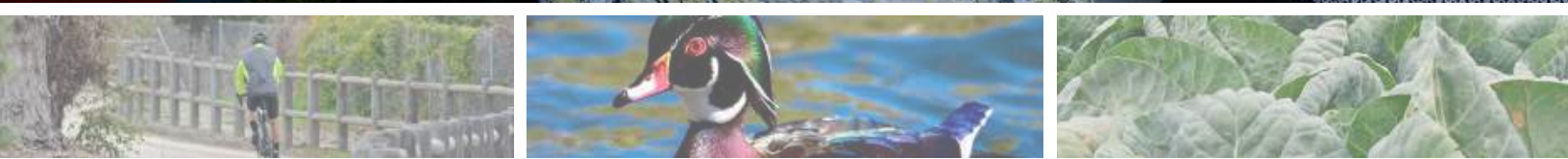
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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of the General Plan

The Ventura County 2040 General Plan is a long-range plan that guides decision-making, establishes rules and standards for development and county improvements, and helps to inform residents, developers, and decision-makers. It reflects the County's vision for the future, provides direction through the year 2040 on growth and development, and is an expression of the quality of life in Ventura County.

California law requires that every county and city adopt a general plan "for the physical development of the county or city, and of any land outside its boundaries which in the planning agency's judgment bears relation to its planning." (Gov. Code, § 65300.) A general plan serves as the jurisdiction's "constitution" or "blueprint" for future decisions concerning a variety of issues including land use, health and safety, and resource conservation. All area plans, specific plans, subdivisions, public works projects, and zoning decisions must be consistent with the direction provided in the County's General Plan.

The Ventura County 2040 General Plan serves several purposes:

- Provides the public opportunities for meaningful participation in the planning and decision-making process;
- Provides a description of current conditions within the county and trends influencing the future of the county;
- Identifies planning issues, opportunities, and challenges that should be addressed in the 2040 General Plan;
- Explores land use and policy alternatives;
- Ensures that the General Plan is current, internally consistent, and easy to use;
- Provides guidance in the planning and evaluation of future land and resource decisions; and
- Provides a vision and framework for the future growth of the County of Ventura.



Ventura County is unique in California due to the successful past efforts that have guided, and continue to guide, land use planning in the county. These include the following:

- The County of Ventura, cities within the county, and the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) adopted the Guidelines for Orderly Development in 1969 to direct urban-level development and services to the incorporated areas.
- Greenbelts, voluntary agreements between the County and one or more cities, are used to limit development of agricultural and/or open space areas within the unincorporated county. Through greenbelt agreements, cities commit to not annex any property within a greenbelt while the County agrees to restrict development to uses consistent with existing agricultural or open space zoning. There are seven greenbelts in Ventura County totaling approximately 164,000 acres.
- Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR) refers to a series of voter initiative measures that have been approved by 8 of the 10 cities and the unincorporated area (Ojai and Port Hueneme have not adopted SOAR measures). SOAR measures within cities establish voter-controlled urban growth boundaries, known as City Urban Restriction Boundaries (CURBs). A city's annexation or approval of urban development of land outside of a CURB boundary requires voter approval. The County's SOAR measure, which is included as Appendix C and incorporated by reference into the General Plan, generally requires voter approval to re-designate land with Open Space, Agricultural, or Rural General Plan land use designations, and to amend the goals and policies for these land use designations.

### Using the General Plan

The General Plan is used by the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and County staff to make decisions with direct or indirect land use and resource management implications. It also provides a framework for inter-jurisdictional coordination of planning efforts among officials and staff of the County and other government agencies (e.g., federal, state, regional, and local). County residents, property owners, and businesses also use the General Plan for guidance for particular geographic areas or for particular subjects of interest to them.

The General Plan is the basis for a variety of regulatory measures and administrative procedures. California planning law requires consistency between the general plan and its implementing programs, such as zoning and subdivision ordinances, capital improvement programs, area plans, specific plans, environmental review procedures and building and housing codes.

Over time the county's population will change, its goals will evolve, and the physical environment in which its residents live and work will be altered. In order for the General Plan to be a useful document, it must be monitored and periodically revised to respond to and reflect changing conditions and needs.

The General Plan should be reviewed annually to evaluate the progress in achieving its goals. A more comprehensive and thorough review should be done every five to 10 years to assess whether the plan needs to be refined or updated to reflect changes in local conditions, local priorities, or state law. State law permits the General Plan to be amended up to four times in any calendar year, unless special conditions apply as defined by Government Code sections 65358(c) and (d). Each amendment may contain more than one change to the General Plan.

### Administrative Provisions

**General Plan Amendments:** The County shall require that all privately initiated General Plan Amendments are screened by the Board of Supervisors to determine if the amendment is appropriate for further processing.

**Interpretations:** Although every effort has been made to provide goals, policies and programs that are clear, the necessity of interpreting such goals, policies and programs in light of specific and unusual cases will occur from time to time. When interpretation of General Plan goals, policies or programs is required, the Planning Director is responsible for the review and interpretation with the right of appeal by an applicant to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

## 1.2 Vision and Guiding Principles

The General Plan vision and guiding principles provide direction for the future and introduce key themes to be addressed in the General Plan. Specifically, the guiding principles serve as touchstones to determine consistency of goals, policies, and implementation programs with the overarching vision.

### Vision Statement

A vision statement reflects what community members value most about the county and their shared aspirations for the future. The vision statement is intended to be inspirational and set the direction for the General Plan's goals, policies, and implementation programs. The visioning process helped to identify issues important to the community and provided early direction for alternatives development and analysis during the update process.

The following is the 2040 General Plan Vision Statement:

*Ventura County is an exceptional place to live, work, and play. Our quality of life and economic vitality are rooted in the stewardship of our cultural and natural resources, including agricultural lands and soils, open spaces, mountains, beaches, and talented people. The General Plan reflects the County's ongoing commitment to collaborate with residents, cities, businesses, and non-profit organizations to meet our social and economic needs in a sustainable manner, to protect the environment and address climate change, and to encourage safe, healthy, vibrant, and diverse communities to thrive.*

### Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles are central ideas that articulate the County's commitment to achieving the Vision Statement. They establish the framework for the ideas and concepts integral to the General Plan and served as touchstones during the process to develop and refine goals, policies, and programs.

#### **Land Use and Community Character**

Direct urban growth away from agricultural, rural, and open space lands, in favor of locating it in cities and unincorporated communities where public facilities, services, and infrastructure are available or can be provided.

#### **Housing**

Support the development of affordable and equitable housing opportunities by preserving and enhancing the existing housing supply and supporting diverse new housing types, consistent with the Guidelines for Orderly Development.

### ***Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility***

Support the development of a balanced, efficient, and coordinated multimodal transportation network that meets the mobility and accessibility needs of all residents, businesses, and visitors.

### ***Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure***

Invest in facilities, infrastructure, and services, including renewable energy, to promote efficiency and economic vitality, ensure public safety, and improve our quality of life.

### ***Conservation and Open Space***

Conserve and manage the County's open spaces and natural resources, including soils, water, air quality, minerals, biological resources, scenic resources, as well as historic and cultural resources.

### ***Hazards and Safety***

Minimize health and safety impacts to residents, businesses and visitors from human-caused hazards such as hazardous materials, noise, air, sea level rise, and water pollution, as well as managing lands to reduce the impacts of natural hazards such as flooding, wildland fires, and geologic events.

### ***Agriculture***

Promote the economic vitality and environmental sustainability of Ventura County's agricultural economy by conserving soils/land while supporting a diverse and globally-competitive agricultural industry that depends on the availability of water, land, and farmworker housing.

### ***Water Resources***

Develop and manage water resources in a manner that addresses current demand without compromising the ability to meet future demand, while balancing the needs of urban and agricultural uses, and healthy ecosystems.

### ***Economic Vitality***

Foster economic and job growth that is responsive to the evolving needs and opportunities of the County's economy and preserves land use compatibility with Naval Base Ventura County and the Port of Hueneme, while enhancing our quality of life and promoting environmental sustainability.

### ***Climate Change and Resilience***

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to work toward achieving all adopted targets, proactively anticipate and mitigate the impacts of climate change, promote employment opportunities in renewable energy and reducing greenhouse gases, and increase resilience to the effects of climate change.

### ***Healthy Communities***

Promote economic, social, and physical health and wellness by investing in infrastructure that promotes physical activity, access to healthy foods, supporting the arts and integrating Health in All Policies into the built environment.

### ***Environmental Justice***

Commit to the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies, protect disadvantaged communities from a disproportionate burden posed by toxic exposure and risk, and continue to promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process.

## 1.3 General Plan Organization

The 2040 General Plan is made up of two primary documents: Policy Document and Background Report.

### Policy Document

A general plan is made up of a collection of “elements,” or topic categories. The state-mandated elements are: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, safety, air quality, and environmental justice. (Gov. Code, § 65302). Other elements may be included that address issues of local concern, such as economic development, agriculture, or water. (Gov. Code, § 65303). Under state law, if optional elements are included in the general plan, they carry the same weight of law as those that are legally mandated. Jurisdictions may organize general plans in anyway provided the plan addresses the required topics.

Table 1-1 shows how the elements of the Ventura County 2040 General Plan are organized to meet the requirements of state law.

**Table 1-1 Elements of the Ventura County 2040 General Plan**

	State-Mandated Elements									Optional
	Land Use	Circulation	Housing	Conservation	Noise	Open Space	Safety	Air Quality	Environmental Justice	
Land Use and Community Character	■					■			■	
Housing			■						■	
Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility		■							■	
Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure	■	■		■			■		■	
Conservation and Open Space				■		■		■	■	
Hazards and Safety	■				■		■	■		
Agriculture	■			■		■			■	■
Water Resources	■			■		■			■	■
Economic Vitality									■	■
Appendix B: Climate Change	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■

Source: Mintier Harnish, 2019.

The Ventura County 2040 General Plan Policy Document is organized into 11 chapters: An Introduction, 9 elements, and a chapter containing County Area Plans. The General Plan also contains three appendices. The following provides a brief description of each chapter and appendix in the 2040 Ventura General Plan Policy Document. The two- or three-letter acronym following each element’s name represents the letters used to refer to the goals and policies under that element. See Section 1.4 for further information on use of these acronyms.

### 1. **Introduction**

The Introduction chapter provides an overview of the General Plan and the process used to develop the 2040 General Plan. This chapter also includes a Reader's Guide (Section 1.4) that provides useful information on how to read and use the goals, policies, and programs presented in each element.

### 2. **Land Use and Community Character Element (LU)**

The Land Use and Community Character Element establishes the pattern and intensity of land use in the county and sets forth policies and standards to guide future development. This Element serves as the primary vehicle for ensuring that new land uses are logically organized and developed in a way that is sustainable and enhances Ventura County's unique identity.

### 3. **Housing Element (HE)**

The Housing Element ensures that there is adequate land to appropriately accommodate the County's fair share of population growth and housing needs. The County adopted the 2014-2021 Housing Element in 2013 to identify and address housing needs in the county in compliance with state housing law. The 2040 General Plan integrates the County's current 2014-2021 Housing Element by formatting the document to be consistent with the 2040 General Plan.

### 4. **Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element (CTM)**

The Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element focuses on providing a balanced, multimodal transportation network that meets the needs of all users of streets, roads, and highways for safe and convenient travel in a manner that is suitable to the rural, suburban, or urban context. Beyond a transportation plan, this Element is a strategy for addressing infrastructure needs to ensure the adequate circulation of people, goods, and services.

### 5. **Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element (PFS)**

The Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element provides goals, policies, and programs to guide essential public facilities and services, energy efficiency, infrastructure funding, wastewater treatment and disposal, solid and hazardous waste, flood control and drainage, public utilities, community facilities, library facilities and services, parks and recreation facilities, law enforcement and emergency services, and fire protection.

### 6. **Conservation and Open Space Element (COS)**

The Conservation and Open Space Element focuses on the long-term preservation and conservation of both the county's natural and developed open space environment. This Element addresses a variety of topics, including open space, habitat conservation, energy resources, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and climate change.

### 7. **Hazards and Safety Element (HAZ)**

The Hazards and Safety Element provides for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of the following: wildfire hazards, flood hazards, sea level rise and coastal flooding, geologic and seismic hazards, hazardous materials, transportation related hazards, oil and gas production and transportation incidents, military compatibility, noise, air quality, and increasing temperatures.

### 8. **Agriculture Element (AG)**

The Agriculture Element focuses on the protection, preservation, and expansion of productive agriculture. Agriculture plays a key role in shaping the economy and unique character of Ventura County.



### 9. **Water Resources Element (WR)**

Water is an essential resource for the future of Ventura County, both for ensuring quality of life for residents and a sustainable economy. Adequate water supply is a current and ongoing concern in Ventura County because of climate change and drought, the related declines in river flows and reservoir levels, historic overdraft of several local groundwater basins, curtailment of groundwater supplies in southern Ventura County, new groundwater well prohibitions, and reduced deliveries of imported water.

### 10. **Economic Vitality Element (EV)**

The Economic Vitality Element focuses on supporting a resilient economy that promotes economic health of the county, sustainable funding for public services, a thriving business environment, and job retention and growth.

### 11. **Area Plans**

The current General Plan includes the following nine area plans:

- El Rio/Del Norte (ED)
- Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley (LS)
- North Ventura Avenue (NV)
- Oak Park (OP)
- Ojai Valley (OJ)
- Piru (P)
- Thousand Oaks (TO)
- Coastal Area Plan
- Saticoy

Seven of the nine Area Plan have been updated as part of the 2040 General Plan. The acronyms following these Area Plan names are used in those Areas Plans to uniquely identify the goals and policies in each plan. The Coastal Area Plan and the Saticoy Area Plan were not updated as part of the 2040 General Plan process and are incorporated into the General Plan as previously adopted.

### 12. **Glossary**

Definition of key terms used in the 2040 General Plan.

#### A. **Appendix A**

This appendix contains Area Plan and Community land use maps.

#### B. **Appendix B**

This appendix covers climate change. The County developed an integrated approach to addressing climate change in the General Plan by incorporating related policies and programs throughout the General Plan elements, such that the General Plan will also serve as the County's Climate Action Plan (CAP). The purpose of this Climate Change Appendix is to provide further details regarding the General Plan's integrated climate action strategy, including a summary of results of key technical analyses used to develop the strategy.

#### C. **Appendix C**

This appendix contains a copy of the County of Ventura Measure (SOAR) Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources Initiative – 2050.

### D. Appendix D

This appendix contains a copy of the County 1996 Guidelines for Orderly Development.

### Background Report

The Background Report provides a “snapshot” in time of the existing county conditions. It presents physical, social, and economic resource information used to support the preparation of the General Plan. The data and information in the Background Report reflect a baseline date of June 2016. The Background Report serves as the foundation document from which subsequent planning policies and programs are formulated. The document is also used as the “environmental setting” section of the General Plan Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR).

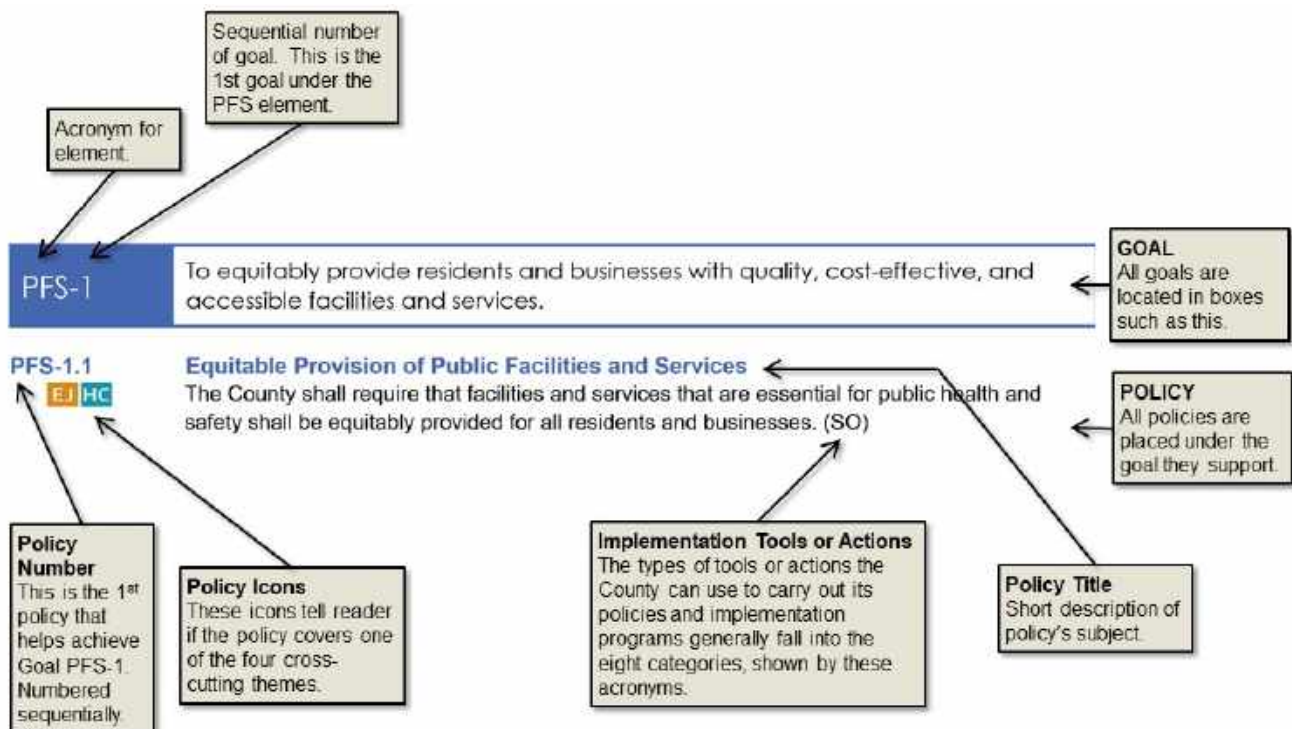
The County published the public review draft of the Background Report in March 2017, followed by a revised public review draft in October 2017, and a subsequent revision in January 2018. While there were no substantive changes, the County refined the information and made editorial revisions between each version.

## 1.4 Readers' Guide

### Goals and Policies

Each element contains the goals and policies that the County will use to guide future land use, development, resource management, and environmental protection decisions. The goals and policies in the General Plan are presented in a standard format. An explanation of this format, using a sample goal and policy, is illustrated below in Figure 1-1.

**Figure 1-1 How to Read Goals and Policies**



## Goal

A goal is a statement that describes in general terms a desired future condition or “end” state. Goals describe ideal future conditions for a topic and tend to be very general and broad.

## Policy

A policy is a clear and unambiguous statement that guides a specific course of action for decision-makers to achieve a desired goal.

## Policy / Program Icons



The Ventura County 2040 General Plan contains a number of policies and programs that address cross-cutting topics that weave throughout the General Plan. In order to highlight these policies and programs, one or more of the icons shown to the left of this text are used. These icons identify policies and programs that directly relate to one or more of these topics. The icons are described below:



### Environmental Impact Report Mitigation

Where potential for significant environmental impacts was identified in the draft 2040 General Plan EIR, mitigation measures are proposed to reduce the level of impact in the form of new or revised policies or implementation programs. For the draft EIR, these policies and programs constitute mitigation measures pursuant to Section 15126.4 of the State CEQA Guidelines and ensure that implementation of the 2040 General Plan includes a feasible reduction in environmental impacts in accordance with CEQA. This method of incorporating mitigation measures into a proposed plan is consistent with Section 15126.4(a)(2) of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. The set of new and revised policies and programs that could be included in the 2040 General Plan will be presented before the Board of Supervisors when it considers whether to certify the Final EIR and adopt the 2040 General Plan. Mitigation measures eventually included in the 2040 General Plan would be identified with an EIR icon to track their origin.



*As the draft 2040 General Plan Program EIR will not be completed until after publication of the Public Draft 2040 General Plan (see Section 1.5 for a description of these documents), the EIR icon will not be used until the final General Plan is prepared.*



### Environmental Justice

Pursuant Government Code Section 65302(h), general plans must include an environmental justice element or include goals and policies in other element(s) of the general plan addressing health risks within designated unincorporated disadvantaged communities.



### Healthy Communities

Based on Board of Supervisors direction, the 2040 General Plan focuses on promoting healthy communities and the connection between the built environment and public health. Healthy communities focus on providing for a quality and sustainable environment, supporting economic and social development, ensuring social equity, and encouraging social relationships that are supportive and respectful to meet all residents' basic needs across a lifespan. To improve health outcomes, the County needs to focus on policies, systems, and programs that address the social and environmental determinants of health.



### Climate Action Plan

The 2040 General Plan serves as the County's Climate Action Plan (CAP) by including both a GHG Strategy and Climate Adaptation Strategy that are integrated throughout the 2040 General Plan. The GHG Strategy identifies policies and implementation programs that establish GHG emissions reduction

targets and GHG reduction measures, consistent with state guidance and applicable GHG protocols. The Climate Adaptation Strategy includes analysis of climate change vulnerability and adaptation measures that address unincorporated county vulnerabilities to climate change and increase the County's long-term resilience, per the requirements of Government Code Section 65302(g). The specific goals and policies under both strategies that would otherwise form a "stand-alone" CAP are integrated into the Ventura County 2040 General Plan.

### **Implementation Tools and Actions**

Many policies are specific enough to be applied and carried out directly as consistency with the General Plan is evaluated for future projects and actions. The types of tools or actions the County can use to carry out these policies generally fall into the eight categories listed below. For each policy, a set of two- to four-initial identifiers (shown in parenthesis at the end of each policy) tell the reader the tools or actions typically used to implement that policy.

- Regulation and Development Review (RDR)
- Master Plans, Strategies, and Programs (MPSP)
- Financing and Budgeting (FB)
- Planning Studies and Reports (PSR)
- Services and Operations (SO)
- Inter-Governmental Coordination (IGC)
- Joint Partnerships with the Private Sector (JP)
- Public Information (PI)

#### ***Regulation and Development Review (RDR)***

Many General Plan policies are implemented through regulations adopted by the County based on the County's constitutional police power to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. County ordinances also create a development review process that provides for County review of individual project proposals and authorizes the County to approve, deny, and condition projects based on their consistency with the General Plan. The following is a list of state, regional and County laws and regulations commonly used to implement the General Plan:

- Ventura County Building Code and State building codes
- CEQA and Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines
- Guidelines for Orderly Development / Save Our Open Space and Agricultural Resources (SOAR)
- Ventura County Subdivision Ordinance
- Ventura County Coastal and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinances
- Ventura County Cultural Heritage Ordinance
- Development Review Process (review and processing of discretionary permit applications)

#### ***Master Plans, Strategies, and Programs (MPSP)***

The County has adopted strategies and programs focusing County attention on various types of county services and facilities, types of development, or geographic areas. These are prepared to provide more specific direction for County decision-makers, staff, and the public on how the General Plan will be implemented. They are not elements or components of the General Plan. The following is a list of some of the plans, strategies, and programs that the County has adopted:

- Local Coastal Program
- Area Plans
- Specific Plans
- Ventura County Economic Vitality Strategic Plan
- Ventura County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Mobile Home Rent Review Program

### ***Financing and Budgeting (FB)***

The development, maintenance, and operation of public facilities such as parks and drainage facilities and the provision of County services require financial resources that are derived from various sources. Programming of County capital projects and their funding over time is outlined in the County's Capital Improvement Program, which is updated annually. The following is a list of revenue sources used by or available to the County to support development, maintenance, or operation of public facilities and services:

- Property tax revenue
- Sales tax revenue
- User fees
- Rents
- Development fees
- Quimby Act (Park) dedications
- Community facilities and special assessment districts
- Bonds
- Special taxes
- Regional, State, and Federal funding

### ***Planning Studies and Reports (PSR)***

The County conducts studies and produces reports to collect and evaluate information related to specific issues. These studies and reports are undertaken at the direction of the Board of Supervisors as needed or are prepared annually to report on the status and implementation of the General Plan.

### ***Services and Operations (SO)***

The County provides a broad range of services to its residents, businesses, and visitors and manages and operates its facilities to meet community needs. How the County provides services and carries out its operations makes a significant difference in how effectively the General Plan is implemented.

### ***Inter-governmental Coordination (IGC)***

The County must coordinate with numerous local, regional, state, and federal agencies to implement the General Plan. These agencies provide services, facilities, or funding and administer regulations that directly or indirectly affect many issues addressed in the General Plan. The following is a partial list of public agencies that may play a role in implementing the General Plan:

- Local agencies such as cities, special districts, and school districts;
- Regional agencies such as Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, Ventura Council of Governments, and Ventura County Transportation Commission;



- State agencies such as Caltrans, General Services, California State University, California Environmental Protection Agency, California Coastal Commission, and Native American Heritage Commission; and
- Federal agencies such as U.S. Coast Guard, Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The County also recognizes unique public and private partnerships, which are described in more detail below:

### ***Joint Partnerships with the Private Sector (JP)***

The County can combine its efforts with private sector efforts to improve public service delivery, manage public sector assets, or leverage private sector investment. By expanding the role of the private sector, the County can use its technical, management, and financial resources in creative ways to achieve objectives of the General Plan.

### ***Public Information (PI)***

The County can use a wide range of techniques to keep residents informed of County services or other issues of interest. Public information can be distributed through media such as brochures, pamphlets, the County's website, workshops, seminars, public access television, radio, newspapers, public hearings, neighborhood and community meetings, County social media channels, and customer service hotlines.



**Source.** *Each policy in the draft versions of the 2040 General Plan provides information on its source. This information is to aid in the review of the document and is not part of the actual policy. These source tags will be removed in the final version of the 2040 General Plan.*

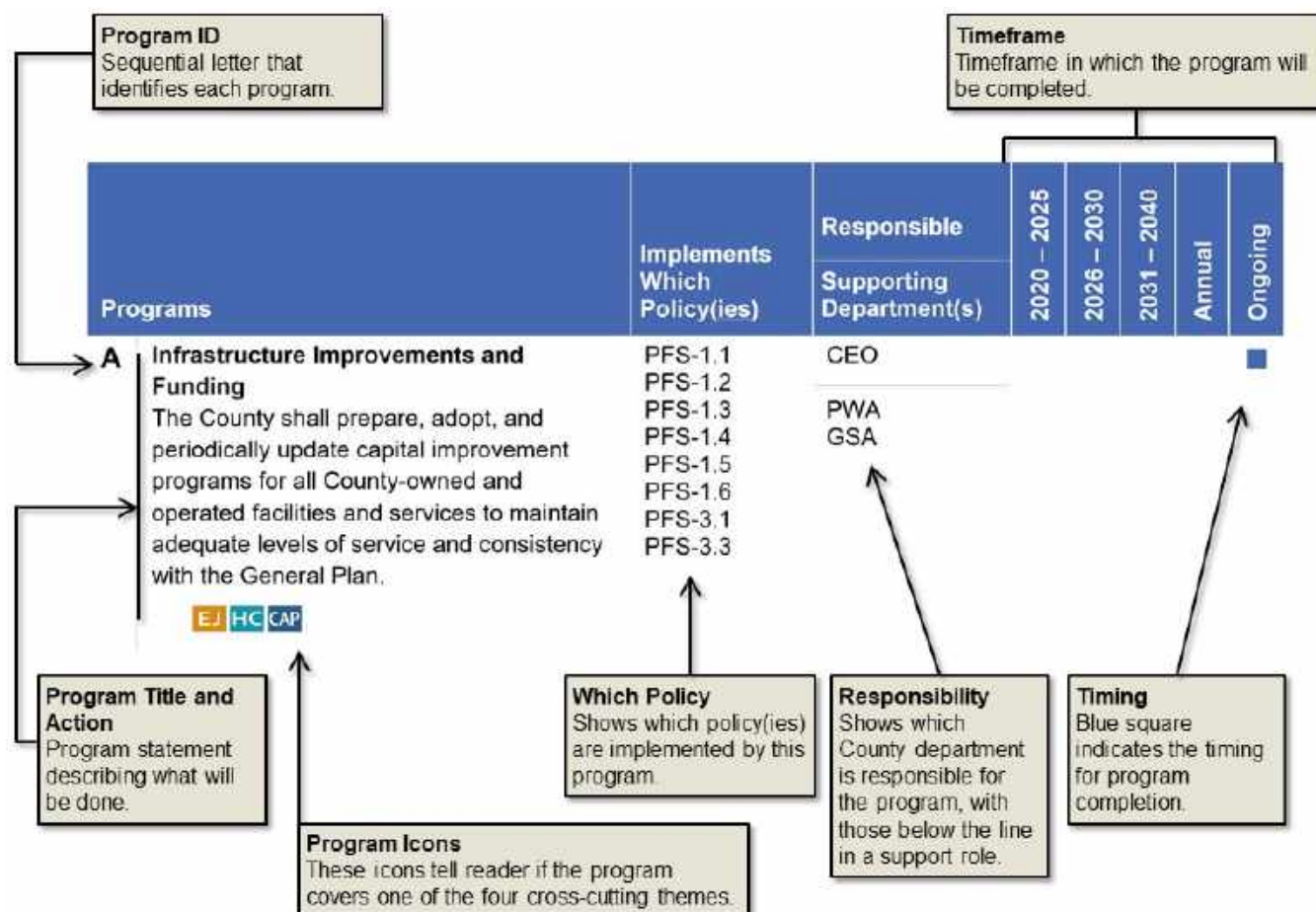
- GPP. A goal, policy, or program from the existing General Plan.
- New Policy. New policy developed based on inputs received or in response to state requirements.
- NBVC JLUS. Strategy from the NBVC Joint Land Use Study.
- EVSP. Strategy from the Ventura County Economic Vitality Strategic Plan.

## **Implementation Programs**

While many policies can be implemented as part of standard County operations, some policies require specific programs to assure their implementation. These implementation programs are included as the last section in each element in a format illustrated on Figure 1-2. Similar to policies, implementation programs that address one or more of the cross-cutting topics include an icon to highlight the implementation program's relationship to these topics, as applicable.

## 1. Introduction

**Figure 1-2 How to Read Implementation Programs**



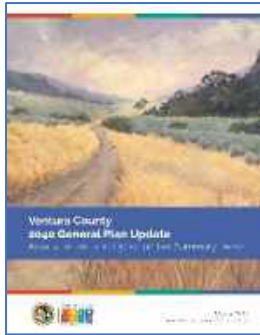
Under the “Responsibility” column on the Implementation Programs, acronyms are listed for the responsible and supporting County agencies. These are as follows:

- AG C    Agricultural Commissioner
- AIR    Ventura County Department of Airports
- CEO    County Executive Office
- FD    Ventura County Fire District/Department
- GSA    General Services Agency
- HD    Harbor Department
- HCA    Health Care Agency
- HR    Human Resources
- LIB    Library
- PWA    Public Works Agency
- REA    Regional Energy Alliance
- RMA    Resource Management Agency
- VCSO    Ventura County Sheriff’s Office

## 1.5 Milestone Documents

In addition to the Background Report, the County prepared several additional documents throughout the 2040 General Plan Update process.

### Assets, Issues, and Opportunities Summary Report



The County published the Assets, Issues, and Opportunities Summary Report in March 2017. This report documents public input received during the first phase of the 2040 General Plan Update project and identifies issues and opportunities to be addressed during the next phases of the project. This report consists of three parts: a comprehensive summary of community input; a discussion of issues and opportunities that emerged from that input; and appendices that include all public input. This report does not draw conclusions or suggest how the County should proceed in the development of the General Plan goals, policies, and implementation programs. Rather, it provides a summary of public input to facilitate discussion on important topics.

### General Plan Update Public Opinion Survey Summary Report

The County published the General Plan Update Survey Summary Report on October 30, 2017. This report provides an overview of the purpose of the public opinion survey, methodology, and key findings. The County conducted the survey to provide objective, statistically reliable measures of residents' opinions on key issues to be addressed in the 2040 General Plan.



### Vision and Guiding Principles

The County published the draft Vision and Guiding Principles in January 2018, which the Board of Supervisors reviewed during its January 23, 2018 meeting. Based on public input, the County refined the draft statements and published the next draft on May 5, 2018.

### Alternatives Concept Report

The County published the Alternatives Concept Report on April 17, 2018 as the first step in the evaluation of alternatives. The report was designed to provide community members, stakeholders, and decision-makers with an annotated outline of the topics to be covered as part of the full Alternatives Report. The report also provided an opportunity to gain public input and direction from the Board of Supervisors regarding the scope and analysis to be conducted as part of the alternatives' evaluation.



### Alternatives Report



The County published Chapters 1 to 6 of the Alternatives Report in July 2018, and Chapters 7 to 9 in November 2018. This report is the culmination of the Alternatives Phase of the General Plan Update project, which develops and explores different options for how the county could grow in the future and how the General Plan Update project could address major policy issues. This phase included discussions with community members, stakeholders, and decision-makers about General Plan organization, population projections, land use capacity assessment and alternatives, and policy options. This process provided the

community with an opportunity to discuss pros and cons of different growth alternatives, ways to achieve the vision, and build consensus for a Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative provided the framework for future growth and resource protection and established the basis for the updated goals, policies, and implementation programs that comprehensively address land use, mobility, public facilities, environmental quality, water conservation, agricultural resources, and healthy communities.

## 1.6 Community Engagement

The 2040 General Plan was shaped by an extensive community engagement program to ensure all community members had the opportunity to be involved in the 2040 General Plan update process. The County gathered community input through the following methods:

- Public Opinion Survey
- Workshops, Open Houses, and Informational Sessions
- Public Presentations
- Project Website – [www.VC2040.org](http://www.VC2040.org)
- General Plan Advisory Bodies
  - Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
  - Focus Groups
  - Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee
  - Municipal Advisory Councils and Piru Neighborhood Council
- Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors Meetings, Working Sessions, and Hearings



*Some of the items listed below are planned for future dates that have not been confirmed at this time. Please check the County's website for dates and locations.*

### Public Opinion Survey

In the Fall of 2017, the County conducted a survey to provide objective, statistically reliable measures of residents' opinions on a number of key issues to be addressed in the General Plan Update project. The results of the survey were combined with information gathered through other public input methods to help develop the 2040 General Plan.

### Workshops, Open Houses, and Informational Sessions

#### ***Pre-Scoping Public Workshops***

In April 2015 the County initiated a project to review the 1988 Ventura County General Plan and prepare a General Plan Update work program to consider options for updating that Plan. As part of this project, the County held three public workshops on April 22 and 23 of 2015. At each workshop, County staff and consultants briefed community members on the basics of General Plans, including their structure, content, timeline, and the reasons the County was contemplating a General Plan Update. They then described three workshop exercises to gather community input on major assets, issues, and opportunities in the county. The Work Program Options Report, published on June 26, 2015, discusses the results of these community workshops.



#### ***Assets, Issues, and Opportunities Community Workshops***



From July 13 to August 11, 2016, County staff facilitated 12 community workshops throughout the county. During the workshops, over 250 participants learned about the General Plan Update and discussed their views on the community's major assets, current issues, and opportunities. Six of the community workshops were conducted in coordination with the County Municipal Advisory Councils while the remainder were provided to areas without a Municipal Advisory Council or similar organization.

In addition to in-person events, the General Plan Update used an online questionnaire to facilitate remote participation. The online questionnaire received 136 responses and provided background information and questions commensurate with the in-person community workshops.

#### ***Interactive General Plan Update Booth at the Ventura County Fair***

In addition to the 12 community workshops, from August 3 to 14, 2016, the County hosted a booth at the Ventura County Fair to inform residents about the General Plan Update project and gather input. The booth was in the Agriculture building alongside exhibits showcasing the county's natural resources. During the Fair, County staff provided information on the General Plan Update project's purpose, process and ways to get involved. It featured informational posters in both English and Spanish.



#### ***General Plan Update Information Booth at the Ventura County Government Center***

County staff hosted an information booth at Ventura County Government Center's Hall of Administration from October 31 to November 4, 2016. The information booth included materials to inform residents about the General Plan Update project and gather input. The booth provided information on the General Plan Update project's purpose, process, and ways to get involved. It featured informational posters in both English and Spanish.



### ***Vision and Guiding Principles Community Meetings and Open House Events***



From July 17 to August 12, 2017, County staff held seven community meetings and four open house events to provide information on the proposed Vision and set of Guiding Principles. The County conducted open house events in coordination with the six Municipal Advisory Councils and the Piru Neighborhood Council. Open house events were facilitated as pop-up information booths with County staff present to

answer questions and provide information about the General Plan Update project. The Open House events were conducted in local libraries and parks for communities that did not have a Municipal Advisory Council or neighborhood council to host a community meeting.

### ***General Plan Update Information Booth at the Ventura County Government Center***

County staff hosted an information booth at Ventura County Government Center's Hall of Administration from July 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017. It featured informational posters in both English and Spanish.



### ***Evaluating Alternatives Community Open Houses***

From March 14 to April 4, 2018, General Plan Update staff facilitated six community open house events to inform the public on findings from the evaluation of land use alternatives and prospective policy topics. Over 130 members of the public attended the community events, during which they participated in interactive activities. Materials were available in English and Spanish at all events, and the final open house was facilitated in Spanish with translation services available in Mixtec.

### ***VC2040 Draft General Plan Community Open Houses***

As part of the review of the Preliminary Public Review Draft 2040 General Plan, the County held a set of seven community workshops/open houses in Spring 2019. These events allowed participants to learn more about the 2040 General Plan and to ask questions of County staff.

## **Public Presentations**

The County General Plan Update project staff also provided public presentations to various community and agency groups, as requested. Groups included the following:

- Graduate and undergraduate classes at California Lutheran University;
- Municipal Advisory Councils in the Casa Conejo, El Rio-Del Norte, Oak Park, Oak View, Santa Rosa Valley, and Somis communities;
- Santa Clara River Watershed Committee;
- Student group from California Polytechnic Institute of San Luis Obispo;
- Partnership for a Healthy Ventura County;
- Piru Neighborhood Council;
- Ventura County Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee;

- Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board;
- Ventura County Economic Development Association;
- Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission;
- Ventura County Community Transformation Leadership Team; and
- Open Space Roundtable.

### **Project Website – [www.VC2040.org](http://www.VC2040.org)**

To help expand the outreach efforts of the General Plan, the County maintained a project website ([www.VC2040.org](http://www.VC2040.org)) to provide information on the process including meeting dates and locations, past meeting minutes, and project documents. The County regularly updated and used the project website throughout the General Plan update process to keep community members informed and involved.

- **Online Workshop Questionnaire for “Assets, Issues, and Opportunities”**  
From July 13 to September 1, 2016, the County provided an Online Workshop Questionnaire for community members who were unable to attend any of the 12 community workshops. The questions on the Online Workshop Questionnaire were similar to the exercises from the community workshops.
- **Online Workshop Questionnaire for “Vision and Guiding Principles”**

### **General Plan Advisory Bodies**

#### ***Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)***

The TAC consists of County agency directors, deputy directors, and senior management staff who oversee agencies, departments, or programs, and implement policies that the General Plan will address. The TAC was established to provide data, information, and feedback at key points during the General Plan update process.

#### ***Focus Groups***

The County established seven Focus Groups to provide input on the following topic areas: agriculture, climate change, economic development, housing, open space and recreation, transportation and infrastructure, and water. Focus Group members are subject matter experts who represent a variety of disciplines and provide input on public review draft documents at key points throughout the project.

- April 2016      TAC and Focus Group Kick-Off Meeting
- March 2017      Provided input on Draft Background Report
- April 2018      Provided input on Alternatives Concept Report, land use alternatives and policy topics
- April 2019      Provided input on Preliminary Public Review Draft 2040 General Plan

#### ***Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee***

The Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee includes five members, with one member appointed to represent each of the five Board of Supervisor districts. The Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee provided recommendations to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors on the 2040 General Plan Update project.

### ***Municipal Advisory Councils and Piru Neighborhood Council***

The County's six Municipal Advisory Councils (Ojai Valley, Casa Conejo, El Rio/Del Norte, Santa Rosa Valley, Oak Park, and Somis) and the Piru Neighborhood Council served as convening organizations for community workshops and provided recommendations to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors on the 2040 General Plan Update project.

- **Overview Presentation Provided at Ventura County Municipal Advisory Councils**

From May 16 to June 30, 2016, County staff presented an overview of the General Plan Update scope of work, schedule, and roles and responsibilities of the Municipal Advisory Councils.

- **Proposed Vision and Guiding Principles**

From July 17 to 26, 2017, County staff presented information and received feedback on the 2040 General Plan's proposed Vision and Guiding Principles.

- **Project Update for the 2040 General Plan**

From March 13 to 26, 2019, County staff presented information related to the impending release of the Preliminary Public Review Draft 2040 General Plan and the public participation opportunities that would follow its release.

### **Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors Meetings, Working Sessions, and Hearings**

The Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors were engaged in each step of the development of the 2040 General Plan (illustrated on Figure 1-3). Their insight and guidance were key to developing the 2040 General Plan. At each of the following meetings and work sessions, the public was invited to provide input.

#### ***Planning Commission Work Sessions***

- **April 7, 2016**

Presentation of an overview of the Planning Commission roles and responsibilities, final work program and schedule, and proposed Community Engagement Strategy.

- **June 8, 2017**

Presentation of the Assets, Issues, and Opportunities Summary Report and the Draft Background Report.

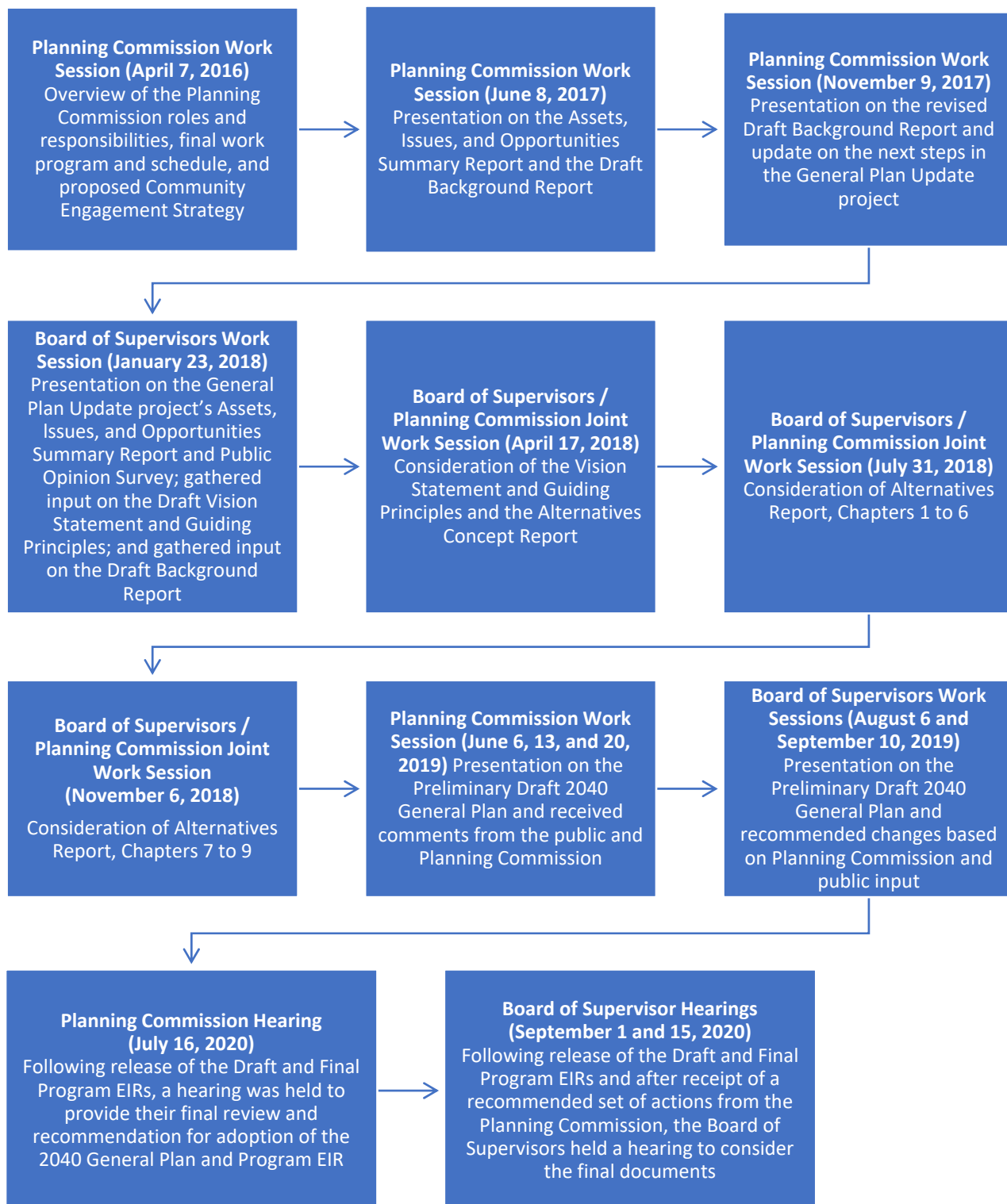
- **November 9, 2017**

Presentation of the revised Draft Background Report and update the Planning Commission on next steps for the General Plan Update project.

- **June 6, 13, and 20, 2019**

Presentation of the Preliminary Public Review Draft 2040 General Plan and receive comments from the public and Planning Commission. This review occurred over several meetings. As part of these meetings, the Planning Commission made recommendations on the content of the 2040 General Plan to be used in the preparation of the Draft Program EIR.

**Figure 1-3 Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors Process Integration**



### ***Board of Supervisors Work Sessions***

- **January 23, 2018**  
Receive and file the General Plan Update project's Assets, Issues, and Opportunities Summary Report and Public Opinion Survey; provide input on the Draft Vision Statement and Guiding Principles; and provide input on the Draft Background Report.
- **August 6 and September 10, 2019**  
Presentation of the Preliminary Public Review Draft 2040 General Plan and recommended changes based on Planning Commission and public input. As part of these meetings, the Board of Supervisors made recommendations on the content of the 2040 General Plan to be used in the preparation of the Public Review Draft General Plan and Draft Program EIR. The September 10, 2019 Work Session included the review of the policy changes recommended at the August 6, 2019 Work Session and consider outstanding questions.

### ***Board of Supervisors / Planning Commission Joint Work Sessions***

- **April 17, 2018**  
Consideration of the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles and the Alternatives Concept Report.
- **July 31, 2018**  
Consideration of Alternatives Report, Chapters 1 - 6.
- **November 6, 2018**  
Consideration of Alternatives Report, Chapters 7 - 9.

### ***Planning Commission Hearings***

- **July 16, 2020**  
Following release of the Draft and Final Program EIRs, a hearing was held with the Planning Commission to provide their final review and provide their recommendations on the 2040 General Plan and Program EIR. At this hearing, the Planning Commission received public testimony and made final recommendations on any changes needed. The Planning Commission then recommended approval of both documents to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration.

### ***Board of Supervisor Hearings***

- **September 1 and September 15, 2020**  
Following release of the Draft and Final Program EIRs and after receipt of a recommended set of actions from the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors held hearings to consider the final documents. Following public testimony and discussion and requested changes, the Board of Supervisors acted to certify the Program EIR and to adopt the 2040 General Plan.



*Please see the next page.*



*Please see the next page.*

## 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

The County of Ventura has land use regulatory authority over most unincorporated land in the county. In contrast, the County lacks land use authority within the city limits of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura. The County lacks land use authority over land in the unincorporated area that is owned/managed by the state or federal government (e.g., state parks, national parks, Bureau of Land Management areas, and tribal lands), except for portions of state parks and other state land located in the coastal zone. Under state law the County has land use authority over land owned/managed by special districts in the unincorporated area (e.g., school districts, cemetery districts, water districts), subject to limited exceptions.

The purpose of the Land Use and Community Character Element is twofold. First, this Element includes policies establishing land use designations that identify the type and intensity of uses permissible in unincorporated areas. These designations are shown on the Land Use Diagram, which graphically illustrates the boundaries for distinct land use designations. The intent of these land use designations is also described through text and a table of accompanying development standards. Second, this Element includes a series of goals and policies identifying the County's philosophy for future change, development, and natural resource protection. The focus of this section is to preserve agricultural, rural, and open space lands while directing growth to cities and unincorporated communities. Goals, policies, and implementation programs in this Element are organized under the following headings.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
2.1	Growth Management .....	2-2
2.2	Land Use Designations and Standards .....	2-13
2.3	Area Plans .....	2-47
2.4	Character and Design .....	2-50
2.5	Environmental Justice .....	2-51
2.6	Civic Engagement .....	2-54
2.7	Development Review and Inter-Agency Coordination .....	2-55
2.8	Military Compatibility .....	2-56
2.9	General Plan Maintenance .....	2-58
2.10	Implementation Programs .....	2-59



The Land Use and Community Character Element includes a series of diagrams (i.e., maps) to depict areas described in this element. These are as follows:

Figure	Title	Page
Figure 2-1	Urban and Existing Community Designated Areas .....	2-5
Figure 2-2	Area Plans .....	2-7
Figure 2-3	Areas of Interest .....	2-9
Figure 2-4	General Plan Land Use Diagram.....	2-15
Figure 2-5	General Plan Land Use Diagram, Southern Area .....	2-17
Figure 2-6	Designated Disadvantaged Communities .....	2-52

## 2.1 Growth Management

One of Ventura County’s distinguishing characteristics is its open space and scenic character. The County is dedicated to directing urban development to cities and existing unincorporated communities to preserve its working and rural landscapes, agricultural lands, scenic vistas, natural resources, and recreational opportunities. The County has a direct role in maintaining agricultural, rural, and open space areas and shaping the character of urban development. At the same time, the County seeks to support and encourage the cities in their land use planning efforts to ensure that a quality living environment is provided for all existing and future county residents. The County has adopted several regulatory measures to guide growth and development in the county, which are described below, as well as in Chapter 8, Agriculture Element. An overview of the annexation history and development trends in Ventura County is located in Section 3.3, “Annexation and Development Trends,” of the Background Report.

### Guidelines for Orderly Development

Ventura County’s Guidelines for Orderly Development (Guidelines) are a set of policies that have been adopted by the County, all incorporated cities in the county, and the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). The Guidelines intend to: (1) clarify the relationship between the cities and the County with respect to urban planning; (2) facilitate a better understanding regarding development standards and fees; and (3) identify the appropriate governmental agency responsible for making determinations on land use change requests. The Guidelines represent a unique, collaborative commitment to encourage urban development within cities whenever and wherever practical; enhance the regional responsibility of County government; and facilitate orderly planning and development in Ventura County.

The Guidelines were developed into their current form through the key milestones listed below:

- **1967:** Several cities and the County began adopting greenbelt agreements.
- **1969:** The Guidelines were adopted by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors and LAFCO as a set of policies related to growth and delivery of urban services.
- **1976:** The Guidelines were revised and adopted by the County, LAFCO, and all Ventura County incorporated cities except the City of Ojai. Changes to the Guidelines included the establishment of Areas of Influence, which were subsequently renamed Areas of Interest.



- **1983:** The Guidelines were revised and readopted by the County, LAFCO, and all incorporated cities in Ventura County. Revisions to the Guidelines included establishment of the Areas of Interest, with one city in each Area of Interest; establishment of Spheres of Influence for each city which identify where annexations could occur; and clarification of land use policies.
- **1995:** The Guidelines were revised and readopted by the County, LAFCO, and all incorporated cities in Ventura County. Changes to the Guidelines included defining “urban development” as referring to residential lots less than two acres in area; change in the County’s minimum lot size for the Rural land use designation from one to 2 acres; and clarified land use policies.

### Greenbelt Agreements

Greenbelt agreements, also referred to as greenbelts, are voluntary agreements between the County and one or more cities to limit development of agricultural and/or open space areas within the unincorporated county. Greenbelts protect open space and agricultural lands to prevent premature conversion to uses incompatible with agricultural uses. Through greenbelt agreements, cities commit to not annex any property within a greenbelt while the County agrees to restrict development to uses consistent with existing agricultural or open space zoning. There are seven greenbelts in Ventura County covering approximately 164,000 acres collectively.

### Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR)

Ventura County voters first approved the countywide SOAR initiative in 1998. In general, and subject to certain exceptions, SOAR requires countywide voter approval of any 1) substantive change to the General Plan’s Agricultural, Open Space, or Rural land use goals or policies, and 2) re-designation of land with these General Plan land use designations. In November 2016, Ventura County voters renewed the County’s SOAR initiative and extended its provisions through 2050. Similarly, voters in eight of the county’s ten cities renewed SOAR initiatives adopted by the respective jurisdictions which are applicable within their boundaries. The County SOAR initiative’s Agricultural, Open Space and Rural goals and policies are included in this General Plan with only technical, non-substantive revisions for clarification and internal consistency with the rest of the General Plan.

#### LU-1

To ensure that the County can accommodate anticipated future growth and development while promoting orderly growth and development that enhances quality of life, maintains a safe and healthful environment, preserves valuable natural resources, and plans for adequate public facilities and services.

#### LU-1.1



#### Guidelines for Orderly Development

The County shall continue to promote orderly and compact development by:

- working with cities in Ventura County and the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to promote and maintain reasonable city boundaries and Spheres of Influence to prevent growth-inducing urban development in unincorporated areas, and
- require unincorporated urban development to be located in areas designated as Existing Communities and unincorporated urban centers consistent with the Guidelines for Orderly Development and as defined in Policy LU-1.2.

(RDR, IGC)

### LU-1.2

#### Area Designations

For purposes of planning within the county and as used in this General Plan, the County establishes the following area designations:

- **Urban.** Figure 2-1 indicates the boundary of the Urban area designation. All areas inside these boundaries are considered within the Urban area designation for purposes of this General Plan and implementation of the Guidelines for Orderly Development and Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR). See Goal LU-2 and associated policies for further information on this designation.
- **Existing Community.** Figure 2-1 indicates the boundary of the Existing Community area designation. All areas inside these boundaries are considered within the Existing Community area designation for purposes of this General Plan and implementation of the Guidelines for Orderly Development and Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR). See Goal LU-3 and associated policies for further information on this designation.
- **Area Plans.** Area Plans are an integral part of the County's General Plan, providing the basis for future land use development in specifically defined areas. These plans govern the distribution, general location, and extent of uses of the land for housing, business, industry, open space, agriculture, and public facilities. In the General Plan, the Area Plan designation defines the boundary for the specific geographic areas of the county that are covered by an adopted Area Plan. Area Plans shall be consistent with the General Land Use Diagram, although the Area Plans may be more specific. Figure 2-2 indicates the areas covered by the Area Plans in the county.
- An **Area of Interest** is part of a plan adopted by Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) which divides the county into major geographic areas that are reflective of community and planning identity. Within each Area of Interest there should be no more than one city or unincorporated urban center, but there will not necessarily be a city or unincorporated urban center in each Area of Interest. Figure 2-3 shows the Area of Interest boundaries for the county.
- An **Unincorporated Urban Center** is an existing or planned community which is located in an Area of Interest where no city exists. The unincorporated urban center represents the focal center for community and planning activities within the Area of Interest. For example, the Community of Piru represents the focal center in the Piru Area of Interest.
- A **Sphere of Influence**, as used in this General Plan, is an area determined by the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to represent the "probable" ultimate boundary of a city. LAFCO also recognizes Spheres of Influence for special districts, which are not discussed in this Element. The adoption of Spheres of Influence is required by Government Code Section 56425.

(RDR)

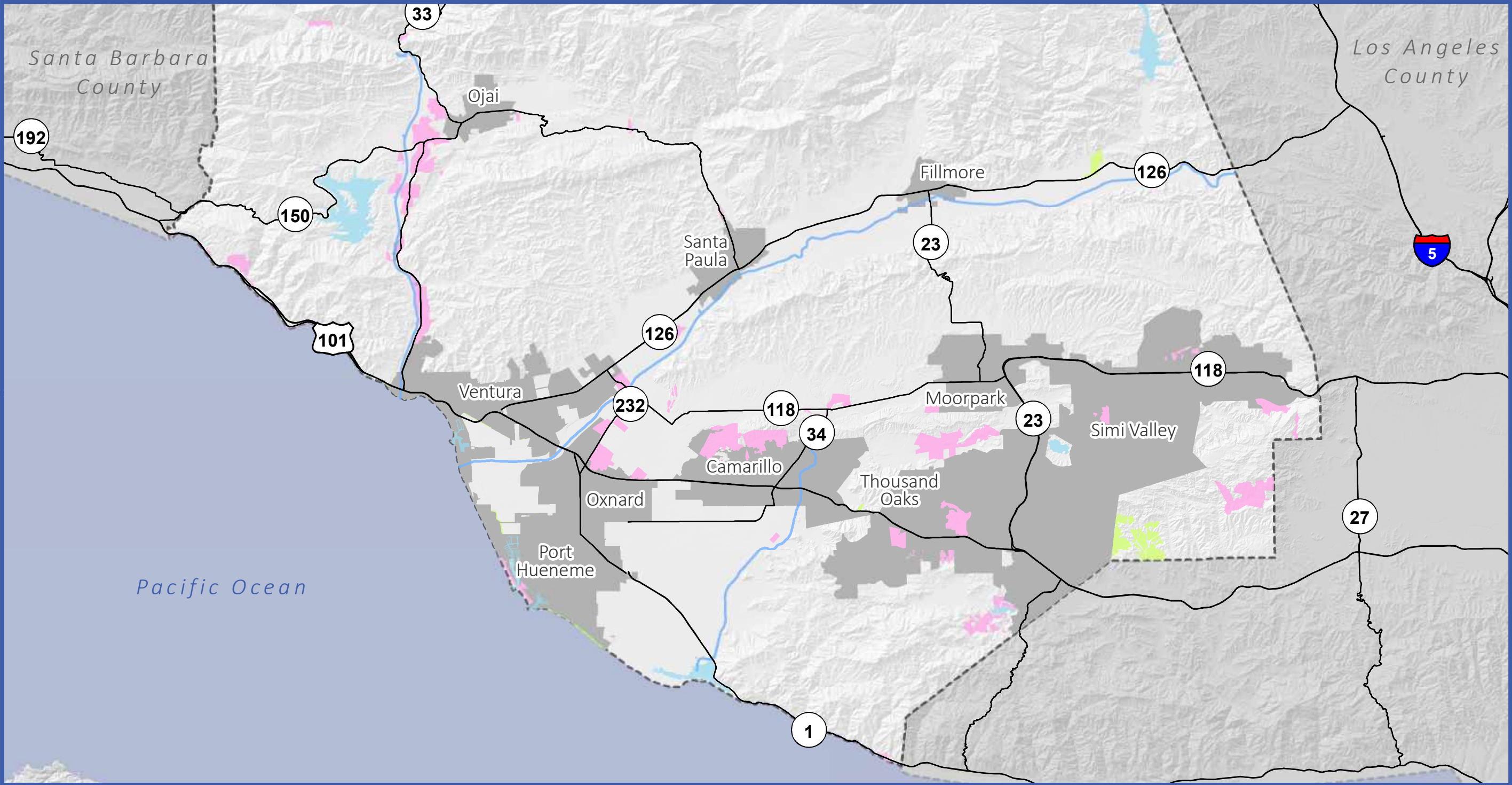
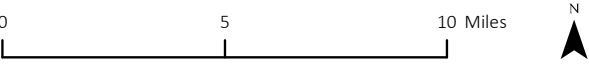


Figure 2-1:  
Urban and Existing Community Designated Areas

Map Date: April 30, 2019  
Source: Mintier Harnish, 2019.



- Ventura County Boundary
- Cities
- Major Roadways
- Major Waterways
- Urban
- Existing Community

*Please see the next page.*



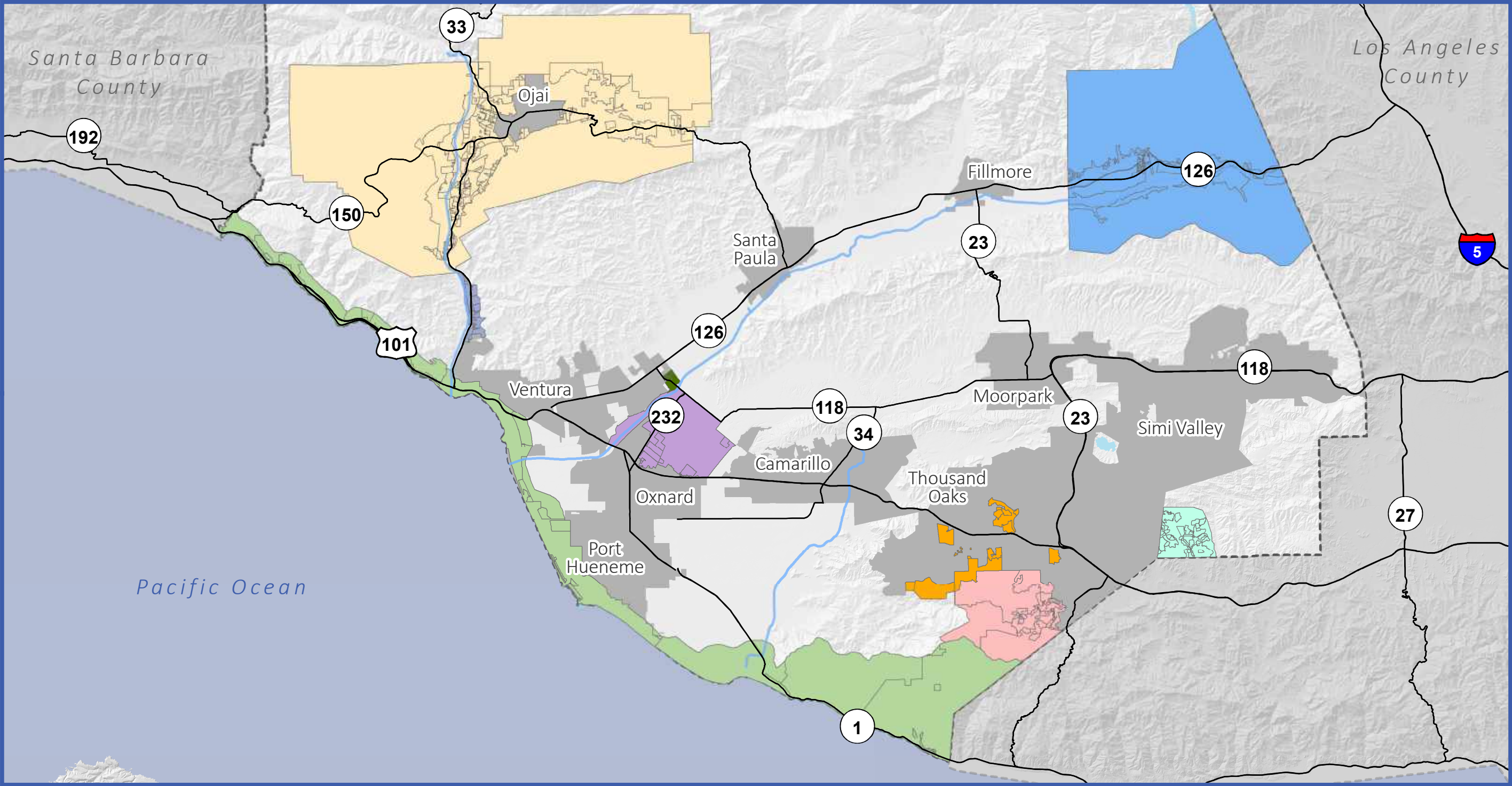


Figure 2-2:  
Area Plans

Map Date: April 30, 2019  
Source: Mintier Harnish, 2019.



- |                         |                      |                             |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ventura County Boundary | <b>Area Plans</b>    | Ojai Valley                 |
| Major Roadways          | Coastal Area         | Piru                        |
| Major Waterways         | El Rio/Del Norte     | Saticoy                     |
|                         | North Ventura Avenue | Thousand Oaks               |
|                         | Oak Park             | Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley |
|                         |                      | Cities                      |



*Please see the next page.*

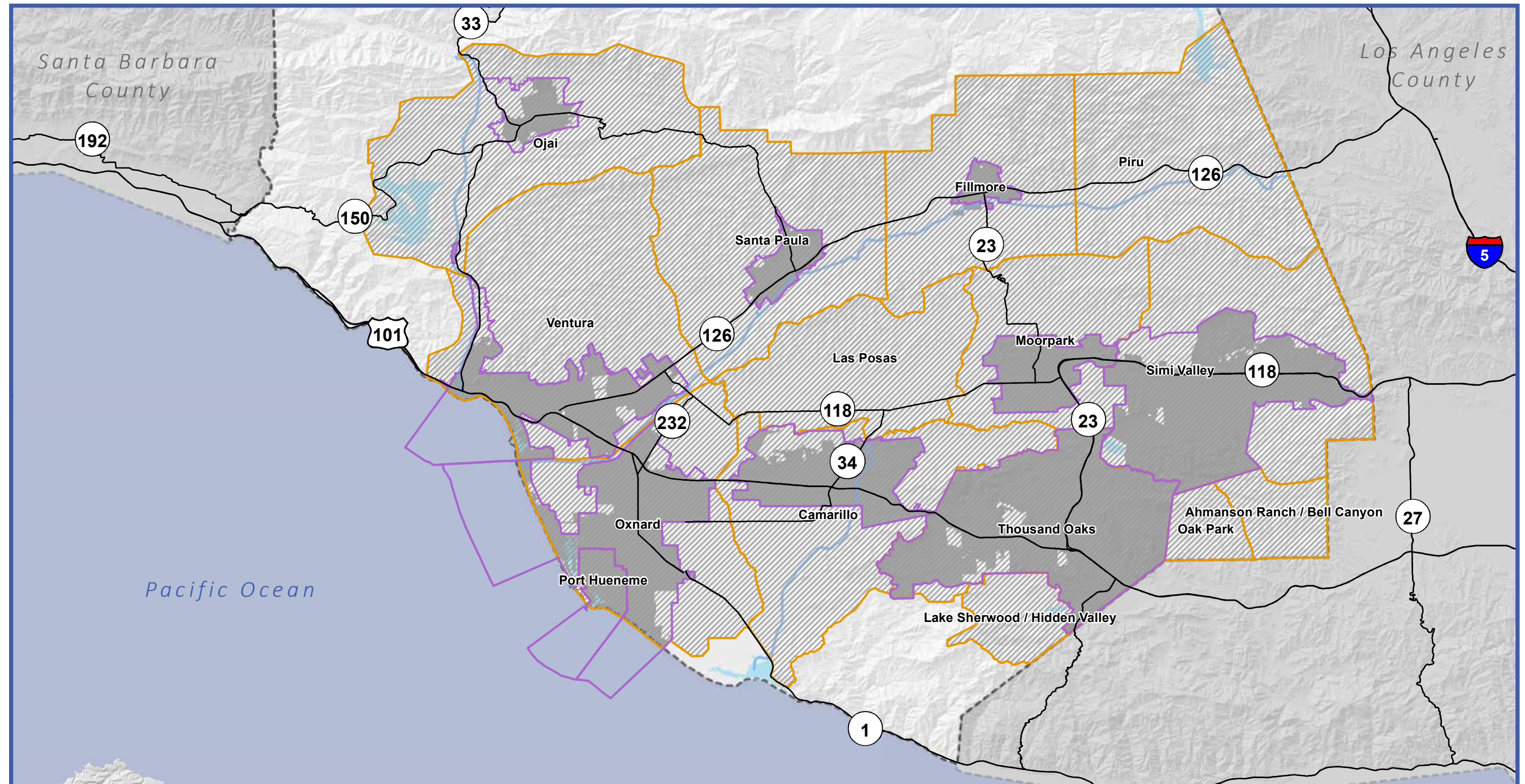








Figure 2-3:  
Areas of Interest and City Spheres of Influence (SOI)

Map Date: September 03, 2019  
Source: Mintier Harnish, 2019.



-  Ventura County Boundary
  Areas of Interest
-  Cities
  City Sphere of Influence (SOI)
-  Major Roadways
-  Major Waterways

*Please see the next page.*

## 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

### LU-1.3

#### Regional Housing Needs Allocations

The County shall coordinate with Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to direct state regional housing needs allocations predominantly to cities to ensure consistency with the County's Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR) initiative and the SCAG's Sustainable Communities Strategy. (RDR, IGC)

### LU-1.4



#### Land Use Patterns

The County shall ensure that new land use patterns emphasize efficient use of land and infrastructure, walkable neighborhoods, contemporary development practices, and sense of place consistent with the Guidelines for Orderly Development. (RDR)

### LU-1.5

#### Infill Development

The County shall encourage infill development within Existing Communities and within or adjacent to existing development within unincorporated urban centers to maximize the efficient use of land and existing infrastructure. (RDR)

### LU-1.6

#### Accommodating Future Growth

The County shall ensure that the General Plan designates adequate land for urban development to accommodate projected population and employment growth in the unincorporated areas as determined by the Board of Supervisors. (RDR)

### LU-1.7



#### Safe and Sanitary Homes Education and Outreach

The County shall engage with agencies, non-profit organizations, landlords, property owners and tenants in Disadvantaged Communities to disseminate information to educate about indoor mold and lead hazards, methods for reduction, and prevention.

## LU-2

To maintain an Urban designation that:

- recognizes areas within the county planned for urban development which are currently incorporated, or which are candidates for future incorporation ;
- direct urban development to existing cities and unincorporated urban centers within their own Area of Interest; and
- discourage outward expansion of urban development when suitable developable areas exist within cities and unincorporated urban centers.

### LU-2.1

#### Urban

The Urban area designation, referred to in the Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR) initiative, is used to depict existing and planned urban centers which include commercial and industrial uses as well as residential uses where the building intensity is greater than one principal dwelling unit per two acres. This designation has been applied to all incorporated lands within a city's Sphere of Influence as established by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), and unincorporated urban centers within their own Areas of Interest which may be candidates for future incorporation. In this General Plan, this term is synonymous with the combination of the areas shown as "Cities" and "Unincorporated Urban Centers" on Figure 2-1. (RDR, MPSP)





*This designation defines the boundary of Urban in the unincorporated areas of the county and the areas within these boundaries, as shown on Figure 2-1.*

### LU-3

To recognize and confine existing urban enclaves, which are within Existing Community boundaries, to limit the location of uses, densities, and zoning designations normally limited to Urban designated areas.

#### LU-3.1

##### **Existing Community(ies)**

The Existing Community area designation, referred to in SOAR, identifies existing urban residential, commercial, or industrial enclaves outside of incorporated areas and unincorporated urban centers. The Existing Community area designation recognizes existing land uses in unincorporated areas which have been developed with urban building intensities and urban land uses, contains these enclaves within specific areas so as to prevent further expansion, and limits the building intensity and land use to previously established levels. Thomas Aquinas College is newly designated in this initiative as Existing Community, with the intention that it be confined to its current boundaries with the understanding that it may continue to intensify its building for its educationally related purposes.

Figure 2-1 indicates the boundary of the Existing Community area designation. All areas inside these boundaries are considered within the Existing Community area designation for purposes of this General Plan and implementation of the Guidelines for Orderly Development and Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR) initiative. This term is considered synonymous with “Urban Enclave” as used in other planning documents. (RDR, MPSP)



*This designation defines the boundary of the Existing Communities in the unincorporated areas of the county and the areas within these boundaries, as shown on Figure 2-1.*

#### LU-3.2

##### **Areas Appropriate for the Existing Community Designation**

The County shall include existing unincorporated urban enclaves located outside cities and unincorporated urban centers within Existing Community designated boundaries. (MPSP)

#### LU-3.3

##### **Range of Uses in the Existing Community Designation**

The County shall recognize that the Existing Community area designation may cover the range of zones present in the area including, but not limited to, residential, commercial, and industrial, as well as the range of existing population densities and building intensities. The County shall allow the appropriate zoning, population densities, and building intensities based on the adopted Area Plan or, where no Area Plan exists, by the applicable Existing Community Map contained in Appendix A. Because of the degree of specificity on the Existing Community Maps, the County shall require a General Plan amendment for any zone change within an Existing Community. (MPSP)



### 2.2 Land Use Designations and Standards

A central component of the Land Use Element is the inclusion of a diversity of land use designations to adequately classify and distinguish the various land uses needed within the county, as well as descriptions that distinguish between corresponding levels of intensity, density, and allowable uses as required by Government Code Section 65302(a)). The General Plan Land Use Diagram (see Figures 2-4 and 2-5) provides a graphical representation of the distribution of allowed land uses within the unincorporated areas of Ventura County. It gives direction for how, where, and what kind of development may occur. An overview of land use designations and their locations in the county is described and illustrated in section 3.5, “General Plan and Area Plan Land Use Designations,” of the Background Report.

#### LU-4

To ensure that land uses are appropriate and compatible with each other and guide development in a pattern that will minimize land use conflicts between adjacent land uses.

##### LU-4.1

#### General Plan Land Use Diagram

The County shall maintain and implement a Land Use Diagram for purposes of describing the types of allowed land uses by geographic location and the density and/or intensity of allowed uses within each designation.

The goals and locational descriptions set forth in this Element are general guidelines for determining whether land should be within a particular land use designation depicted on the General Plan Land Use Diagram (Figures 2-4 and 2-5). The land use designation applied to a specific parcel of land shall be as designated on the General Land Use Diagram, whether or not such parcel meets all of the applicable criteria.

The General Plan Land Use Diagram covers the mainland areas of the county. The following designations apply to Anacapa and San Nicholas islands and are incorporated into the Land Use Diagram by reference.

- Anacapa Island is designated “OS” as Open Space
- San Nicholas Island is designated “P” as State, Federal, Other Public Lands

(RDR)



*It is common for the County to update the Land Use and Circulation Diagrams over time. Please check with the Planning Division of the Ventura County Resource Management Agency to ensure you have the current version.*

##### LU-4.2

#### Zoning Consistency

The County shall ensure that zoning designations are consistent with the General Land Use Diagrams (Figures 2-4 and 2-5) and the Zoning Consistency Matrix (Table 2-1). The County shall apply the following factors to determine the appropriate zone classification (from among those consistent with the appropriate land use designation):

- Recognizing the desirability of retaining existing uses and densities on the subject land;
- Recognizing the desirability of accommodating anticipated uses on the subject land;

- Maintaining continuity with neighboring zoning, land uses and parcel sizes;
- Implementing the recommendations of specific zoning and land use studies of the area in question;
- Recognizing and addressing the presence and significance of resources and hazards; and
- Evaluating the ability to provide public services and facilities.

(RDR)

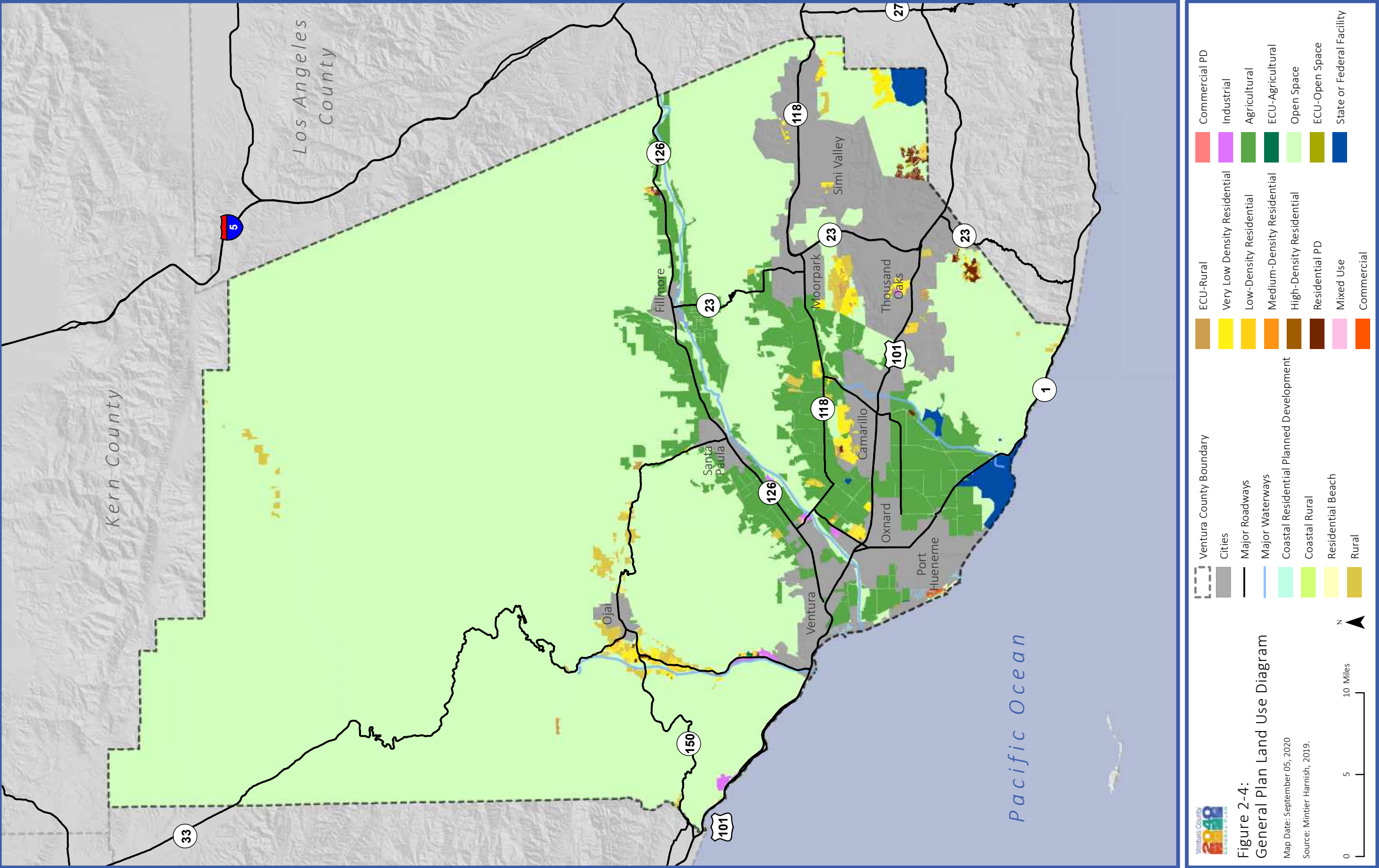
### LU-4.3

#### **Minimum Parcel Size**

The County shall require subdivisions of land to meet the minimum parcel size requirements established by Table 2-2, by the applicable Zoning Compatibility Matrix established by the respective Area Plans, or by the applicable Existing Community land use diagrams contained in Appendix A. Parcels smaller than the stated minimum may be allowed under the following circumstances:

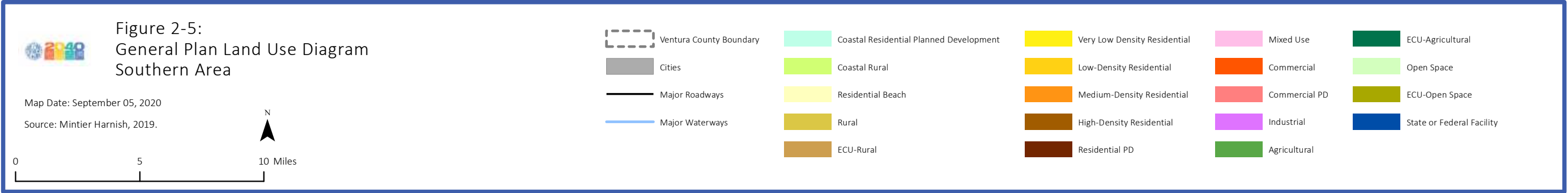
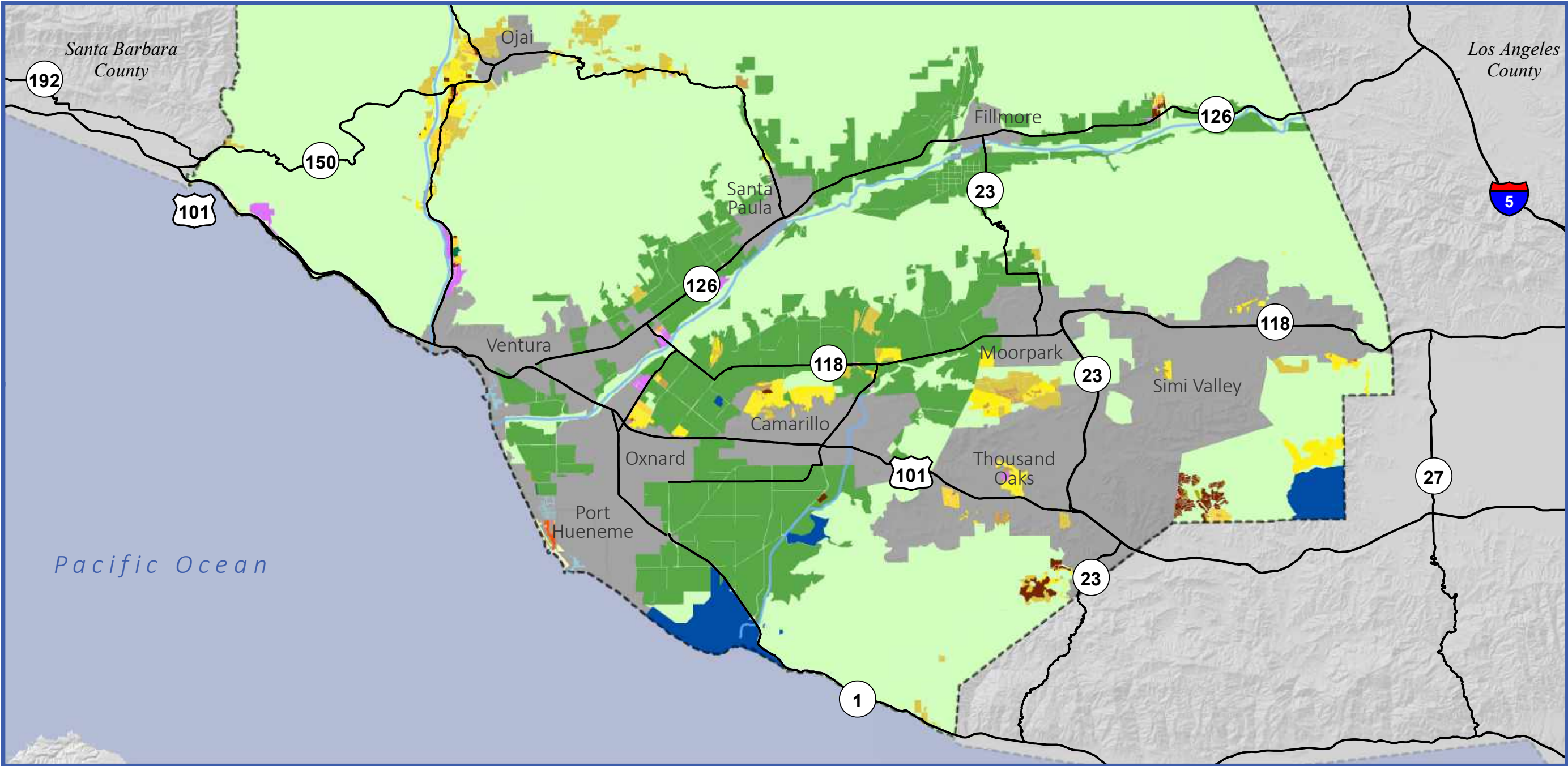
- A parcel may be created for the sole purpose of transferring, by lease or sale, possession of an agricultural water well and the land around the well as may be necessary for its operation. Such parcels, and the wells they contain, shall be used for agricultural purposes only.
- Parcels for public purposes such as, but not limited to, fire, police, municipal water wells, flood control, and other public health and safety facilities.
- Affordable and elderly housing developments that are eligible for density bonuses as specified in Article 16 of the County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance may be granted a reduction from the minimum parcel size requirements in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 or pursuant to state law.
- Parcels designated as Cultural Heritage Sites may be granted a reduction from the minimum parcel size requirements in accordance with the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance.
- Parcels subdivided for resource conservation purposes in accordance with the conservation subdivision process established in the Ventura County Subdivision Ordinance.
- Parcels subdivided for the perpetual maintenance of biotic or wildlife habitat in accordance with California Government Code section 66418.2.
- Parcels of less than the prescribed minimum lot area may be allowed for farmworker housing complexes on land zoned Agricultural Exclusive (AE) within or adjacent to a city Sphere of Influence, provided the remaining non-farmworker housing complex parcel is a minimum of 10 acres.

(RDR)



*Please see the next page.*







*Please see the next page.*

## 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

**Table 2-1 General Plan Land Use Designations and Zoning Compatibility Matrix**

General Plan Land Use Designations	Coastal and Non-Coastal Zones																																			
	AE	C1	CA	CC	CM	COS	CPD	CPD/CBD	CR	CR1	CR2	CRE	CRPD	CPD	IND	M1	M2	M3	OS	R/MU	R1	R2	RA	RB	RBH	RE	RES	RHD	RO	RPD	TC	TP	REC	OS-REC		
Rural									■			■											■			■			■							
ECU-Rural									■			■											■			■			■							
Agricultural	■		■																																	
ECU-Agricultural	■		■																				■									■				
Open Space <sup>1, 2</sup>	■		■			■													■															■		
ECU-Open Space <sup>1, 2</sup>	■		■			■													■																■	
Very Low Density Residential																					■		■			■			■							
Low-Density Residential										■	■										■	■														
Medium-Density Residential											■									■							■				■					
Residential High-Density																													■							
Residential Planned Development													■																		■					

General Plan Land Use Designations	Coastal and Non-Coastal Zones																																	
	AE	C1	CA	CC	CM	COS	CPD	CPD/CBD	CR	CR1	CR2	CRE	CRPD	CPD	IND	M1	M2	M3	OS	R/MU	R1	R2	RA	RB	RBH	RE	RES	RHD	RO	RPD	TC	TP	REC	OS-REC
Coastal Residential Planned Development													■																					
Residential Beach																								■	■									
Mixed Use																				■											■			
Commercial		■		■			■	■						■																				
Commercial Planned Development							■	■																										
Industrial					■										■	■	■	■																
Parks & Recreation <sup>2</sup>																																	■	
State, Federal, Other Public Lands						■													■															

Notes: <sup>1</sup> The minimum lot size is 10 acres, or 20 acres if contiguous with Agricultural.

<sup>2</sup> Parcels and corresponding zone classifications have not yet been identified for the new Parks and Recreation land use designation, Recreation zone classification or Open Space Parks and Recreation zone classification.

## 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

**Table 2-2 Land Use Designation General Development Standards**

Acronym	Land Use Designation	Maximum Density / Intensity	Minimum Lot Size	Max. Lot Coverage
<b>Rural, Agricultural, and Open Space Designations</b>				
RUR	Rural	1 du/2 ac	2 acres, or zone suffix equal to or more restrictive than 2 acres	25%
ECU-R	ECU-Rural	1 du/2 ac	2 acres	25%
AG	Agricultural	1 du/40 ac	40 acres	5%
ECU-A	ECU-Agricultural	1 du/40 ac	40 acres	5%
OS	Open Space	1 du/parcel	10 acres, or 20 acres if contiguous w/Agricultural	5%
ECU-OS	ECU-Open Space	1 du/parcel	10 acres, or 20 acres if contiguous w/Agricultural	5%
<b>Residential Designations</b>				
VLDR	Very Low Density Residential	4 du/ac	10,000 SF	n/a*
LDR	Low-Density Residential	6 du/ac	6,000 SF	n/a*
MDR	Medium-Density Residential	14 du/ac	3,000 SF	n/a*
RHD	Residential High-Density	20 du/ac	No Minimum	n/a*
RPD	Residential Planned Development	20 du/ac	No Minimum	n/a*
CRPD	Coastal Residential Planned Development	36 du/ac	No Minimum	n/a*
RB	Residential Beach	36 du/ac	1,500 SF	n/a*
<b>Mixed Use, Commercial, and Industrial Designations</b>				
MU	Mixed Use	20 du/ac; 60% lot coverage	No Minimum	60%
C	Commercial	60% lot coverage	No Minimum	60%
CPD	Commercial Planned Development	60% lot coverage	No Minimum	60%
I	Industrial	50% lot coverage	10,000 SF	50%
<b>Other Designations</b>				
PR	Parks & Recreation	n/a	None	5%
P	State, Federal, Other Public Lands	n/a	None	n/a

\* Maximum lot coverage is per appropriate County Zoning classification.

### LU-4.4

#### **Nonconforming Parcel Size**

The County shall not prohibit the use or development of a parcel which is a legal lot for the purposes of the County Subdivision Ordinance, but which fails to meet the minimum parcel size requirements of the applicable land use designation, solely by reason of such failure. However, this policy shall not be construed to permit the division of any parcel into two or more lots if any of the new lots fail to meet the minimum parcel size requirements. (RDR)

### LU-4.5

#### **Jobs-Housing Balance**

The County shall evaluate employment generating discretionary development resulting in 30 or more new full-time and full-time-equivalent employees to assess the project's impact on lower-income housing demand within the community in which the project is located or within a 15-minute commute distance of the project. At such time as the Housing Impact Mitigation Fee Program is completed, this policy shall no longer apply. (RDR)

### LU-4.6

#### **Variances**

The County may grant variances to minimum parcel size requirements and building intensity standards, height and setback standards applicable to a given property subject to the following conditions:

1. There are special circumstances or exceptional characteristics applicable to the subject property with regard to size, shape, topography, location, or surroundings, which do not apply generally to comparable properties in the same vicinity and land use designation;
2. Granting the requested variance will not confer a special privilege inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the same vicinity and land use designation;
3. Strict application of the minimum parcel size requirements and building intensity standards as they apply to the subject property will result in practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships inconsistent with the general purpose of such requirements and standards; and
4. The granting of such variances will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, or general welfare, nor to the use, enjoyment or valuation of neighboring properties.

Any such variance shall be processed in the same manner and subject to the same standards as a variance respecting zoning regulations. (RDR)

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## LU-5

To promote the effective implementation and use of the General Plan Land Use Diagram.

---

### LU-5.1

#### **General Plan Land Use Amendments**

When reviewing proposed General Plan amendments to modify or change land use designations or the General Plan Land Use Diagram, the County shall consider if the proposal:

- maintains consistency with the General Plan Vision, Guiding Principles, and relevant goals, and policies;
- maintains consistency with the Guidelines for Orderly Development;
- minimizes the creation of a land use that is inconsistent with the policies, land uses, or development standards of surrounding parcels;



## 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

- enhances compatibility with existing or planned uses in the area;
- addresses new physical, social, or economic factors that are relevant and were not present at the time of the General Plan adoption;
- reduces the potential for undesired, growth-inducing precedent;
- demonstrates appropriate infrastructure and services are available, or amendment is conditioned on requirement to provide or appropriately fund needed infrastructure and services; and
- demonstrates acceptable effect on the fiscal health of the County.

(MPSP)

### LU-5.2

#### Land Use Boundary Interpretation

The County Planning Director shall have the interpretative authority, subject to appeal to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, of the alignment of all land use boundaries depicted on the General Plan Land Use Diagram, consistent with the goals and policies of the General Plan. To the extent feasible, the boundaries on the Land Use Diagram should follow natural or human-made boundaries (including parcel lines), such as:

- water courses
- ridge lines
- toes of slopes
- lines marking changes in vegetation
- lines marking changes in slope
- parcel boundaries
- roads
- rail lines
- utility corridors
- lines separating different land uses
- lines marking the separation between a group of large lots from a group of small lots
- lines marking features or designations referenced in the definitions and criteria of the various land use categories

(RDR)

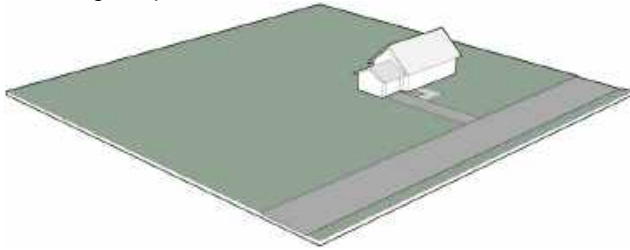
### LU-5.3

#### Concurrent Zoning Change Processing

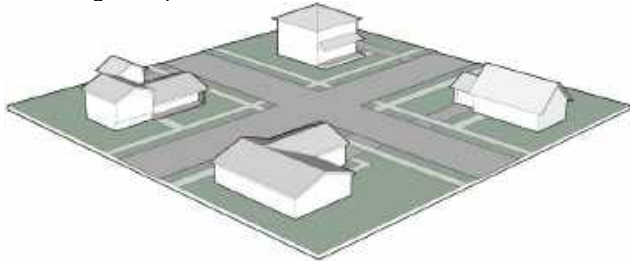
The County shall process zone changes, if necessary, concurrently with General Plan amendments to assure zoning consistency. (RDR)

## Residential Density Examples

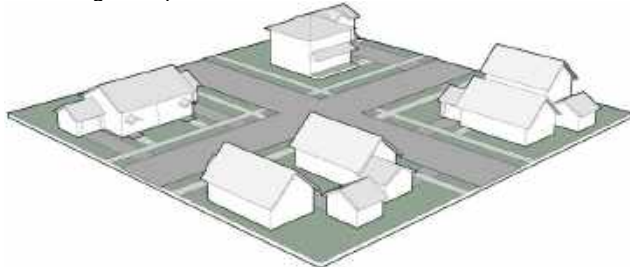
1 dwelling unit per acre



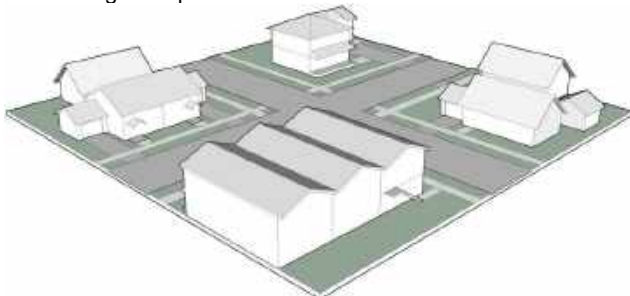
4 dwelling units per acre



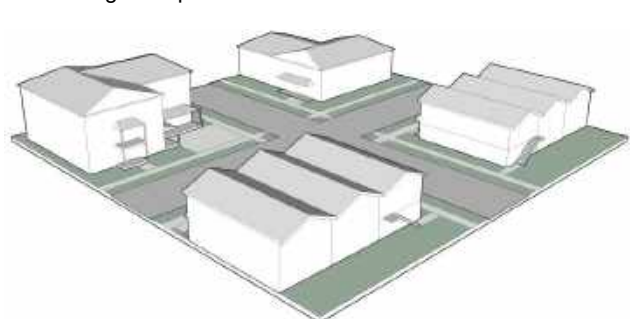
8 dwelling units per acre



12 dwelling units per acre



20 dwelling units per acre



## Typical Uses

The land use descriptions on the following pages (both residential and non-residential) outline the range of uses that are typically found within each designation.

## Residential Designations

Each land use designation in this section is described in terms of typical uses and basic development standards. Development standards for land use designations suitable for residential development as the principal use (e.g., Rural, Low/Medium/High Density Residential) are based on the **density** of the use, as expressed by the number of dwelling units per gross acre, and the **intensity** of use, as expressed by a minimum lot size standard. These development standards are described on the following pages (for each residential designation) and summarized in Table 2-2. Accessory dwelling units are not included in the calculation of residential density.

The drawings to the left illustrate the concept of residential density.

### Non-Residential Designations

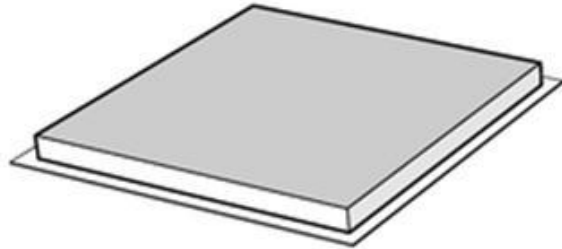
Standards of building intensity where the principle use is not residential (e.g., Agricultural, Open Space, Commercial, Industrial) development standards are based on the intensity of use, expressed as the maximum allowable lot coverage.

Lot coverage is the percent of the gross building footprint (area of the lot covered by the first floor of the building) to the net square footage of the lot. For example, a lot coverage of 100 percent will allow 10,000 square feet of gross building footprint area to be built on a lot with 10,000 net square feet of land area, regardless of the number of stories in the building. On the same lot, a lot coverage of 50 percent would allow 5,000 square feet of floor area, and a lot coverage of 25 percent would allow 2,500 square feet. These development standards are described on the following pages and summarized in Table 2-2.

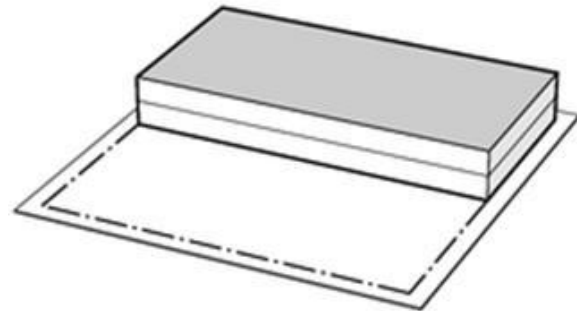
The drawings to the right illustrate this concept.

### Lot Coverage Examples

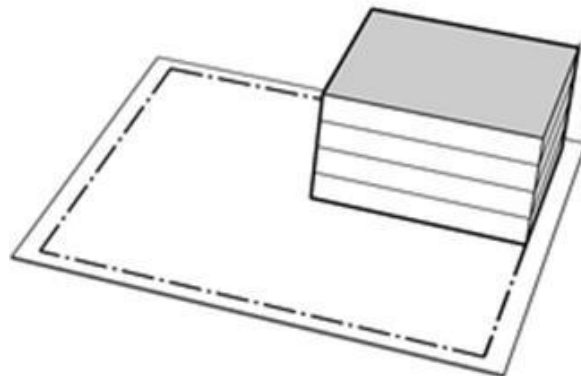
100% lot coverage



50% lot coverage

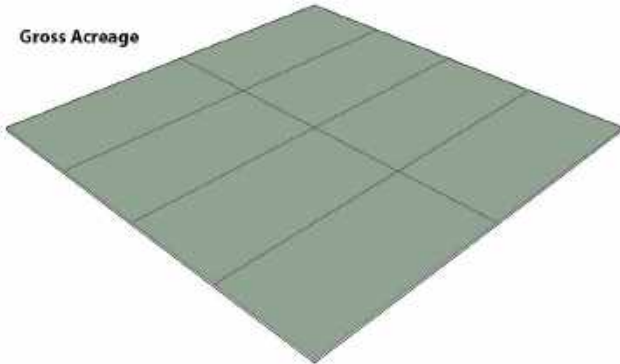


25% lot coverage

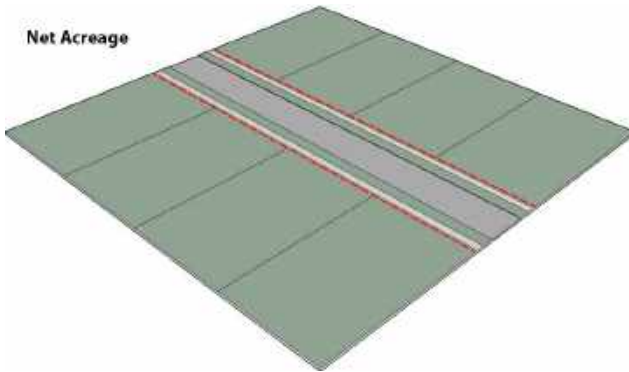


### **Gross versus Net Acreage Examples**

Gross Acreage



Net Acreage



### **Gross versus Net Acreage (Lot Area)**

The term “gross acre” includes all land within the boundaries of the lot (including, but not limited to, easements, streets, and rights-of-way) designated for a particular use. The gross acreage is defined as the total area, measured on a horizontal plane, within the lot lines of a lot. “Net lot area” means lot area less the area within any existing or proposed public or private street, road, or easement for ingress or egress, and less the area within any existing or proposed easement wherein the owner of the lot is prohibited from using the surface of the land.

The minimum lot area for subdivision purposes is expressed in “net” area for parcels of less than 10 acres, and “gross” area for parcels of 10 acres or more.

In areas with more commercial and industrial type development, net acreage may be 20 to 25 percent less for a given site than its gross acreage. In rural areas, the difference between net and gross can be as low as 5 percent.

The drawings to the left illustrate this concept.

### RURAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND OPEN SPACE DESIGNATIONS

Ventura County contains many rural, agricultural, and open space areas that provide a variety of natural assets and resources that establish the essence of the county's quality of life. These resources provide opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy the county's heritage and natural setting. The focus of this section is to provide guidance for the future of these resources in the county.

The acronym "ECU-" preceding a designation name refers to land use designations that apply only within the boundaries of an Existing Community or Urban land use designation. See Policy LU-1.2 for definition of Existing Community and Urban area designations.

### RURAL LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

#### Rural (RUR)

The Rural designation identifies areas suitable for low-density and low-intensity land uses such as residential estates of two acres or greater parcel size and other rural uses which are maintained in conjunction with agricultural and horticultural uses or in conjunction with the keeping of farm animals for recreational purposes.

The Rural designation also identifies institutional uses such as boarding and non-boarding elementary and secondary schools. Additionally, the designation is used for recreational uses such as retreats, camps, recreational vehicle parks, and campgrounds.

The designation of areas for Rural land uses is intended to accommodate the need for low density rural residential development, which, in conjunction with the higher density development of the Urban designated land uses, will provide a full range of residential environments.

The areas considered for inclusion in the Rural designation are existing clusters of rural development and areas deemed appropriate for future rural residential development.

#### ***Development Standards***

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: 1 dwelling unit per 2 acres
- Minimum Lot Size: 2 acres
- Maximum Lot Coverage: 25 percent



### **ECU-Rural (ECU-R)**

This designation provides a physical transition between the outer edges of an Existing Community or Urban Area and nearby agricultural and open space areas and uses. The ECU-Rural designation generally applies to the outer edges of Existing Community and Urban Areas and around sensitive natural resources within the boundaries of an Existing Community designated area. Typical building types include large-lot single family homes in a rural setting.

#### ***Development Standards***

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: 1 dwelling unit per 2 acres
- Minimum Lot Size: 2 acres
- Maximum Lot Coverage: 25 percent

## **AGRICULTURAL LAND USE DESIGNATIONS**

### **Agricultural (AG)**

The Agricultural designation is applied to lands which are suitable for the cultivation of crops and the raising of livestock. Because of the inherent importance of agriculture as a land use in and of itself, agriculture is not subsumed under the Open Space land use designation, but has been assigned a separate land use designation.

Under this designation, the County shall:

- Identify, preserve, and protect agricultural lands as a non-renewable resource within the county that are critical to the maintenance of the local agricultural economy and are important to the state and nation for the production of food, fiber, and ornamentals.
- Maintain agricultural lands in parcel sizes which will assure that viable farming units are retained.
- Establish policies and regulations which restrict agricultural land to farming and related uses rather than other development purposes.
- Restrict the introduction of conflicting uses into farming areas.

#### ***Development Standards***

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: 1 dwelling unit per 40 acres
- Minimum Lot Size: 40 acres
- Maximum Lot Coverage: 5 percent

## 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

### ECU-Agricultural (ECU-A)

The ECU-Agricultural designation is applied to irrigated lands which are suitable for the cultivation of crops and the raising of livestock within the boundaries of an Existing Community designated area.

#### **Development Standards**

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: 1 dwelling unit per 40 acres
- Minimum Lot Size: 40 acres
- Maximum Lot Coverage: 5 percent

## OPEN SPACE LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

### Open Space (OS)

The Open Space designation encompasses land, as defined under Section 65560 of the Government Code, as any parcel or area of land or water which is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open-space use as defined in this section and which is designated on a local, regional or State open space plan as any of the following:

- Open space for the preservation of natural resources including, but not limited to, areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life, including habitat for fish and wildlife species; areas required for ecologic and other scientific study purposes; rivers, streams, bays and estuaries; and coastal beaches, lakeshores, banks of rivers and streams, and watershed lands.
- Open space used for the managed production of resources, including but not limited to, forest lands, rangeland, agricultural lands not designated agricultural; areas required for recharge of groundwater basins; bays, estuaries, marshes, rivers and streams which are important for the management of commercial fisheries; and areas containing major mineral deposits, including those in short supply.
- Open space for outdoor recreation, including but not limited to, areas of outstanding scenic, historic and cultural value; areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes, including access to lakeshores, beaches, and rivers and streams; and areas which serve as links between major recreation and open space reservations, including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails, and scenic highway corridors.
- Open space for public health and safety, including, but not limited to, areas which require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, flood plains, watersheds, areas presenting high fire risks, areas required for the protection of water quality and water reservoirs and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality.
- Open space to promote the formation and continuation of cohesive communities by defining the boundaries and by helping to prevent urban sprawl.
- Open space to promote efficient municipal services and facilities by confining urban development to defined development areas.

### ***Development Standards***

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: 1 dwelling unit per parcel
- Minimum Lot Size: 10 acres, or 20 acres if contiguous with Agricultural
- Maximum Lot Coverage: 5 percent

### **ECU-Open Space (ECU-OS)**

This designation provides for areas with significant natural resources that should remain in open space, used for recreation, or preserved and used for resource production (e.g., mining) and are located within the boundaries of an Existing Community designated area.

### ***Development Standards***

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: 1 dwelling unit per parcel
- Minimum Lot Size: 10 acres, or 20 acres if contiguous with Agricultural
- Maximum Lot Coverage: 5 percent

## **RURAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND OPEN SPACE POLICY DIRECTION**

### **LU-6**

To provide appropriate land use designations that provide for the long-term preservation of the county's rural lifestyle, productive farmland and supporting services, and the vast open space resources that define the county.

#### **LU-6.1**

##### **Agricultural Buffers**

The County shall require non-agricultural land uses adjacent to agricultural uses to incorporate adequate buffers (e.g., fences, setbacks) to limit conflicts with adjoining agricultural operations. (RDR)

#### **LU-6.2**

##### **Maximum Lot Coverage Exclusions - Agricultural Land Use Designation**

The County shall exclude structures used for growing plants such as greenhouses, hothouses, and agricultural shade/mist structures from the Agricultural land use designation maximum lot coverage. This exclusion does not include structures used for preliminary packing, storage and preservation of produce and similar structures. Additionally, greater building coverage may be allowed under discretionary permits for Farmworker Housing Complexes. (RDR)

## 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

### LU-6.3

#### **Density Exceptions – Agricultural Land Use Designation**

The County shall exclude from the Agricultural land use maximum density farmworker dwellings, and accessory dwelling units pursuant to section 65852.2 of the Government Code. (RDR)



*Additional goals and policies on agricultural resources are in Chapter 8, Agriculture Element.*

*Goals and policies on farm-related housing are in Chapter 3, Housing Element.*

## **RURAL LAND USE POLICY DIRECTION**

### LU-7

To recognize and plan for low- density rural residential and recreational development, while preserving resources, avoiding hazards, and providing adequate public facilities and services.

#### LU-7.1

##### **Areas Appropriate for the Rural Land Use Designation**

The County shall require that lands designated as Rural are those located outside areas designated Urban or Existing Community which are deemed suitable and appropriate for low-density rural residential or recreational development. (RDR)

#### LU-7.2

##### **Minimal Parcel Size for the Rural Land Use Designation**

The County shall require that the smallest minimum parcel size consistent with the Rural land use designation is two acres. The County may require larger minimum parcel sizes based on the parcel's Non-Costal Zoning Ordinance zoning classification. (RDR)

#### LU-7.3

##### **Maximum Lot Coverage Nonconforming Lots - Rural Land Use Designation**

The County shall require that the maximum lot coverage for lots of less than one acre (nonconforming) in area shall be as specified for the Rural designation, or 2,500 square feet plus 1 square foot for each 4,596 square feet of lot area over 5,000 square feet, whichever is greater. (RDR)

**AGRICULTURAL LAND USE POLICY DIRECTION**

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LU-8	<p>To maintain an Agricultural designation that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Recognizes the farmlands within the county that are critical to the maintenance of the local agricultural economy and which are important to the state and nation for the production of food, fiber, and ornamentals;</li><li>■ Preserves and protects agricultural lands as a nonrenewable resource to assure their continued availability for the production of food, fiber, and ornamentals;</li><li>■ Promotes the economic viability of agricultural lands by assisting agricultural producers and establishing zoning policies that support long-term investments in agriculture;</li><li>■ Maintains agricultural lands in parcel sizes which will assure that viable farming units are retained;</li><li>■ Establishes policies and regulations which encourage agricultural land to remain in farming and related uses;</li><li>■ Restricts the introduction of conflicting uses into farming areas;</li><li>■ Subject to state law, the Guidelines for Orderly Development, and applicable zoning requirements, actively promotes infrastructure, sized not larger than necessary for the specific project, for farmworker housing to support the continuing viability of agriculture.</li></ul>
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- LU-8.1**

**Areas Appropriate for the Agricultural Land Use Designation**

The County shall ensure that the Agricultural land use designation primarily includes lands that are designated as Prime Farmlands, Farmlands of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmlands in the state's Important Farmland Inventory (IFI), although the County may not designate land as Agricultural if small areas of agricultural land are isolated from larger blocks of farming land. In such cases, the Agricultural land is to be assigned to the Open Space or Rural designation for consistency with surrounding properties. (MPSP)
- LU-8.2**

**Land Uses Appropriate for the Agricultural Land Use Designation**

The County shall ensure that land designated as Agricultural is used for the production of food, fiber, and ornamentals; animal husbandry and care; uses accessory to agriculture; and limited temporary or public uses which are consistent with agricultural or agriculturally related uses. (RDR)
- LU-8.3**

**Minimal Parcel Size for the Agricultural Land Use Designation**

The County shall ensure that the smallest minimum parcel size consistent with the Agricultural land use designation is 40 acres. The County may require larger minimum parcel sizes based on the zone classification. (RDR, MPSP)



## 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

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### LU-8.4

#### **Maximum Lot Coverage Nonconforming Lots - Agricultural Land Use Designation**

The County shall ensure that the maximum lot coverage of lots of less than 10 acres (nonconforming) in area shall be as specified for the Agricultural designation, or 2,500 square feet plus 1 square foot for each 22.334 square feet of lot area over 5,000 square feet, whichever is greater. Greater lot coverage may be allowed under discretionary permits for Farmworker Housing Complexes and existing uses/structures listed in the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance under the heading of "Crop and Orchard Production". (RDR)

### LU-8.5

#### **Farmworker Housing**

The County shall support the development of safe and quality farmworker housing that facilitates a reliable labor force and promotes efficient agricultural operations. Housing units shall include a variety of housing types, including group quarters and larger dwelling units that can accommodate a family. (RDR)

## OPEN SPACE LAND USE POLICY DIRECTION

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### LU-9

To maintain an Open Space designation that:

- Preserves for the benefit of all county residents the continued wise use of the county's renewable and nonrenewable resources by limiting the encroachment into such areas of uses which would unduly and prematurely hamper or preclude the use or appreciation of such resources;
- Acknowledges the presence of certain hazardous features which urban development should avoid for public health and safety reasons, as well as for the possible loss of public improvements in these areas and the attendant financial costs to the public;
- Retains open space lands in a non-urbanized state so as to preserve the maximum number of future land use options;
- Retains open space lands for outdoor recreational activities, parks, trails and for scenic lands;
- Defines urban areas by providing contrasting but complementary areas which should be left non-urbanized;
- Recognizes the intrinsic value of open space lands and not regard such lands as "areas waiting for urbanization";
- Encourages Land Conservation Act (LCA) contracts on farming and grazing and open space lands; and
- Supports the productive agricultural activities of Open Space designated lands that are commonly used for agriculture, grazing, and ranching and that are important to the overall economy of Ventura County.

### LU-9.1

#### **Areas Appropriate for the Open Space Land Use Designation**

The County shall ensure that the Open Space land use designation includes areas of land or water that are set aside for the preservation of natural resources, including, but not limited to, areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life, including habitat for fish and wildlife species; areas required for ecologic and other scientific study purposes; rivers, streams, bays, wetlands, and estuaries; and coastal beaches, lakeshores, banks of rivers and streams, and important watershed lands. (MPSP)

## 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

### LU-9.2

#### **Preservation of Areas for Public Health and Safety**

The County shall designate areas of land or water which are set aside for public health and safety as Open Space, thereby safeguarding humans and property from certain natural hazards, including, but not limited to, areas which require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, flood plains, watersheds, areas presenting high fire risks, areas required for the protection of water quality and water reservoirs, and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality. (MPSP)

### LU-9.3

#### **Minimal Parcel Size for the Open Space Land Use Designation**

The County shall ensure that the smallest minimum parcel size consistent with the Open Space land use category is 10 acres. The County may require larger minimum parcel sizes based on the zone classification. (RDR, MPSP)

### LU-9.4

#### **Minimal Parcel Size for the Open Space Contiguous with Agricultural**

The County shall require Open Space properties contiguous with Agricultural designated land to have a minimal parcel size of 20 acres. (RDR, MPSP)

### LU-9.5



#### **Recreational Areas Appropriate for the Open Space Land Use Designation**

The County shall designate areas appropriate for recreational activities as Open Space, including, but not limited to, use and enjoyment of recreational trails and areas for hunting and fishing. Preservation of open space also serves to protect areas of outstanding scenic, historic, and cultural value; areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes, including access to lakeshores, beaches, and rivers and streams; and areas which serve as links between major recreation and open space reservations, including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails, and scenic highway corridors. (MPSP)

### LU-9.6

#### **Undeveloped Areas Appropriate for the Open Space Land Use Designation**

The County shall designate undeveloped natural areas as Open Space if they surround urban-designated areas which have been set aside to define the boundaries of the urban-designated areas, to prevent urban sprawl, and to promote efficient municipal services and facilities by confining the areas of urban development. (MPSP)

### LU-9.7

#### **Natural Resource Areas Appropriate for the Open Space Land Use Designation**

The County shall designate areas set aside for managed production of resources as Open Space, including, but not limited to, forest lands, rangeland, agricultural lands not otherwise designated Agricultural; areas required for the recharge of groundwater basins; bays, estuaries, marshes, rivers, and streams which are important for the management of commercial fisheries; and areas containing major mineral deposits, including those in short supply. (MPSP)

### LU-9.8

#### **Maximum Lot Coverage Nonconforming Lots – Open Space Land Use Designation**

The County shall ensure that the maximum lot coverage of lots of less than 10 acres (nonconforming) in area shall be as specified for the Open Space designation, or 2,500 square feet plus 1 square foot for each 22,334 square feet of lot area over 5,000 square feet, whichever is greater. Greater building coverage may be allowed under discretionary permits for Farmworker Housing Complexes and existing uses/structures listed in the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance under the heading of “Crop and Orchard Production”. (RDR)

### LU-9.9

#### Open Space Land Use Designation Interpretations

The County shall ensure that Open Space Interpretations granted prior to May 17, 1983 permitting parcel sizes less than those specified in the General Plan shall be considered conforming to the General Plan. Zoning which is consistent with the purpose and intent of the Open Space Interpretations shall be considered conforming to the General Plan. (RDR)

## RESIDENTIAL DESIGNATIONS

The unincorporated county contains a wide array of housing types – from urban multifamily complexes along the coast and in some Existing Communities to rural residential uses on large acreages. The various densities of residential development in the county not only provide housing choices, but their locations and designs play a critical role in the character and quality-of-life of county residents. The focus of this section is to provide an appropriate range of residential land use designations that will guide the development of residential uses in keeping with the needs of the unincorporated county.

## RESIDENTIAL LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

### Very Low Density Residential (VLDR)

This designation provides a physical transition between the outer edges of an Existing Community or Urban Area and nearby agricultural and open space areas and uses. Typical building types include large-lot single family homes in a rural setting.

#### ***Development Standards***

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: 4 dwelling units per acre
- Minimum Lot Size: 10,000 square feet
- Maximum Lot Coverage: Not applicable

## 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

### Low-Density Residential (LDR)

This designation provides for a variety of single-family homes and neighborhoods. Typical building types include small-lot single family homes, and other similar housing types, such as second units.

#### **Development Standards**

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: 6 dwelling units per acre
- Minimum Lot Size: 6,000 square feet
- Maximum Lot Coverage: Not applicable

### Medium-Density Residential (MDR)

This designation provides a transition from lower density, single family areas and more intensely developed residential and commercial areas. Development at the higher end of the density allowed should occur along major transportation routes or adjacent to commercial centers. The MDR designation generally applies to residential neighborhoods and central areas within Existing Communities and Urban Areas.

Typical building types include one- to three-story attached single-family dwellings and lower density multifamily developments.

#### **Development Standards**

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: 13 dwelling units per acre
- Minimum Lot Size: 3,000 square feet
- Maximum Lot Coverage: Not applicable

### Residential High Density (RHD)

This designation provides for residential development in more intensely developed residential and commercial areas. Development at the higher end of the density allowed should occur along major transportation routes and within major commercial centers. The RHD designation generally applies to central areas within Existing Communities and Urban Areas.

Typical building types include one- to three-story multifamily developments.

#### **Development Standards**

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: 20 dwelling units per acre
- Minimum Lot Size: No minimum
- Maximum Lot Coverage: Not applicable



### **Residential Planned Development (RPD)**

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The purpose of this designation is to provide areas for residential communities which will be developed using modern land planning and unified design techniques that can be adjusted to better fit the unique needs of the project site. Using the RPD zoning, areas with this designation provide a flexible regulatory procedure to encourage:

- Compatibility with existing or potential development of surrounding areas;
- An efficient use of land particularly through the clustering of dwelling units and the preservation of the natural features of sites;
- Variety and innovation in site design, density and housing unit options, including garden apartments, townhouses, co-housing developments, and single-family dwellings;
- Lower housing costs through the reduction of street and utility networks; and
- A more varied, attractive and energy-efficient living environment as well as greater opportunities for recreation.

#### ***Development Standards***

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: 20 dwelling units per acre
- Minimum Lot Size: No minimum
- Maximum Lot Coverage: Not applicable

### **Coastal Residential Planned Development (CRPD)**

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The purpose of this designation is to provide areas for residential communities which will be developed using innovative site planning techniques. The CRPD designation generally applies to areas appropriate for modern residential development within the boundaries of an Existing Community designated area in the coastal zone.

#### ***Development Standards***

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: 36 dwelling units per acre
- Minimum Lot Size: No minimum
- Maximum Lot Coverage: Not applicable

### Residential Beach (RB)

This designation provides for small-lot, beach-oriented residential communities. The RB designation generally applies to areas appropriate for high-density residential development within the boundaries of an Existing Community designated area in the Coastal Zone.

#### **Development Standards**

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: 36 dwelling units per acre
- Minimum Lot Size: 1,500 square feet
- Maximum Lot Coverage: Not applicable

### RESIDENTIAL LAND USE DESIGNATIONS POLICY DIRECTION

LU-10	To provide opportunities for a variety of residential types and densities in established Existing Communities, Urban areas, within a city's adopted Sphere of Influence, and Area Plans.
LU-10.1	<b>Accessory Dwelling Units</b> The County shall permit accessory dwelling units as provided for in the Non-Coastal and Coastal Zoning Ordinances, even if such a dwelling would result in a density greater than the standard density specified for the residential land use designations. (RDR)
LU-10.2	<b>Density Exceptions – Residential Land Use Designation</b> The County shall exclude from the Residential land use maximum density farmworker dwellings, and accessory dwelling units pursuant to section 65852.2 of the Government Code . (RDR)
LU-10.3	<b>Maximum Lot Coverage Nonconforming Lots - Residential Land Use Designations</b> The County shall ensure that the maximum lot coverage for lots of less than one acre (nonconforming) in area shall be as specified for the Residential designation, or 2,500 square feet plus 1 square foot for each 4,596 square feet of lot area over 5,000 square feet, whichever is greater.
LU-10.4	<b>Range of Housing Choices</b> The County shall facilitate the creation of a variety of housing types that meet the needs of all residents. (RDR)

### MIXED USE, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL DESIGNATIONS

To support the needs of the county's residents and visitors, a balanced set of commercial and industrial designations is needed. The industrial designation provides appropriate areas to provide employment, products processing, and warehousing. The mixed use and commercial designations provide an appropriate mix of commercial services designed to meet the everyday needs of the community.

### MIXED USE LAND USE DESIGNATION

#### Mixed Use (MU)

This designation provides for the development of activity centers that contain a mix of compatible and integrated commercial, office, residential, civic, and/or recreational uses.

The Mixed-Use designation is only allowed within areas designated as Existing Community, Urban areas, or Unincorporated Urban Centers under Policy LU-1.2. Areas designated as MU should be of a size sufficient to promote the economic success of future developments. Developments should be located on an arterial or higher roadway classification and shall include appropriate pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Typical building types include one- to three-story horizontal or vertical mixed-use structures. Development in the MU areas can have a mix of both residential and commercial uses, or a variety of commercial uses.

#### ***Development Standards***

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: 20 dwelling units per acre
- Minimum Lot Size: No minimum
- Maximum Lot Coverage: 60 percent

### COMMERCIAL LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

#### Commercial (C)

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This designation provides for a mix of retail and service uses that are typically needed by residents in rural communities and surrounding agricultural operations. The Commercial designation is only allowed in areas designated as Existing Community, Urban areas, or Unincorporated Urban Centers under Policy LU-1.2. Developments in Commercial designated areas may include a mix of uses. Developments should be located on a County-defined Minor Collector or higher classification roadway (as shown on Figure 4-3 or 4-4) and should include pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Typical building types include one- to two-story commercial structures.

##### ***Development Standards***

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: Not applicable
- Minimum Lot Size: No minimum
- Maximum Lot Coverage: 60 percent

#### Commercial Planned Development (CPD)

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The purpose of this designation is to provide areas for vibrant commercial centers which will be developed utilizing modern land planning and unified design techniques that can be adjusted to better fit the unique needs of the project site. Using the CPD zoning, areas with this designation provide a flexible regulatory procedure in order to encourage the development of coordinated, innovative, and efficient commercial sites and to provide areas for a wide range of commercial retail and business uses, including stores, shops, and offices supplying commodities or performing services for the surrounding community.

The CPD designation is only allowed in areas designated as Existing Community, Urban areas, or Unincorporated Urban Centers under Policy LU-1.2.

##### ***Development Standards***

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: Not applicable
- Minimum Lot Size: No minimum
- Maximum Lot Coverage: 60 percent

**INDUSTRIAL LAND USE DESIGNATION**

**Industrial (I)**

This designation provides for a range of industrial employment-generating uses, including production, assembly, warehousing, and distribution, that are conducted within enclosed buildings or in appropriately sited and screened outdoor work spaces that are designed for compatibility with surrounding land uses. The Industrial designation should be limited to areas served by, or planned to be served by, public water, wastewater, and drainage systems. Developments must be located on a County-defined Minor Arterial or higher classification roadway (as shown on Figure 4-3 or 4-4).

**Development Standards**

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: Not applicable
- Minimum Lot Size: 10,000 square feet
- Maximum Lot Coverage: 50 percent

**MIXED USE, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL LAND USE DESIGNATIONS POLICY DIRECTION**

LU-11	To promote the development of mixed-use, commercial, and industrial uses in areas that are appropriate for these uses.
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LU-11.1	<p><b>Location</b></p> <p>The County shall encourage mixed-use, commercial, and industrial development be located within cities, existing unincorporated urban centers, or designated Existing Communities where necessary public facilities and services can be provided to serve such development. (RDR)</p>
LU-11.2	<p><b>Applications Within Sphere of Influence</b></p> <p>The County shall direct all applicants for commercial and industrial discretionary development located within a city's Sphere of Influence to that city for possible annexation and processing. (RDR)</p>
LU-11.3	<p><b>Design</b></p> <p>The County shall require new commercial and industrial developments to be designed to be generally compact, grouped and consolidated into functional units providing for sufficient off-street parking and loading facilities, maximize pedestrian and vehicle safety, reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), encourage electric vehicle charging, and minimize the land use conflicts and traffic congestion. The County shall require that commercial and industrial discretionary development is designed to provide adequate buffering (e.g., walls, landscaping, setbacks) and operational conditions (e.g., hours of operation, and scheduling of deliveries) to minimize adverse impacts (e.g., noise, glare, and odors) on adjoining and adjacent residential areas. (RDR)</p>



## 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

LU-11.4



### **Sustainable Technologies**

The County shall encourage discretionary development on commercial- and industrial-designated land to incorporate sustainable technologies, including energy- and water-efficient practices and low- or zero-carbon practices.

LU-11.5

### **Mixed-Use Development**

The County shall require discretionary development on land designated mixed-use be developed under a single plan that details the full buildout of the development and any associated phasing for construction and includes specific design guidelines and standards that address the overall site design, scale of development, relationship to adjacent uses, circulation and parking, architecture, infrastructure, and landscaping. (RDR, PSP)

LU-11.6

### **Live-Work Development**

The County shall encourage mixed-use developments to include live-work floor plans for residents who desire office, commercial, or studio space adjacent to their living space. (RDR)

LU-11.7

### **Density Exceptions – Mixed Use Land Use Designation**

The County shall exclude from the Mixed Use land use maximum density farmworker dwellings and accessory dwelling units pursuant to section 65852.2 of the Government Code (RDR)

LU-11.8

### **Location of Retail Sales and Service Type Commercial and Office Facilities**

The County shall encourage retail sales and service type commercial and office facilities to locate in shopping centers, established commercial areas, or planned mixed-use districts. (RDR)

LU-11.9

### **Alternative Energy and Alternative Fuel Production**

The County shall allow the production of alternative energy and alternative fuels on land within the Industrial designation to reduce the reliance on petroleum-based fuel and greenhouse gas emissions. (RDR)

### OTHER DESIGNATIONS

This group of designations is applied to extensive areas of the county where good conservation practices and interagency coordination are imperative. These designations identify and geographically locate resource areas of the county for their conservation, development, and utilization. These areas are characterized by minimal development and the limited availability of public services.

## PARKS & RECREATION LAND USE DESIGNATION

### Parks & Recreation (PR)

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This designation provides for parks and recreation facilities and associated recreation uses. The Parks and Recreation (PR) designation is only allowed in areas designated as Existing Community, Area Plans, or Areas of Interest under Policy LU-1.2.

Typically, these areas are characterized by a high degree of open space, and a limited number of buildings. Recreational facilities frequently include sports fields, playground equipment, picnic areas, sitting areas, concession businesses, open turf and natural areas, trails, and golf courses.

Connectivity to surrounding areas via pedestrian and bicycle facilities is desired.

#### ***Development Standards***

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: Not applicable
- Minimum Lot Size: Not applicable
- Maximum Lot Coverage: 5 percent

### **STATE, FEDERAL, OTHER PUBLIC LANDS LAND USE DESIGNATION**

#### **State, Federal, Other Public Lands (P)**

This designation applies to those state- and federally-owned parks, forests, rangelands, coastal resources, and/or recreation areas. For state land within the coastal zone, the County has land use authority except for land under the California Coastal Commission's jurisdiction (i.e., beaches and tidelands). For all other areas the County has no land use authority. Areas so designated include land under federal or state ownership on which governmental facilities are located.

Principal uses of these areas include: continued provision of public recreational facilities and access; multi-use management where applicable; support for rangeland activities, and interconnection or coordination of state, federal, and local facilities and programs when possible.

#### ***Development Standards***

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: Not applicable
- Minimum Lot Size: Not applicable
- Maximum Lot Coverage: Not applicable

## PARKS & RECREATION LAND USE DESIGNATION POLICY DIRECTION

LU-12

To provide parks and recreational facilities to serve all residents of Ventura County.

LU-12.1



### Parks and Recreational Facilities

The County shall support the development of parks and recreation facilities within areas designated as Existing Community, Area Plans, or Areas of Interest. (RDR)



*Additional policies on intergovernmental coordination are in Section 2.7, Development Review and Inter-Agency Coordination.*

## STATE, FEDERAL, OTHER PUBLIC LANDS LAND USE DESIGNATION POLICY DIRECTION

LU-13

To maintain a designation that:

- Recognizes lands devoted to governmental uses which are under the authority of the state or federal government and over which the County has no effective land use jurisdiction.
- Encourages the proper planning of governmental lands so that uses on these lands are compatible with existing and planned uses on adjacent privately-owned lands.

LU-13.1

### Areas Appropriate for the State, Federal, Other Public Lands Land Use Designation

The County shall include state- or federally-owned lands on which a significant governmental use is located under the State, Federal, Other Public Lands land use designation, and which are under the control of the state or federal government. For state land within the coastal zone, the County has land use authority except for land under the California Coastal Commission's jurisdiction. All other areas are beyond the land use jurisdiction of the County. (MPSP)

LU-13.2

### Process for Changing the State, Federal, Other Public Lands Land Use Designation

When land designated as State, Federal, Other Public Lands is transferred to a private party or another public entity, the County shall require that the land be re-designated to an appropriate land use designation through the General Plan amendment process. (RDR, MPSP)

### CITY'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE (SOI) POLICY DIRECTION

LU-14

To acknowledge the interests of cities and recognize the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) adopted Spheres of Influence as areas in which urbanization will likely occur under the authority of each city.

LU-14.1

#### Development Applications in a City's Sphere of Influence (SOI)

The County shall encourage applicants for General Plan amendments, zone changes, and discretionary development within a city's Sphere of Influence to consult with the appropriate city about submitting their application and shall discourage applicants from applying to the County. (RDR)

## 2.3 Area Plans

Area Plans are an integral part of the County General Plan, providing the basis for future land use development in specifically defined areas. "Area Plan" is a term for plans that focus on a particular region or community within the overall general plan area. Area Plans refine the policies of the General Plan as they apply to a smaller geographic area and are designed to reflect the needs and desires of those individual communities. In general, the purpose of an Area Plan is to specify the distribution, location, types, and intensity of land uses within a prescribed area, as well as provide specific policies concerning development in that area. The following nine adopted Area Plans each includes goals, policies, programs, and land use designations for the smaller, unincorporated communities they cover:

- Coastal Area
- El Rio/Del Norte
- Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley
- North Ventura Avenue
- Oak Park
- Ojai Valley
- Piru
- Saticoy
- Thousand Oaks

This section addresses the goals and policies that apply to all Area Plans related to land use. The goals and policies that are specific to an area are in the separately contained Area Plan. A description of land use designations and locations of Area Plans in the county are illustrated in section 3.5. "General Plans and Area Plan Land Use Designations," of the Background Report.



### LU-15

To provide a clear policy framework that enhances the communities within each Area Plan boundary.

#### LU-15.1

##### **Area Plan Requirements**

When the County comprehensively updates an Area Plan, the County shall ensure that the updated Area Plan includes specific policies and programs that address local issues, and a range of land use designations that accommodate the land uses appropriate to the area and commensurate with public infrastructure and services. Through the Area Plan Update process, the County shall ensure that all principles, goals, objectives, policies, and plan proposals set forth in the area plan are consistent with the County General Plan.

For consistency, the County shall organize the updated Area Plans using the following structure:

##### **Introduction**

- Purpose
- Area Plan Chronology
- Content and Organization

##### **Local Setting**

- Overview of Plan Area
- Community History

##### **Area Plan Elements**

- Land Use and Community Character
- Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility
- Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure
- Conservation and Open Space
- Hazards and Safety
- Water Resources

(MPSP)

#### LU-15.2

##### **General Plan and Area Plan Consistency**

Area Plans for specific geographic subareas of the County may be adopted as part of the County General Plan. Area Plans shall be consistent with the General Land Use Diagram (Figures 2-4 and 2-5), although the Area Plans may be more specific and provide additional direction and restrictions concerning future development and resource management. (MPSP)

#### LU-15.3

##### **General Plan and Area Plan Hierarchy**

Within locations covered by an area plan, where an inconsistency is identified between the General Plan and the Area Plan, the more restrictive of the two shall prevail. (RDR, MPSP)

## 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

### **LU-15.4 Complete Communities**

The County shall encourage the development of an appropriately-scaled land use mix in each designated Area Plan where these plans include this type of use, and each designated Existing Community that contributes to an adequate economic base to fund capital improvements, including long-term maintenance, and to meet the daily needs of residents, including grocery stores, local-serving restaurants, community facilities, and civic centers. (RDR, MPSP)

### **LU-15.5 Commercial and Industrial Land for Employment Uses**

The County shall provide sufficient commercially and industrially designated land to meet the employment needs of the community. (MPSP)

### **LU-15.6 Neighborhood Configurations to Promote a Variety of Lifestyles**

The County shall encourage the development of neighborhood configurations that encourage a variety of lifestyles, a central community focus, and distinct identity. (MPSP, RDR)

### **LU-15.7 Neighborhood Configurations to Preserve Natural Features**

The County shall encourage the development of neighborhood configurations that preserve the natural features of the site and minimize the requirements for grading. (RDR)

### **LU-15.8 Nonconforming Uses in Residential Areas**


The County shall continue to work with land owners to eliminate nonconforming land uses in residential areas, as appropriate. (SO)

### **LU-15.9 Area Plan Impacts on Jobs/Housing Balance**

The County shall require that as Area Plans are prepared or updated, planned industrial and commercial areas shall be evaluated to assess the impact on jobs/housing balance within the community and region. (RDR)

## 2.4 Character and Design

A key aspect of preserving agricultural, rural, and open space lands is actively investing in enhancing existing communities and urban areas. These are areas with adequate public services and infrastructure to support housing and employment centers. This section focuses on promoting attractive communities with a distinct sense of place. An overview of design standards based on zoning is located in section 3.6, “Existing Zoning,” of the Background Report.

LU-16	To enhance the character and design of unincorporated communities in the county in order to cultivate self-contained communities designed to meet the daily needs of Ventura County residents.
LU-16.1	<b>Community Character and Quality of Life</b> The County shall encourage discretionary development to be designed to maintain the distinctive character of unincorporated communities, to ensure adequate provision of public facilities and services, and to be compatible with neighboring uses. (RDR)
LU-16.2	<b>Urban Design Standards for Commercial and Industrial Development</b> The County shall require that discretionary commercial and industrial developments maintain high standards of urban design and environmental quality by incorporating compact form, maximizing pedestrian access and safety, and minimizing land use conflicts and traffic congestion. (RDR)
LU-16.3	<b>Mixed Use Development</b> The County shall support compatible, mixed-land use development in areas designated as Area Plans and Existing Communities, where these plans include this type of use. (MPSP, RDR)
LU-16.4	<b>Live/Work Spaces</b> In Area Plans and Existing Communities, the County shall encourage the development of flexible live-work spaces for residents who desire office, commercial, or studio space adjacent to their living space, where these plans include this type of use. (RDR)
LU-16.5	 <b>Multimodal Access to Commercial Development</b> The County shall encourage discretionary commercial development to promote ease of pedestrian/bicycle access to encourage walk-in business, while providing sufficient off-street parking. (RDR)
LU-16.6	<b>Strip Commercial Development Concerns</b> The County shall discourage the development of new or expansion of existing strip commercial development. (RDR)
LU-16.7	<b>Parking Location</b> The County shall encourage discretionary development to locate central gateways and building entrances in areas that are visible from the street to contribute to an active commercial center and locate parking in areas that are less visible from the street. (RDR)
LU-16.8	<b>Residential Design that Complements the Natural Environment</b> The County shall encourage discretionary development that incorporates design features that provide a harmonious relationship between adjoining uses and the natural environment. (RDR)

## 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

### LU-16.9



#### **Building Orientation and Landscaping**

The County shall encourage discretionary development to be oriented and landscaped to enhance natural lighting, solar access, and passive heating or cooling opportunities to maximize energy efficiency. (RDR)

### LU-16.10

#### **Visual Access for Rural Development**

The County shall encourage discretionary development in rural areas to maintain views of hillsides, beaches, forests, creeks, and other distinctive natural areas through building orientation, height, and bulk. (RDR)

## 2.5 Environmental Justice

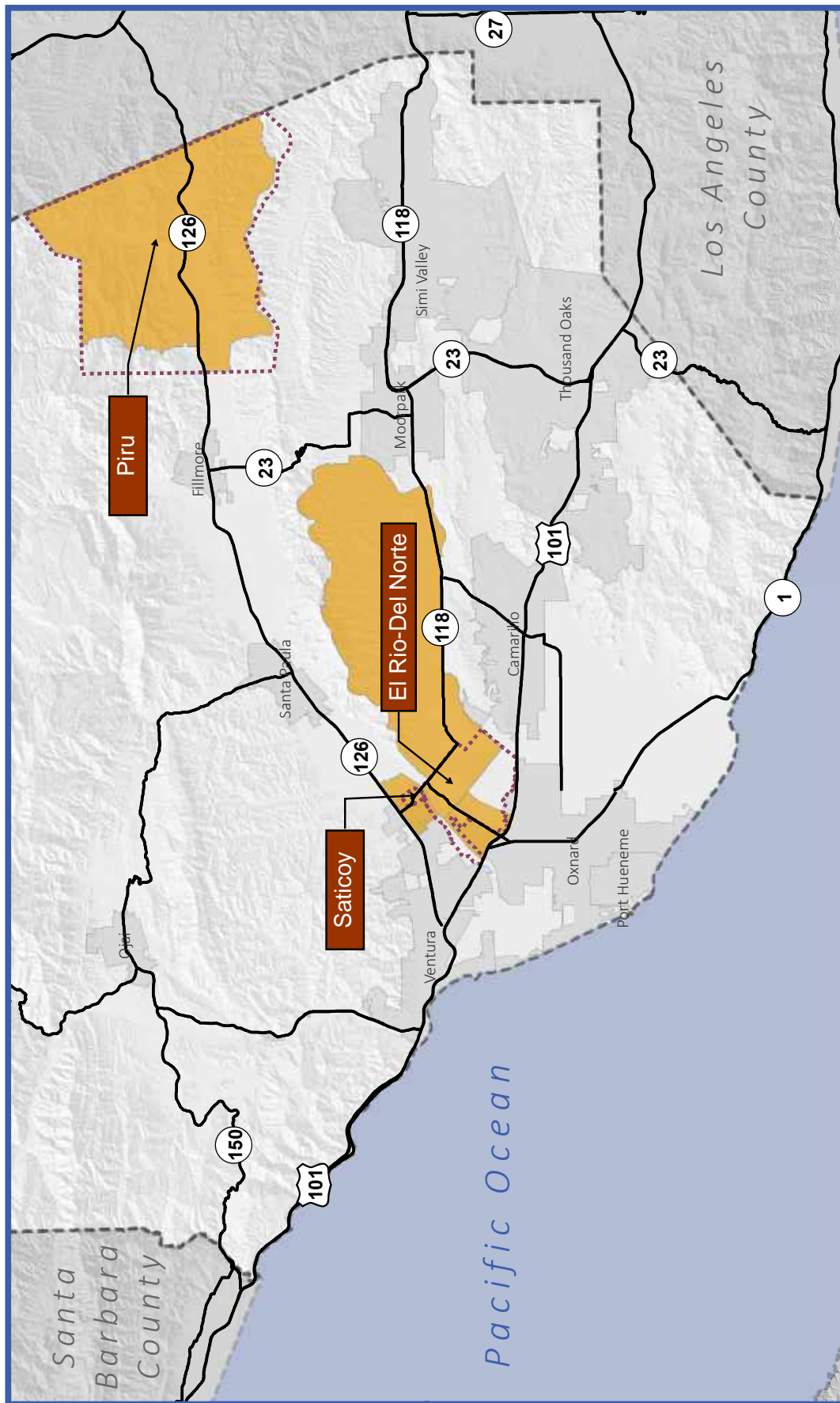
Pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 1000 (2016), general plans adopted after January 1, 2018, must include an environmental justice element or include goals, policies, and objectives in other element(s) of the general plan addressing health risks within “designated disadvantaged communities.” Designated disadvantaged communities are identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code or are low-income areas that are disproportionately affected by pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. Household incomes for “low-income areas” are at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or with household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits adopted pursuant to Section 50093 of the Health and Safety Code. Designated disadvantaged communities in Ventura County are shown on Figure 2-6.

SB 244 (2011) requires cities, counties, and local agency formation commissions (LAFCO) to identify disadvantaged unincorporated communities and provide an analysis of water, wastewater, stormwater, drainage, and structural fire protection needs or deficiencies. SB 244 defines a “disadvantaged unincorporated community” as a fringe, island, or legacy community in which the median household income is 80 percent or less than the statewide median household income.

For the Ventura County 2040 General Plan, environmental justice is addressed as a cross-cutting topic, with goals and policies incorporated throughout the General Plan as it relates to each element.

Ventura County has established a Guiding Principle on environmental justice issues. As stated in Chapter 1, Ventura County is “Commit[ted] to the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies, protect disadvantaged communities from a disproportionate burden posed by toxic exposure and risk, and continue to promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process.”

There are two major components of environmental justice. One is meaningful involvement in the decision-making process, and the second is the actual planning, siting, development, and operations of public facilities and infrastructure. An overview of environmental justice disadvantaged unincorporated communities in the county is located in Section 3.11, “Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities,” of the Background Report.



**Figure 2-6**  
**Designated Disadvantaged Communities**

Map Date: September 09, 2020

Source: Ventura County, 2020; CalEPA OEHHA CalEnviroScreen 3.0.

Senate Bill 1000 (2016) (Source: 2010 Decennial Census, US Census Bureau)

Unincorporated areas within Senate Bill 1000 Eligible Census Tracts

Cities





### LU-17

Within designated disadvantaged communities, to plan for and provide public facilities, services, and infrastructure that provide fair treatment and quality of life to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income.

#### LU-17.1



##### **Providing Equitable Public Services**

Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall consider environmental justice issues as they relate to the equitable provision of public services and infrastructure such as parks, recreational facilities, community gardens, public safety facilities, and other beneficial uses that improve the overall quality of life. (MPSP, FB, PSR, SO, JP)

#### LU-17.2



##### **Siting of Uses**

Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall consider environmental justice issues as they relate to potential health impacts associated with land use decisions to reduce the adverse health effects of hazardous materials, industrial activities, and other uses that may negatively impact health or quality of life for affected county residents. (RDR, MPSP, PSR)

#### LU-17.3



##### **Environmental Protection**

The County shall apply environmental protection measures equally among geographic and socioeconomic sectors within designated disadvantaged communities of the county. (RDR, MPSP, PSR)

#### LU-17.4



##### **New Incompatible Land Uses**

The County shall not approve new discretionary projects within or in the immediate vicinity of existing residential areas, especially designated disadvantaged communities, introducing a new incompatible land use that could have substantial adverse health impacts on an area's residents. (RDR, MPSP, PSR)

#### LU-17.5



##### **Placement of New Residential Uses**

Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall discourage the establishment of new residential and other sensitive land uses near incompatible industrial land uses unless appropriate mitigations or design consideration can be included. (RDR, MPSP, PSR)

#### LU-17.6



##### **Negative Impacts from Potential Hazards**

Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall work to reduce or prevent negative impacts associated with environmental hazards, including industrial and roadway-generated pollution, to people who are living and working in close proximity to these uses. (RDR, MPSP)

#### LU-17.7



##### **Brownfield Remediation**

Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall promote the remediation and reuse of contaminated brownfield sites to spur economic development, expand natural open spaces and parks, community gardens, and other similar health-promoting community revitalization activities. (MPSP)

#### LU-17.8



##### **Limit Concentrations of Unhealthy Food Providers**

Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall encourage farmer's markets and healthier food options within neighborhoods or near child-oriented uses (e.g., schools, family day care, parks). (RDR)

## 2.6 Civic Engagement

The state enacted Senate Bill (SB) 1000 (2016) in response to increasing concerns about vulnerable communities in California experiencing environmental injustice. A key requirement of SB 1000 is that the County must identify objectives and policies to promote increased access to the public decision-making process. While technical analysis can provide insight into the needs of an area, these practices can fall short without full participation by the individuals and groups that will be most affected by a decision. By enacting SB 1000, the state expressed the expectation for the County to ensure that these individuals and groups have a seat at the table to engage in meaningful dialogue and collaboration. An overview of SB 1000 is located in section 3.11, “environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities,” of the Background Report.

LU-18

To promote meaningful dialogue and collaboration between members of designated disadvantaged communities and decision-makers to advance social and economic equity.

### LU-18.1



#### Communication Channels

Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall continue to improve communication channels and methods for meaningful dialogue between community members and decision-makers, including County staff and elected and appointed representatives. (SO)

### LU-18.2



#### Input on Proposed Planning Activities

Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall facilitate opportunities for community members and stakeholders to provide meaningful and effective input on proposed planning activities early on and continuously throughout the public review process. (SO)

### LU-18.3



#### Times and Locations of Public Engagement Opportunities

Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall aim to hold meetings, workshops, and other public engagement opportunities at times and locations that make it convenient for community members to attend, particularly stakeholders who are the most likely to be directly affected by the outcome. (SO)

### LU-18.4



#### Variety of Public Communication Methods

Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall continue to share public information across a variety of media, technological, and traditional platforms, and languages based on the demographics of the community. (PI)

### LU-18.5



#### Participation in Climate Change Planning

The County shall encourage stakeholders in designated disadvantaged communities who are vulnerable to sea level rise or other climate change impacts to have the opportunity to learn about and participate in the decision-making process for adaptation planning within Ventura County. (PI)

### 2.7 Development Review and Inter-Agency Coordination

There are many local, regional, state, and federal agencies that have land use planning, permitting, or development review authority in Ventura County. It is critical that there is clear direction on which agency is responsible at each step of the process and that there is coordination among agencies to ensure regulatory compliance, increase efficiency for development projects, and eliminate redundancies among agencies. A description of plans, policies and regulations relating to other agencies with permitting and review authority is located in sections 3.9, “Other Agency Plans,” of the Background Report.



*Additional policies on Inter-Agency Coordination are in Section 2.8, Military Compatibility.*

#### LU-19

To enhance inter-agency coordination to achieve mutually beneficial land use conservation and development.

##### LU-19.1

##### **County and City Cooperation**

The County shall work cooperatively with all cities in the county to enhance consistency among planning processes and to ensure that each jurisdiction’s general plan is compatible with the Ventura County General Plan, the Guidelines for Orderly Development, and adopted greenbelt agreements. (IGC, MPSP)

##### LU-19.2

##### **Policy Consultation within Spheres of Influence**

For General Plan amendments and other policy changes that may impact growth or the provision of public services within city Spheres of Influence, the County shall engage in meaningful consultation with the appropriate city early on in the process. (IGC, MPSP)

##### LU-19.3

##### **Development Incentives and Streamlined Review**

The County shall support expanded incentives and CEQA streamlining opportunities for projects that are consistent with the following:

- this General Plan,
- Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources (SOAR) Initiative,
- Guidelines for Orderly Development, and
- the adopted Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy (RTP/SCS).

(RDR, MPSP, IGC)

##### LU-19.4

##### **Consultation with State and Federal Agencies**

The County shall continue to consult with applicable state and federal regulatory agencies during project review and permitting activities. (IGC)

- LU-19.5      Consultation with California State University Channel Islands**  
The County shall notify and consult with California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) Office of the President and CSUCI Site Authority prior to adopting any County-initiated land use regulation, policy, or plan that may impact the University, or residents living within the jurisdiction of the CSUCI Site Authority.

<b>LU-20</b>	To encourage the protection and use of state- and federally-owned beaches, hillsides, woodlands, grasslands, rivers, streams, wetlands, estuaries, and cultural resources for the education and enjoyment of Ventura County residents and visitors.
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- LU-20.1      Recreational Access and Use**  
The County shall encourage federal, state, and local agencies currently providing recreation facilities to maintain, at a minimum, and improve, if possible, their current levels of service. (IGC)
- LU-20.2      Coastal Access from Federal and State Lands**  
The County shall encourage federal and state agencies to consider existing uses in the area (residential, visitor-serving, and public) at beach and coastal sites so that access is optimized, potential conflicts are minimized, and existing qualities maintained. (IGC)
- LU-20.3      Day-Use Opportunities**  
The County shall encourage federal and state agencies to provide improved day-use recreational facilities in the county. (IGC)

**2.8      Military Compatibility**

Ventura County is home to several significant military installations and operations areas. These facilities are not only critical to the nation’s defense, but also provide significant economic benefits and land use challenges. The locations of military installations are described and illustrated in section 3.10, “Military Institutions and Installations,” of the Background Report.

Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) consists of three operating facilities – Point Mugu, Port Hueneme, and San Nicolas Island – that encompass a diverse set of specialties, including three warfare centers (Naval Air Warfare Center – Weapons Division, Naval Surface Water Center – Port Hueneme Division, and Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center). NBVC is also home to deployable units, including the Pacific Seabees and the West Coast E-2 Hawkeyes. The 204-acre Channel Islands Air National Guard Station is located adjacent to Naval Base Ventura County-Point Mugu. Additionally, the Instrument Route-200 (IR-200) military training route passes through Ventura County connecting the Point Mugu Sea Range and the Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake.

Compatibility between military installations, adjacent land uses, and local communities is essential to protect military missions, the health of local economies and industries, and the quality of life for county residents. In order to achieve compatibility, the military and local governments must be collaborative and cooperative in their planning efforts. The policies in this section are intended to support that collaboration.



*Further information on Military Compatibility can be found in Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element and in these documents:*

- *Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) report for Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu*
- *Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)*

### LU-21

To ensure that County plans and policies are consistent with state laws concerning military compatibility and the recommendations contained in the Naval Base Ventura County Joint Land Use Study as they relate to land use and communications.

#### LU-21.1

##### **Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) Coordination Committee**

The County shall participate in the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) Coordination Committee responsible for the efficient and effective coordination among JLUS partners and implementation of Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) recommendations to enhance long-term coordination on military compatibility issues. (IGC)

#### LU-21.2

##### **Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)**

The County shall utilize the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) and the strategies contained therein that list Ventura County as a “Responsible” entity to guide land use and resource management decisions and plan updates and the NBVC Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) study to guide land use limitation and standards in the airport safety and noise zones. (MPSP)

#### LU-21.3

##### **Military Compatibility Areas**

The County shall utilize the Military Compatibility Areas (MCA), as defined in the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) and the NBVC Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) study, to guide land use and resource management decisions and plan updates. (MPSP)

#### LU-21.4

##### **Enhance Communications**

The County shall work to enhance communication and coordination with Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) and other jurisdictions in the county to enhance public knowledge and access to information regarding military operations and compatibility challenges while adhering to operational security requirements. (IGC, PI)

#### LU-21.5

##### **Infrastructure Expansion Coordination**

The County shall notify and coordinate with Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Public Works Department on County-initiated major infrastructure expansion plans (e.g., mainline/trunk facilities) within the Military Compatibility Area (MCA) that may impact NBVC infrastructure or services. (SO, IGC)

#### LU-21.6

##### **Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Coordination**

The County shall notify and coordinate with the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Public Works Department on County-initiated major stormwater infrastructure (mainline/trunk facilities) improvement or expansion plans in the Calleguas Creek Watershed. (SO, IGC)

- LU-21.7**      **Capital Improvement Coordination**  
The County shall coordinate with the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) and cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme when updating its Capital Improvement Program for projects related to improvement projects on Victoria Avenue. (MPSP, IGC)


## 2.9      General Plan Maintenance

The General Plan is a living document that must reflect the County's needs and desires, which evolve over time. The effectiveness of the General Plan ultimately depends on how the County implements and maintains the General Plan over its lifetime. State law requires that most actions of local government affecting the physical environment be consistent with the general plan and sets out guidelines for general plan monitoring, updating, and amending. This section ensures that the County maintains a high level of attention to the General Plan by providing for regular review and updating to ensure that County regulations and ordinances are consistent with the General Plan.

LU-22	To provide a clear framework for the ongoing administration, maintenance, and implementation of the Ventura County 2040 General Plan.
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- LU-22.1**      **Five-Year General Plan Review**  
The County shall conduct a thorough review of the General Plan every five years from the date of final approval, and revise and update as necessary. This review can include the following:
- Modify, add, or delete goals, policies, or programs to reflect notable changes in the county over the previous period;
  - Remove or modify programs that have been completed or require additional time;
  - Modify or add new goals, policies, or programs to reflect changing needs within the county;
  - Modify to reflect applicable changes in state law; and
  - Modify as needed to comply with state housing law.

(PSR)

- LU-22.2**      **Implementation Program Monitoring**  
 The County shall maintain and annually review the General Plan Implementation Programs before the preparation of the County's Annual Budget. As part of this process, the County shall update the prioritization of programs based on applicability, relevance, timing of initiation, and availability of funding. (PSR, SO)

- LU-22.3**      **Taking of Property Without Just Compensation**  
Notwithstanding any policy or provision of the General Plan, the Board of Supervisors, based on the advice of the County Counsel and upon making a finding that the application of a policy or provision of the General Plan will effect an unconstitutional taking of property without just compensation, may take any action or approve any project to the extent necessary to avoid such an unconstitutional taking. This provision does not apply to any General Plan amendment, including but not limited to any property land use re-designation, that is subject to the County of Ventura Save Open-Space and Agricultural Resources initiative measure - 2050 (Appendix C). (RDR)



### 2.10 Implementation Programs

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>A Guidelines for Orderly Development Implementation</b> The County shall continue to implement the Guidelines for Orderly Development and work with cities to promote orderly and compact development, increased options for affordable housing, minimize vehicle miles traveled, and limit sprawl development.	LU-1.1	RMA CEO					■
<b>B General Plan Consistency</b> The County shall review and amend, as necessary, applicable ordinances and regulations to ensure consistency with the General Plan, including the Zoning Ordinances and Building Code.	LU-1.6 LU-4.2 LU-5.3 LU-15.2	RMA All County agencies, as necessary	■				
<b>C Expansion of Allowed Housing Types</b> The County shall research existing regulatory impediments to the creation of new housing types that have the potential to fulfill unmet housing needs (e.g., tiny homes, co-housing developments) and if necessary, shall amend applicable ordinances to allow for their development.	LU-10.4	RMA	■				
<b>D Technical Assistance Grants</b> To the extent that federal and state grants are available, the County shall continue to administer loan and technical assistance programs to small businesses and micro-enterprise to develop new and strengthen existing economic opportunities in the county, with a focus on job creation and retention.	LU-11.1 LU-15.5	CEO n/a					■
<b>E Update Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance for Alternative Fuel Productions</b> The County shall update the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance to allow for the production of alternative fuels in the industrial zone.	LU-11.9	RMA n/a	■				

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>F Comprehensive Area Plan Updates</b> The County shall review and periodically prepare a comprehensive update to each of the Area Plans to ensure that they reflect community needs and expectations.	LU-15.1	RMA All County agencies, as necessary					
Coastal Area				■			■
El Rio/Del Norte			■				■
Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley				■			■
North Ventura Avenue			■				■
Oak Park					■		
Ojai Valley			■				■
Piru					■		■
Saticoy					■		■
Thousand Oaks				■			■
<b>G Update Coastal Area Plan</b> The County shall move General Plan policies specific to the Coastal Zone to the Coastal Area Plan as part of the next Coastal Area Plan update.	LU-15.1	RMA n/a		■			
<b>H Limit Alcohol and Tobacco Outlets</b> The County shall explore establishing zoning code limitations on the density of alcohol and tobacco outlets near sensitive receptors such as schools, childcare facilities, senior housing, parks, etc., and especially in designated disadvantaged communities, that is consistent with State law.	LU-17.2 LU-17.4	RMA n/a	■				

EJ

## 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>I Develop Memorandum of Understanding</b> The County should collaborate through the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) and Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) Coordination Committee to facilitate the development of a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that delineates the roles and responsibilities for each partner agency in the JLUS Study Area, including the County, NBVC, and incorporated cities. This document should contain information such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Point of contact and contact information for each agency,</li> <li>Role in addressing compatibility issues with the base,</li> <li>Responsibility in addressing compatibility issues,</li> <li>Community and military response times, and</li> <li>Triggers for coordination and communication, e.g., infrastructure planning, water resources planning, economic development.</li> </ul>	LU-21.1	CEO	■				
	LU-21.2						
	LU-21.3	n/a					
	LU-21.4						
	LU-21.5						
	LU-21.6						
	LU-21.7						

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>J Develop a JLUS Resource Management Reference Guide</b> The County shall cooperate with Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) partners in the development of a reference guide providing information about the various agencies in the JLUS Study Area with their respective responsibilities. It shall be tailored to existing JLUS issues and contain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map(s) identifying the important resources in the area, and</li> <li>County and JLUS partner contact information for the agency representative that will help in cases of community-military compatibility.</li> </ul>	LU-21.1 LU-21.2 LU-21.3 LU-21.4	RMA <hr/> CEO		■			
<b>K Update Plans and Amend Regulations with AICUZ Recommended Land Uses</b> The County should amend the Zoning Ordinance and/or Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, if necessary, to incorporate the Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) recommended land use limitations and standards in the safety and noise zones. (MPSP)	LU-21.2 LU-21.3	RMA <hr/> n/a	■				
<b>L Amend Zoning Ordinance</b> The County should amend the Zoning Ordinances, if necessary, to comply with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) vertical obstruction guidelines, more specifically with the Navy's Airfield Imaginary Surfaces of the airfields located in the area. These surfaces are more restrictive and provide for greater safety of the public, pilots, and aircraft. The Navy's Airfield Imaginary Surfaces include slopes and heights that are allowable from various distances from the airfield.	LU-21.2 LU-21.3	RMA <hr/> AIR	■				■

## 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>M Military Compatibility Areas (MCA)</b> The County shall update the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance and the Coastal Zoning Ordinance, if necessary, to delineate and establish the Military Compatibility Areas and Subzones illustrated on Figures 5 through 7 of the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Joint Land Use Study (JLUS).	LU-21.3	RMA n/a	■				■
<b>N Acquisition of Land Near Airfield</b> The County shall support the acquisition of conservation easements that protect operations at Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu, while maintaining agricultural production capabilities.	LU-21.3	CEO AIR					■
<b>O Five-year General Plan Review</b> The County shall conduct a thorough review of the General Plan, (including the Background Report) every five years from the date of final approval.	LU-22.1	RMA Other County Agencies	■	■	■		■
<b>P Annual General Plan Implementation Review</b> The County shall review the General Plan annually, focusing on the status and progress of program implementation. The County shall prepare a report to the Board of Supervisors summarizing the status of implementation programs and any recommendations for General Plan amendments.	LU-22.2	RMA All County agencies, as necessary				■	

CAP

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>Q Identify Designated Disadvantaged Communities in Oxnard and Ventura Planning Areas</b> Within one-year of 2040 General Plan adoption, the County shall research the southwestern and northwestern Oxnard Planning Area and along the Ventura Avenue in the Ventura Planning Area using Cal EPA CalEnviroScreen to identify Designated Disadvantaged Communities (DDCs). Upon identification of DDCs, the General Plan maps and list of low income and disadvantaged communities in the General Plan will be updated. In addition, the Background Report will be updated to reflect the existing conditions and description of these DDCs.	LU-17.1	RMA	■				
	LU-17.2						
	LU-17.3						
	LU-17.4						
	LU-17.5						
	LU-17.6						
	LU-17.7						
	LU-17.8						
<b>R Review of Designated Disadvantaged Communities</b> Every five years from the adoption of the 2040 General Plan, the County shall review changes to the CalEPA designations of disadvantaged communities as well as changes in localized income data and pollution burdens and amend, as necessary, the maps and lists of low income and disadvantaged communities in the General Plan.	LU-17.1	RMA					■
	LU-17.2						
	LU-17.3						
	LU-17.4						
	LU-17.5						
	LU-17.6						
	LU-17.7						
	LU-17.8						





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# 3

## 3. Housing Element

The County of Ventura adopted its current Housing Element in 2014, which was certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The 2014 Housing Element provides a comprehensive assessment of current and projected housing needs for all economic segments in the unincorporated area. The Housing Element includes goals, policies, implementation programs, and identifies housing sites adequate to meet the needs of the County and state.

The next cycle of housing element updates for cities and counties within the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) area will cover the planning period from 2021 to 2029. As part of this process, SCAG will work with the County and the cities within the county to develop a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). The RHNA process requires the County to identify land available to accommodate the development of adequate housing for all household income categories (e.g. extremely low, very low, low, moderate, and above moderate-income) in the unincorporated area. SCAG will release draft RHNA numbers for the 2021-2029 Housing Element update in February 2020, with final RHNA numbers expected in October 2020.



*The update of the County's Housing Element is dependent upon the receipt of the new RHNA numbers for the unincorporated area. Final RHNA numbers are expected to be released in October 2020. The Housing Element for the County will be updated following the receipt of the RHNA numbers. At this time, this Element only provides information regarding the process that will be followed to conduct this subsequent update.*

*The County's certified 2014-2021 Housing Element is contained in Chapter 3.3 of the County's Goals, Policies and Programs document with supporting documentation in Chapter 3.3 of the Land Use Appendix.*

*<https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/planning/plans/gpp-section3.3.pdf>*

The RHNA numbers provided by SCAG will be used to prepare the 2021-2029 Housing Element update. To comply with state Housing Element law, the County must demonstrate that there is adequate capacity to accommodate the development of dwelling units that are affordable for all household income categories (i.e., extremely low, very low, low, moderate, and above moderate-income) based on the existing zoning and General Plan designations.



The County's 2021-2029 Housing Element update will also address changes in state law that have occurred since the 2014-2021 Housing Element was adopted in 2014. During 2017 and 2018 the state passed several new affordable housing laws that will impact the analysis and ultimate identification of adequate RHNA sites for the 2021-2029 Housing Element cycle. These include, but are not limited to, a law that requires the County demonstrate that the projected residential development capacity of RHNA sites can realistically be achieved (Gov. Code, Section 65583.2(c)). According to HCDs "Building Blocks: A Comprehensive Housing-Element Guide," realistic development capacity is based on several factors:

- Existing site use: vacant, underutilized, or appropriate for redevelopment;
- Site's current zoning: a site is either zoned for or allows residential development, or a site is zoned for nonresidential use but can be rezoned and redeveloped for residential use;
- The cumulative impact of development standards on residential development such as maximum lot coverage, height, open space, and parking;
- Existing development trends;
- A site's general environmental features such as existence of floodplains, protected wetlands, or oak tree preserves, and demonstration that the presence of such features will not preclude residential development; and
- Adequate public infrastructure capacity, such as water, sewer, and other dry-utilities supply.

In addition, new state law requires no "net loss" of identified RHNA sites for lower and moderate-income dwelling units (i.e., the County may not take action that would reduce identified affordable housing sites for these income categories (Gov. Code, § 65863). Furthermore, the state adopted the Housing Accountability Act, which prohibits the County from lowering the density or denying a project (unless there are specific and unmitigable adverse impacts to health and safety) if the project complies with the County General Plan and zoning ordinance (Gov. Code, Section 65589.5). Finally, new state law requires ministerial approval of, and provides a statutory CEQA exemption for, affordable housing projects consistent with specified criteria (Gov. Code, Section 65913.4).

The existing General Plan allows residential uses in areas designated as Open Space, Agriculture, Rural, Urban, and Existing Community. The proposed 2040 General Plan land use designations provide a more refined range of designations with clear density ranges to accommodate the County's housing needs.

To meet the lower-income portion of the RHNA (i.e., low-income, very-low income, and extremely low), the County can assume that land zoned with a density of at least 20 dwelling units per acre (du/ac) qualifies as suitable for development of housing affordable to lower-income households (Gov. Code, Section 65583.2(c)(3)(B)). Further, the County can address a portion of its RHNA through the provision of accessory dwelling units (ADUs). The County currently (2018) permits ADUs on most lots that allow for residential development, including Open Space and Agricultural Exclusive zoned lots. ADUs are a valuable housing type that can facilitate affordability for a variety of housing needs.



*Please see the next page.*



## 4. Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element

The Circulation, Transportation and Mobility Element identifies goals, policies, and programs that establish a framework for decisions in Ventura County concerning the countywide transportation system. The transportation system provides for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods in and around the county through a variety of transportation modes. While the Element strives to encourage a multi-modal transportation system that serves the mobility needs of all residents, it also reflects the rural nature of the county.

Policies in the Element encourage development of a “Complete Streets” strategy for public transportation services, and pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements in areas of the county where they will provide residents a range of options for travel to work, shopping, and leisure destinations. Besides improving access and mobility options, “Complete Street” policies provide public health benefits, since many of them can have an influence on physical and mental health. Transportation infrastructure that promotes everyday physical activity such as walking and biking, sometimes referred to as “active transportation,” addresses sedentary behavior, which is a shared risk factor for obesity and other chronic diseases. As specified in the California Complete Streets Act of 2008, complete streets are those roadways that are planned, designed, constructed and maintained to provide safe mobility for all users regardless of age and physical ability, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation riders appropriate to the function and context of the facility. There are many policies supporting active transportation in Section 4.2 of this Element.

The Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element includes a series of circulation diagrams (i.e., maps) that depict plans for the County’s transportation system.

<b>Figure</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
Figure 4-1	Ventura County Minimum Level of Service Standards.....	4-3
Figure 4-2	Ventura County Regional Transportation Network.....	4-5
Figure 4-3	Ventura County Roadway Classifications.....	4-7
Figure 4-4	Federal Highway Classifications.....	4-9
Figure 4-5	Goods Movement Corridors.....	4-11
Figure 4-6	National Highway System.....	4-13
Figure 4-7	Ventura County Bikeway Network .....	4-15
Figure 4-8	Ventura County Transit Network .....	4-17

These diagrams were developed to guide long-range transportation system planning and programming in Ventura County. Roadways are classified in this system based on the linkages they provide and their function in the hierarchy of roadways. The Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element works closely with the Land Use section of the Land Use and Community Character Element to ensure that the county transportation system can accommodate growth anticipated during the General Plan planning period.

Goods movement efficiency improvements also offer potential solutions for improving safety, alleviating roadway congestion, and providing opportunities for long-term transportation connections both to other regional centers in the state and between communities within Ventura County. Policies in this section encourage an efficient and economical transportation system to move goods for the Port of Hueneme and Naval Base Ventura County, agricultural, mineral resource, and manufacturing industries.

The Circulation, Transportation and Mobility Element also provides a policy framework to address emerging trends in the transportation sector including the market penetration of Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) providers such as Uber and Lyft, provision of “shared mobility” enterprises such as bike-share and scooter-share, and advances in transportation technology including electrification of vehicles and autonomous vehicles. These emerging trends will continue to influence travel choices within Ventura County, which in turn can alter infrastructure needs. New policies will help prepare Ventura County for these emerging trends.

Determination of environmental impacts as it relates to the transportation system has also changed. The traditional performance measure has been Level of Service (LOS). LOS is a measure used to rate roadway traffic flow characteristics and serves as an indicator of roadway performance, relative to locally established standards for service quality. With the passage of SB 743, vehicle miles traveled (VMT) will replace LOS as the basis for determining transportation impact identification and mitigation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). VMT is a measure of the amount of travel for all vehicles in a geographic region over a given time period. This Element provides a policy framework for determining the impact of VMT changes resulting from discretionary development within the unincorporated area. The County LOS standards and policies will remain for use outside of CEQA as part of the County’s transportation planning and consideration of land use legislation and entitlement applications. County LOS thresholds are shown in Figure 4-1.

Goals, policies, and implementation programs in this Element are organized under the following headings:

Section	Title	Page
4.1	Roadways .....	4-19
4.2	Regional Multimodal System .....	4-25
4.3	Vehicle Trip Length and Frequency.....	4-30
4.4	Air Transportation .....	4-31
4.5	Emerging Technologies and Sustainable Practices .....	4-32
4.6	Funding.....	4-33
4.7	Implementation Programs.....	4-34



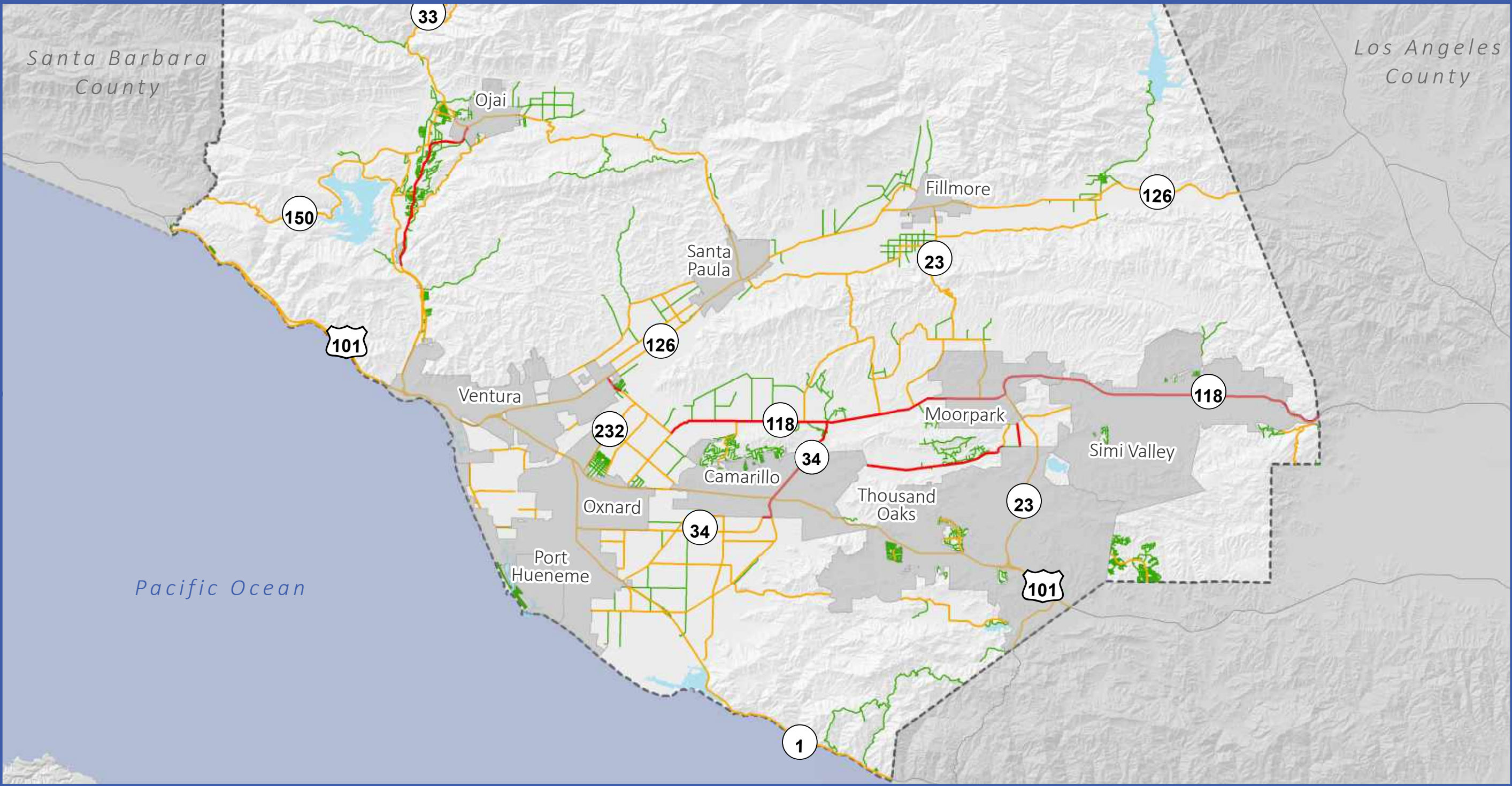
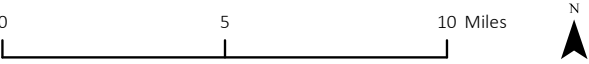


Figure 4-1:  
County of Ventura Roadway Level of Service (LOS) Standards

Map Date: September 19, 2019  
Source: Ventura County, 2019; USGS, 2013.



- LOS E
- LOS D
- LOS C
- Regional Road Network
- Cities
- Ventura County Boundary
- Water Bodies

*Please see the next page.*



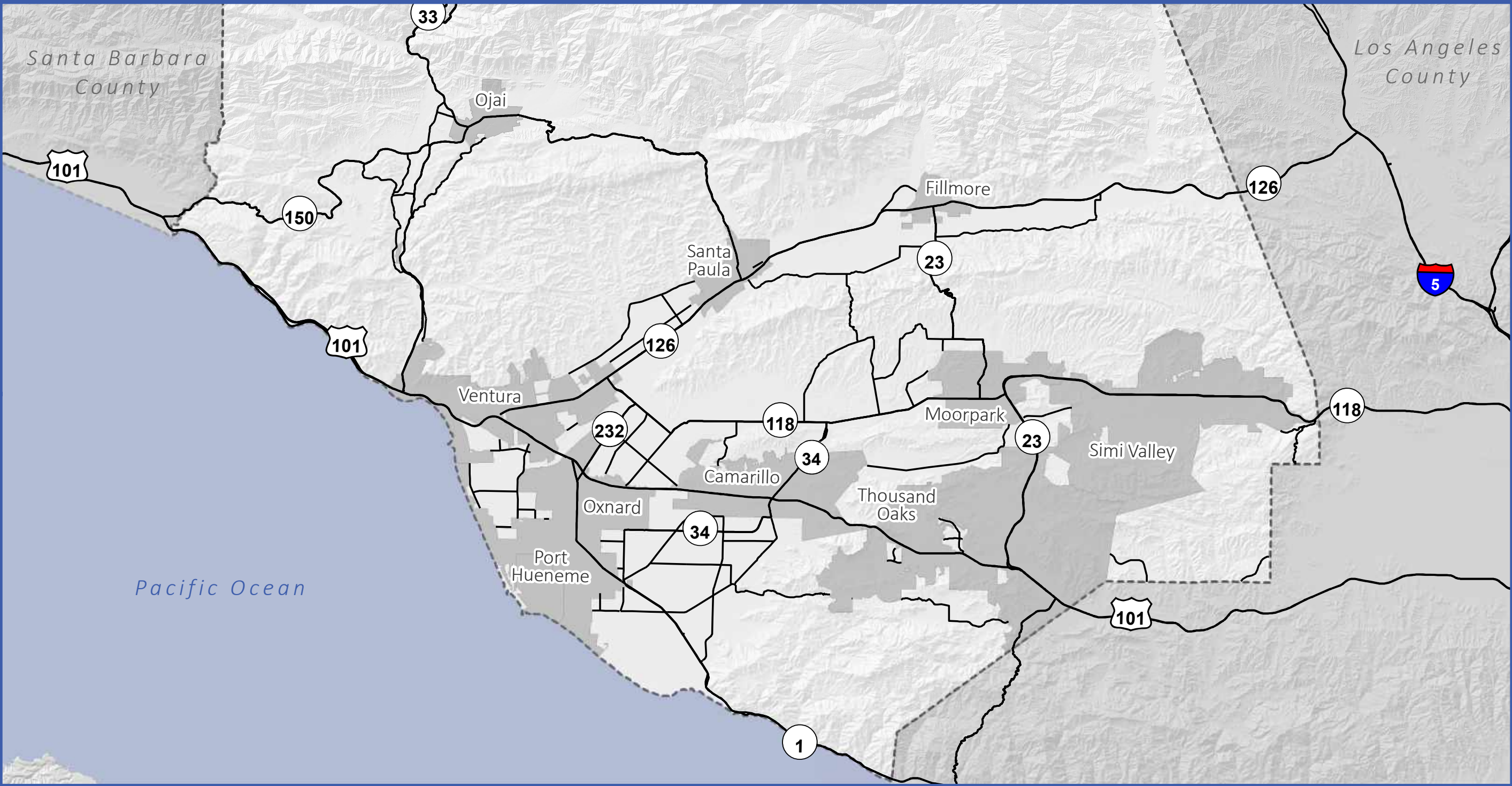
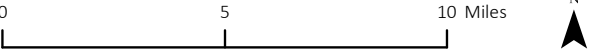


Figure 4-2:  
Ventura County Regional Road Network

Map Date: September 19, 2019  
Source: Ventura County, 2019; California Department of  
Transportation, 2003; USGS, 2013.



- Regional Road Network
- Cities
- Ventura County Boundary

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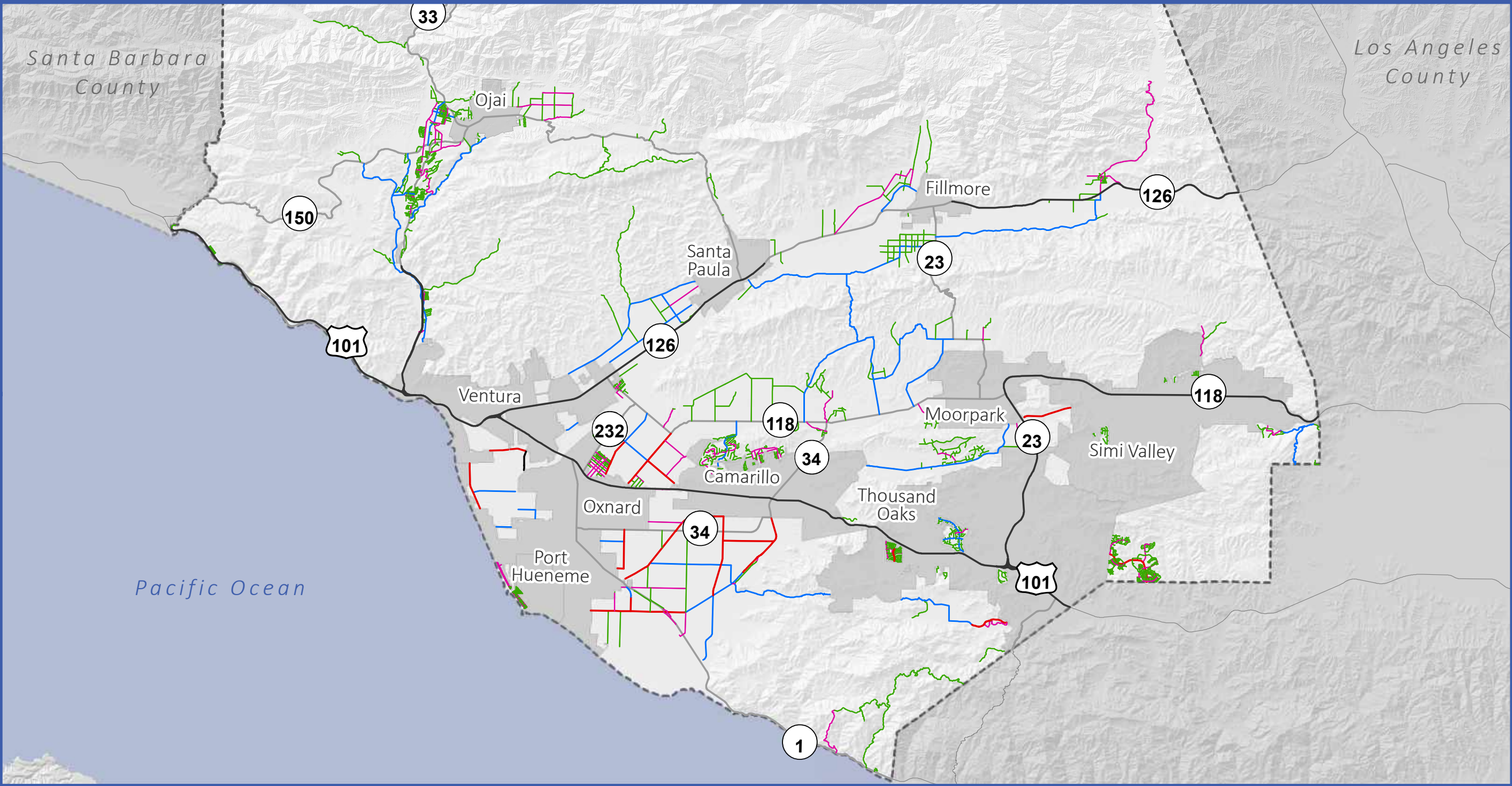
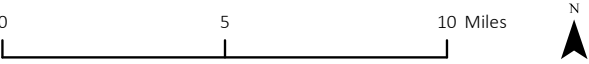


Figure 4-3:  
Ventura County Roadway Classification

Map Date: September 19, 2019  
Source: Ventura County, 2019; USGS, 2013.



- |                     |                                   |                         |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Street Class</b> | Expressway / Conventional Highway | Regional Road Network   |
| Primary             | Freeway                           | Cities                  |
| Secondary           |                                   | Ventura County Boundary |
| Collector           |                                   |                         |
| Minor               |                                   |                         |
| Local               |                                   |                         |

*Please see the next page.*



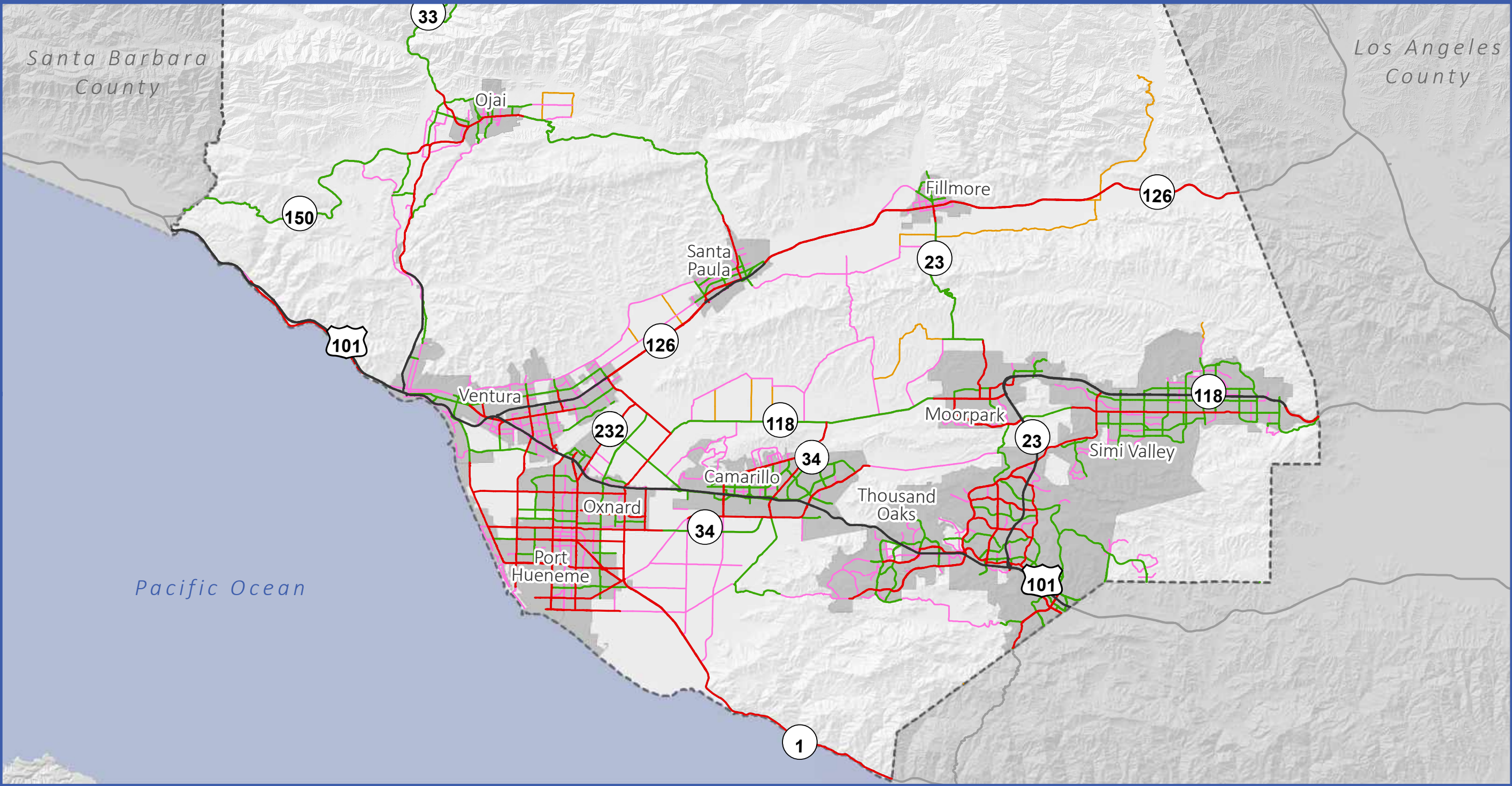
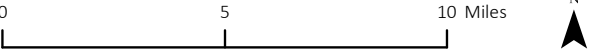


Figure 4-4:  
Federal Highway Classifications

Map Date: September 19, 2019  
Source: Ventura County, 2019; California Department of Transportation, 2016; USGS, 2013.  
Disclaimer: Designations are unofficial. See California Road System maps for official functional classifications.



- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Functional Classification      | Regional Road Network     |
| — 2 - Other Fwy or Expwy       | — Cities                  |
| — 3 - Other Principal Arterial | — Ventura County Boundary |
| — 4 - Minor Arterial           |                           |
| — 5 - Major Collector          |                           |
| — 6 - Minor Collector          |                           |

*Please see the next page.*



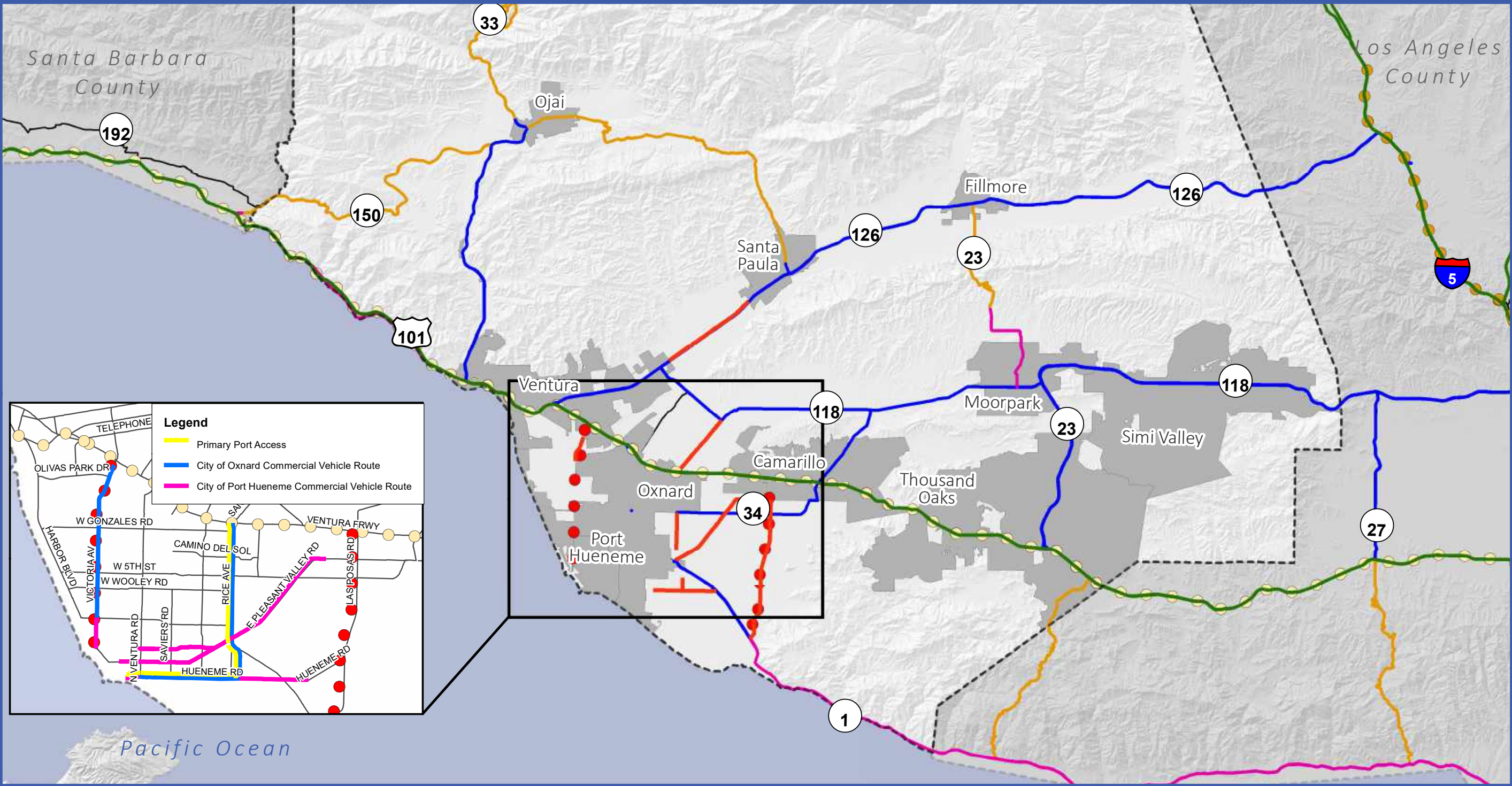


Figure 4-5:  
Goods Movement Corridors

Map Date: September 08, 2020  
Source: Ventura County, 2019; California Department of  
Transportation, 2018; USGS, 2013.

0 5 10 Miles



- Overweight Corridor
- STAA National Network
- STAA Terminal Access Route
- 65' California Legal Route
- California Advisory Route
- Interstate STRAHNET
- Non-Interstate STRAHNET
- STRAHNET Connector
- Regional Road Network
- Cities
- Ventura County Boundary



*Please see the next page.*

**Figure 4-6     National Highway System**

*Please see the next page.*

**Figure 4-7     Ventura County Bikeway Network**

*Please see the next page.*



**Figure 4-8**     **Ventura County Transit Network**

*Please see the next page.*

### 4.1 Roadways

There are approximately 542 centerline miles of County maintained roadways within the unincorporated area (2019). This is considered the County road network. Roads and highways within Ventura County consist of an interconnected network of federal and state highways, as well as county, city, and private roads. Private roads are not maintained by the County. The connections between these roadway systems play an important role in facilitating local, inter-county, and interstate travel. These roadways provide access to local and regional destinations, such as employment areas, shopping centers, schools, recreational areas, and residential communities. The County has designated a subset of roadways as the Regional Road Network comprised of state-, county- and city-maintained roadways. The Regional Road Network facilitates inter-city, regional and inter-regional travel shown in Figure 4-2. Ventura County defines its roadways by functional classification shown in Figure 4-3. The Federal Roadway Functional Classification system as applied to Ventura County is shown in Figure 4-4. Federal classifications are directly tied to federal funding eligibility. The highest federal priority network is the designated National Highway System (NHS). Roadways designated as part of the NHS in Ventura County, some of which are County-maintained roadways, are shown in Figure 4-5. The latter roadways are subject to performance monitoring and targets as established in the National Performance Management Rule (23 CFR Part 490).

Ventura County roadways also facilitate the movement of goods throughout the region and state. The Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) truck routes, National and Terminal Access Routes, Primary Highway Freight System, Port Hueneme Primary Highway Freight System Routes and those local county roadways designated by the County as Overweight Vehicle Corridors are shown in Figure 4-6.

Pursuant to the 2008 California Complete Streets Act (see Gov. Code, §§ 65040.2 and 65302), certain classifications of roadways should also provide adequate right-of-way to accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation riders. Improving the multimodal functionality of the County's roadway network is a key priority.

Bicycle facilities are defined using the following classification scheme:

- **Class I:** A Class I bike path provides a completely separated right-of-way for the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians with crossflow by motorists minimized.
- **Class II:** A Class II bike lane provides a striped lane for one-way bike travel on a street or highway and is typically designated by bike lane signs and markings.
- **Class III:** A Class III bike route provides a shared use area with pedestrian traffic or motor vehicle traffic (i.e., paved shoulder) and is typically designated with a bike route sign.
- **Class IV:** A Class IV bike lane provides a separated bike lane, or "protected bike lane" with a physical barrier between the bike lane and the adjacent travel lanes, parking lanes, and sidewalks. Class IV may be one-way or two-way. Separated bike lanes can be separated from motor vehicle traffic by raised medians, concrete curbs, landscaping, on-street parking, bollards, flexible delineator posts or by a change in elevation between the bike lane and travel lane. Providing a striped buffer between the bike lane and travel lane (i.e., no physical barrier) with restricted parking can provide the same additional separation between cyclists and motor vehicles where traditional Class IV facilities are not feasible and where Class II facilities are not adequate.

In total, the County maintains 58.2 miles of bike lanes – all but 1.56 miles are located within the shared roadway right-of-way (Class II or Class III). There are currently no Class IV bike facilities in the unincorporated areas of the County. The bikeway network in Ventura County is provided in Figure 4-7. Provision of transit service is dependent on the roadway network. Transit routes serving Ventura County are shown in Figure 4-8.

Planning for roadways near areas of new discretionary development can ensure that the roadway system maintains sufficient capacity and mobility. This section describes how the County will maintain and improve the quality of the county roadways to efficiently move people and goods on the highways and roads within and through the county.

The Ventura County Transportation Department's priorities are public safety, ensuring roads are safe for use when used with due care in a manner in which it is reasonably foreseeable that they will be used; preservation of infrastructure; and preservation and maintenance of the public's multi-billion-dollar investment in roads, bridges, and other facilities associated with the County road system. When funds are available, the County will strive to make operational improvements to specific areas of the road system as detailed in the Public Works Capital Improvement Plan.

### CTM-1

To ensure the design, construction, and maintenance of a safe and efficient roadway system for the movement of persons and goods.

#### CTM-1.1

##### **Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Standards and CEQA Evaluation**

The County shall require evaluation of County General Plan land use designation changes, zone changes, and discretionary development for their individual (i.e., project-specific) and cumulative transportation impacts based on Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the methodology and thresholds of significance criteria set forth in the County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines. (RDR)

#### CTM-1.2

##### **Projects with Significant Transportation Impacts**

County General Plan land use designation changes, zone changes, and discretionary development that would cause an individual (i.e., project-specific) or cumulative significant transportation impact based on Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) shall be prohibited unless:

1. There are no feasible mitigation measures available that would reduce the impact to a less than significant level; and
2. The County's decision-making body, after balancing, as applicable, the economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, of the project against its unavoidable transportation impact and any other environmental risks, determines that the benefits of the project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental impacts and adopt a statement of overriding considerations pursuant CEQA. (RDR)

### CTM-1.3

#### County Level of Service (LOS) Standards

The County shall maintain LOS standards for use as part of the County's transportation planning including the traffic impact mitigation fee program, and the County's review and consideration of proposed land use legislation and discretionary development. For purposes of County transportation planning and review and consideration of proposed land use legislation and discretionary development, the County shall use the following minimum acceptable Level of Service (LOS) for road segment and intersection design standards within the Regional Road Network and all other County-maintained roadways:

- a. LOS-'C' for all Federal functional classification of Minor Collector (MNC) and Local roadways (L); and
- b. LOS-'D' for all Federal functional classifications except MNC and L, and Federal and State highways in the unincorporated area, except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (c and d;
- c. LOS-'E' for State Route 33 between the northerly end of the Ojai Freeway and the city of Ojai, Santa Rosa Road, Moorpark Road north of Santa Rosa Road, State Route 34 north of the city of Camarillo, and State Route 118 between Santa Clara Avenue and the city of Moorpark;
- d. LOS 'F' for Wendy Drive between Borchard Drive to Lois Avenue; and
- e. The LOS prescribed by the applicable city for all federal highways, state highways, city thoroughfares and city-maintained local roads located within that city, if the city has formally adopted and is implementing a General Plan policy, ordinance, or a reciprocal agreement with the County regarding development in the city that is intended to improve the LOS of County-maintained local roads and federal and state highways located within the unincorporated area of the county.
- f. At any intersection between two or more roads, each of which has a prescribed minimum acceptable LOS, the lower LOS of the roads shall be the minimum acceptable LOS for that intersection.

### CTM-1.4

#### Level of Service (LOS) Evaluation

County General Plan land use designation changes and zone changes shall be evaluated for their individual (i.e., project-specific) and cumulative effects, and discretionary developments shall be evaluated for their individual effects, on Level of Service (LOS) on existing and future roads, to determine whether the project:

- a. Would cause existing roads within the Regional Road Network or County-maintained roadways that are currently functioning at an acceptable LOS to function below an acceptable LOS;
- b. Would add traffic to existing roads within the Regional Road Network or County-maintained roadways that are currently functioning below an acceptable LOS; and
- c. Could cause future roads planned for addition to the Regional Road Network or County-maintained roadways to function below an acceptable LOS.
- d. The Level of Service (LOS) evaluation shall be conducted based on methods established by the County.



### CTM-1.5

#### Projects with Unacceptable Level of Service (LOS)

1. County General Plan land use designation changes and zone changes that would cause any cumulative unacceptable LOS as determined pursuant to Policies CTM-1.3 and CMT-1.4 shall be prohibited unless the Board of Supervisors imposes all feasible conditions of approval to address all unacceptable LOS effects and, after balancing, as applicable, the project's economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, against the project's unacceptable LOS effects, determines that the benefits of the project outweigh the project's unacceptable LOS effects.
2. County General Plan land use designation changes, zone changes, and discretionary development that would individually (i.e., project-specific) cause an unacceptable LOS effect as determined pursuant to Policies CTM-1.3 and CMT-1.4 shall be prohibited unless the improvements to the roadway and intersections are included in the Public Works Agency, Transportation Department Strategic Master Plan with a funding mechanism identified and the project is conditioned on the payment of a fee proportional to the project's fair share of unacceptable LOS effects.
3. The following are exempt from this Policy:
  - a. Farmworker Housing Complexes and other housing exclusively for lower-income households.
  - b. Affordable housing developments, pursuant to Article 16 of the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance, where such developments are served by roads that are currently operating at LOS "E" or better;
  - c. Additional dwellings and lots on Cultural Heritage Sites as permitted in the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance;
  - d. Agriculture and Agricultural Operations as permitted in the Coastal and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinances, where such developments are served by roads that are currently operating at LOS "E" or better;
  - e. The unacceptable LOS exists on a City-maintained road or federal or state highway located within a city unless the applicable city has formally adopted and is implementing a general plan policy, ordinance, or a reciprocal traffic impact mitigation fee agreement with the County regarding development in the city that is intended to improve the LOS of County-maintained local roads and federal and state highways located within the unincorporated area of the county;
  - f. Allow LOS "F" for Wendy Drive and maintain as two-lane road; and
  - g. If the LOS effects of a County-approved Specific/Area Plan are determined acceptable pursuant to Policies CTM-1.3 and CMT-1.4, the LOS effects of any subsequent development that is consistent with the approved Specific/Area Plan shall be exempt from this Policy.

### CTM-1.6

#### Ojai Valley Area Plan - Level of Service (LOS) Evaluation and Unacceptable Level of Service

County General Plan land use designation changes, zone changes, and discretionary development within the boundaries of the Ojai Valley Area Plan are subject to the Level of Service goals, policies and programs in the Ojai Valley Area Plan and not subject to Policies CTM-1.3, CTM-1.4 and CTM-1.5.

## 4. Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element

### CTM-1.7

#### Pro Rata Share of Improvements

The County shall require discretionary development that would generate additional traffic pays its pro rata share of the cost of added vehicle trips and the costs of necessary improvements to the Regional Road Network pursuant to the County's Traffic Impact Mitigation Fee Ordinance. (RDR)

### CTM-1.8

#### Discretionary Development in Cities

The County shall oppose discretionary development within cities, and annexation to cities for the purposes of discretionary development, where such development would individually or cumulatively cause:

1. Any existing road within the County's Regional Road Network, or any existing County-maintained local road, that is currently functioning at an acceptable Level of Service (LOS) to function below an acceptable LOS pursuant to Policy CTM-1.2;
2. Any existing road within the County's Regional Road Network, or any existing County-maintained local road that is currently operating below an acceptable LOS, as determined pursuant to Policy CTM-1.2, to have a worsening of traffic conditions; or
3. Any project that will create a significant unavoidable transportation impact pursuant to Policy CTM-1.1; or
4. Any future road planned for addition to the County's Regional Road Network, or any planned future County-maintained local road, to function below an acceptable LOS as determined pursuant to Policy CTM-1.2).

This policy does not apply to those cities which have formally adopted General Plan policies, ordinances, or a reciprocal transportation impact mitigation fee agreement with the County similar to Policies CMT-1.3, CMT-1.4, and CMT-1.5.

(RDR)

### CTM-1.9

#### National Highway System Performance Measure and Target Monitoring

The County shall coordinate with Caltrans and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to monitor the performance measures and targets established by Caltrans and Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for compliance with the National Performance Management Measures Rule for all roadways designated as part of the National Highway System in Ventura County, including some portions owned or maintained by the County. (SO)

### CTM-1.10



#### Direct Traffic to Highways to Preserve County Character

The County shall strive to direct interregional traffic to federal and state highways. Improvement to County roadways shall not be for the primary purpose of relieving congestion on federal or state highways. (SO)

### CTM-1.11

#### Safe and Efficient Goods Movement

The County shall coordinate with Caltrans and cities to ensure that truck routes are appropriately designed and designated for the safe and efficient movement of goods throughout the county, particularly to the Port of Hueneme. (IGC)

### **CTM-1.12**

#### **Surface Transportation Assistance Act Planning**

The County shall coordinate with Caltrans, cities, and major shipping entities to improve and enhance the Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) Terminal Access routes and STAA network connectivity between and among goods movement modes and facilities (e.g., truck routes/terminals, railroads/yards, shipping lanes/ports, and air-transport/airports). This will include at a minimum adequate STAA Terminal “T” and “S” signage as appropriate to improve wayfinding and access to the National STAA Network. (IGC)

### **CTM-1.13**

#### **Grade Separations**

The County shall work with the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) to determine the feasibility of grade separations on unincorporated segments of NBVC mobilization corridors/Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) (Figure 4-5) to increase mobility and allow for uninterrupted mission operations and military readiness. (IGC)

### **CTM-1.14**

#### **Railroad Grade Crossings**

The County shall work with Union Pacific Railroad, the Port of Hueneme, owner of the Ventura County Railroad, Caltrans, cities, and the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to continue to enhance roadway safety along railroad grade crossing surfaces through improvements including the installation of concrete railroad grade crossing surface panels. (IGC, SO)

### **CTM-1.15**

#### **Mobilization Corridors**

The County shall work with Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) and neighboring jurisdictions to enhance circulation for identified roadway mobilization corridors/Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) (Figure 4-5). (IGC)

### 4.2 Regional Multimodal System

This section takes a “Complete Streets” approach to transportation planning to provide a regional multimodal system. Purposeful planning and coordinated development of complete streets infrastructure can provide long-term cost savings for the County by reducing future road construction (and associated repair, and maintenance costs) and expanding the tax base and businesses within the county. It can also improve public health by encouraging active lifestyles, increase roadway safety, provide economic benefits to property owners and businesses, and decrease air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Policies in this section focus on connecting, balancing, and prioritizing transportation modes based on surrounding uses, activities, and right-of-way allowances; integrating different types of facilities into existing streets to make them more complete; and planning and designing new streets to create complete streets.

#### CTM-2

To facilitate the safe, efficient, and cost-effective movement of all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, public transportation riders, children, older people, and disabled people, as well as motorists through the provision of an integrated multimodal system.

##### CTM-2.1



##### Complete Streets

The County shall prepare and adopt Complete Streets Design Guidelines to be used when constructing new roadways or improving existing roadways where Complete Streets would be appropriate/feasible. The Complete Streets Design Guidelines shall employ a context-sensitive approach to planning and designing the road and street network to reflect the distinct agricultural, rural, or urban character of a particular location. (MPSP)

##### CTM-2.2



##### Functional Classification

The County shall plan a roadway system that has adequate capacity and is designed to provide reasonable and safe use by vehicles, public transportation, bicycles and pedestrians with minimum delay pursuant to LOS standards described in Policy CMT-1.2. The road system should follow Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) classification as identified on Figure 4-4. (MPSP)

##### CTM-2.3



##### County Road Access

The County shall require discretionary development with access onto a County road to have the access point(s) designed and built to County standards. (RDR)

##### CTM-2.4



##### Transportation System Safety


The County shall strive to provide safe operating conditions for all appropriate modes and uses of County roadways. (RDR, MPSP, SO)

##### CTM-2.5



##### Emergency Services

The County shall coordinate the development and maintenance of all transportation facilities with emergency service providers to ensure continued emergency service operation and service levels. (ICG)

- CTM-2.6** **Regional Transportation Planning**  
 The County shall work with Caltrans, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), and cities in the county to plan, develop, and maintain regional transportation facilities and services, and to identify existing and future transportation corridors that should be linked across jurisdictional boundaries so that sufficient right-of-way may be preserved. (IGC)
- CTM-2.7** **Congestion Management Program**  
 The County shall coordinate with Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to implement and update the Congestion Management Program (CMP). The County shall also encourage consideration of multimodal performance measures as part of future updates to the CMP. (MPSP, IGC)
- CTM-2.8** **Congestion Management Program and County Regional Network Consistency**  
 For those portions of the County's Regional Road Network currently not designated as part of the Congestion Management Program (CMP), the County shall coordinate with Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to formally designate applicable County maintained roadways as part of the CMP. (MPSP, IGC)
- CTM-2.9** **State Route 118 Improvement in Saticoy Area**  
 The County shall work with the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) and Caltrans to reprioritize the re-striping of SR 118 from Vineyard Avenue to Darling Road on the Ventura County Congestion Management Plan and the Caltrans list of projects to provide for an additional lane in each direction of travel. (IGC)
- CTM-2.10** **Safe Routes to School**  
 The County shall work with public and private schools to identify and expand safe routes to school, where feasible. (IGC)
- CTM-2.11** **Efficient Land Use Patterns**  
 The County shall establish land use patterns that promote shorter travel distances between residences, employment centers, and retail and service-oriented uses to support the use of public transportation, walking, bicycling, and other forms of transportation that reduce reliance on single-passenger automobile trips. (RDR, MPSP)
- CTM-2.12** **Countywide Bicycle Lane and Trail System**  
 The County shall coordinate with cities in the county and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to plan and implement a system of bicycle lanes and multi-use trails that link the cities, unincorporated communities, schools including colleges and universities, commercial/retail, employment centers, health care service facilities, public transportation, and other points of interest. (MPSP, IGC)
- CTM-2.13** **Transportation System Connectivity**  
 The County shall strive to eliminate "gaps" in roadways, bikeways, and pedestrian networks by planning for and seeking funding to construct necessary improvements to remove barriers and improve transportation system connectivity as well as connections that support first and last mile accessibility to and from public transportation. (MPSP, PSR, FB)
- CTM-2.14** **Bicycle Facility Design**  
 When designing new bicycle facilities, or modifying existing roadways with bicycle facilities, the County shall prioritize and install features to improve the safety and visibility of bicyclists. (MPSP)



## 4. Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element

### CTM-2.15



#### Bicycle/Pedestrian Design

The County shall rely on the guidelines and design standards for bicycle and pedestrian facilities established by the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD) and supporting guidelines provided the Federal Highway Administration, Caltrans, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). (MPSP, PSR, SO)

### CTM-2.16



#### Pedestrian Planning

The County shall consider the safety and accessibility of pedestrians when preparing transportation plans, studies, and reports. (MPSP)

### CTM-2.17



#### Support Regional Bicycle Infrastructure

The County shall support efforts to improve regional infrastructure that will make biking more attractive to residents and tourists. (IGC, SO, JP)

### CTM-2.18



#### Complete Streets Standards in Existing Communities

The County shall require discretionary development in designated Existing Communities to construct roadways to urban standards and Complete Streets principles, including curb, gutter, sidewalks, and bike lanes when there is a nexus for improvement. The County shall rely on the guidelines and design standards for Complete Streets design established by the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), Caltrans in the Highway Design Manual, and Complete Streets Guidelines (pursuant to Deputy Directive-64-R2), Federal Highway Administration, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). (RDR)

### CTM-2.19



#### Safety Metrics

The County shall continue to examine and update safety metrics for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) impact analysis as appropriate. Options include but are not limited to: queue spill-back at intersections; mid-block unprotected crossings; and, increased crossing distances. (RDR)

### CTM-2.20



#### Safe Pedestrian Crossings

The County shall improve pedestrian safety at intersections and mid-block locations in Existing Communities through approved features consistent with the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), Highway Design Manual, Federal Highway Administration, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and the National Cooperative Highway Research Program Report 498 (Application of Pedestrian Crossing Treatments for Streets and Highways). (RDR, SO)

### CTM-2.21



#### Pedestrian/Bicycle Conflicts along Overweight Vehicle Corridor and Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) Truck Routes

Within Existing Communities, the County shall provide/retrofit separated or buffered pedestrian and bicycle paths from the outside travel lane along County Road Network roads that are designated Overweight Vehicle Corridors and STAA designated Terminal Access Routes. Where the application or retrofitting of separated or buffered facilities is not feasible, the County shall prioritize alternative pedestrian and bicycle connections that encourage and attract pedestrian and bicycle traffic off designated Overweight Vehicle Corridors or STAA designated truck routes. (MPSP)

### CTM-2.22



#### **Funding and Maintenance for Sidewalks**

The County shall seek funding sources first for construction of new sidewalks in low-income areas and then for sidewalk maintenance particularly in low-income areas. (FB)

### CTM-2.23



#### **Intercommunity and Countywide Public Transportation System**

The County shall continue to work with Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), Naval Base Ventura County, and local public transportation regional bus service providers to promote the expansion of a safe, efficient, convenient, integrated, and cost-effective intercommunity and countywide public transportation and bus service that provides county residents with access to employment, commercial services, health and medical facilities, social services, educational facilities and institutions, and personal business destinations. (IGC)

### CTM-2.24



#### **Non-Drivers Living in Rural Areas**

The County shall work with Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) and local public transportation providers to address the needs of non-drivers living in rural areas to provide public transportation and paratransit service. (IGC)

### CTM-2.25



#### **Amtrak Service Improvements**

The County shall support the recommendations of the California State Rail Plan for Amtrak trains, including track and signalization upgrades, increasing service frequencies by adding additional round-trip service to regional destinations north and south of Ventura County, improving passenger information and comfort, and reducing travel time. (IGC)

### CTM-2.26



#### **Abandoned Railroad Rights-of-Way**

When railroad rights-of-way are abandoned, the County shall evaluate the feasibility of acquiring the land for public use as public transportation, bicycle, pedestrian, or equestrian paths. (MPSP)

### CTM-2.27



#### **Discretionary Development and Conditions of Approval to Minimize Traffic Impacts**

The County shall require that discretionary development be subject to permit conditions of approval, where feasible, to minimize traffic impacts by incorporating pedestrian and bicycle pathways, bicycle racks and lockers, ridesharing programs, transit improvements (bus turnouts, shelters, benches), and/or transit subsidies for employees or residents of the proposed development. (RDR)

### CTM-2.28



#### **Emergency Access**

The County shall ensure that all new discretionary projects are fully evaluated for potential impacts to emergency access. Mitigation of these impacts shall be handled on a project-by-project basis to guarantee continued emergency service operations and service levels. (RDR)

### CTM-2.29



#### **Railroad Safety Assessment**

The County shall require that all new discretionary development is evaluated for potential impacts to existing railroad facilities and operations and identify appropriate mitigation measures, as warranted therein. (RDR)

### CTM-3

To develop an accessible and interconnected bicycle network that addresses resident and visitor needs for commuting, daily activities, and recreation.

#### CTM-3.1



##### **Bicycle Network Strategy and Prioritization**

The County shall identify and prioritize components of a bicycle network to increase public access and ridership on bicycle routes. (MSPR, SO)

#### CTM-3.2



##### **Inclusive Bicycle Network**

The County shall develop a bicycle network for all user types and routes across the county. (MPSR, SO, PI)

#### CTM-3.3



##### **Regional Destination Focus for Bicycle Network**

The County shall encourage the development of a bicycle network that connects to regional destinations such as parks, trails, educational institutions, employment centers, transit, park and ride lots, and tourist destinations. (IGC) y

#### CTM-3.4



##### **Interjurisdictional Bicycle Network Connectivity**

The County shall promote bicycle network connectivity between Ventura County communities as well as Santa Barbara and Los Angeles Counties. (IGC)

#### CTM-3.5



##### **Bicycle Routes in Rural Areas**

The County shall plan for bicycle network connectivity in rural, agricultural, and open space areas in a way that supports and complements business and agricultural activities in those areas. (JP)

#### CTM-3.6



##### **Coordination with Bicycle Wayfinding Plan**

The County shall support the Complete Streets effort by, when feasible, constructing bicycle lanes on County maintained roads listed in the Ventura County Transportation Commission Bicycle Wayfinding Plan. (SO, JP, IGC)

#### CTM-3.7



##### **Bicycle Trail along Santa Paula Branch Line**

The County shall encourage the construction of a bicycle trail along the Santa Paula Branch Line Railroad in the unincorporated area between the cities of Ventura and Santa Paula. (SO, JP, IGC)

#### CTM-3.8



##### **Bicycle Network Routes and Wayfinding**

The County shall use clear and consistent message and placement for on- and off-street regional bikeways and to regional destinations. (PI, SO)

#### CTM-3.9



##### **Funding for Bicycle Network and Wayfinding Planning and Improvements**

The County shall actively pursue outside funding opportunities for bicycle network improvements. (FB, JP)

#### CTM-3.10



##### **Bicycle Storage Facilities**

The County shall require adequate bicycle storage facilities (e.g., bicycle racks, lockers) for discretionary development as determined by allowable land uses at a given site. (RDR)

### 4.3 Vehicle Trip Length and Frequency

Planning for the regional road system to support sufficient vehicle capacity is essential for the provision of adequate mobility to reduce roadway delays and restricted access. The General Plan retains LOS as a congestion-based standard/metric to gauge roadway performance, while also focusing on reducing vehicle trip length and frequency (i.e., VMT).

CTM-4	To ensure that land use and transportation planning efforts in the county are cohesive, mutually supportive, and reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) per capita within the unincorporated areas of the County.
CTM-4.1	<div><div>CAP</div><div><b>Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)</b></div><div>The County shall work with Caltrans and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to reduce VMT by:</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ facilitating the efficient use of existing transportation facilities;</li><li>▪ striving to provide viable modal choices that make driving alone an option rather than a necessity,</li><li>▪ supporting variable work schedules to reduce peak period VMT, and</li><li>▪ providing more direct routes for pedestrians and bicyclists.</li></ul></div><div>(MPSP, SO)</div></div>
CTM-4.2	<div><div>HC CAP</div><div><b>Alternative Transportation</b></div><div>The County shall encourage bicycling, walking, public transportation, and other forms of alternative transportation to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), traffic congestion, and greenhouse gas emissions. (PI)</div></div>
CTM-4.3	<div><div>CAP</div><div><b>Vehicle Occupancy</b></div><div>The County shall work with a broad range of agencies (e.g., Caltrans, Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), Amtrak, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, public transportation providers and shared mobility vendors) to encourage and support programs that increase vehicle occupancy including the provision of traveler information, shuttles, and preferential parking for carpools/vanpools. (IGC, PI)</div></div>
CTM-4.4	<div><div>CAP</div><div><b>Park-and-Ride Facilities</b></div><div>The County shall coordinate with Caltrans and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to identify future park-and-ride lots within the unincorporated areas of Ventura County to facilitate more carpooling, vanpooling, and public transportation use. (IGC)</div></div>

## 4. Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element

### 4.4 Air Transportation

Ventura County's aviation system consists of two publicly-owned airports (Camarillo and Oxnard Airports), one privately-owned airport (Santa Paula Airport), and a federally-operated Naval Air Station and two runways (Naval Base Ventura County-Point Mugu). The privately-owned airport allows public use. While none of these airports currently (2019) provide commercial passenger services, this aviation system is a vital economic resource that moves people and goods. The policies in this section address the safety, efficiency, and reliability implications of air transportation in Ventura County.



*For policies concerning airport and aviation hazards, see Section 7.6, Transportation Related Hazards.*

#### CTM-5

To ensure that air transportation systems provide safe, efficient, and reliable movements of people and goods.

##### CTM-5.1

#### **Airport Effects**

The County shall strive to minimize adverse environmental and safety effects of County airports on the surrounding communities. (RDR, SO)

##### CTM-5.2

#### **General Aviation Service**

The County shall provide facilities at Oxnard and Camarillo Airports to meet the general aviation and commuter service needs of the citizens of Ventura County. (SO, JP)

##### CTM-5.3

#### **Private Airstrips and Agricultural Landing Fields**

The County shall require private airstrips and agricultural landing fields to be sited to minimize conflicts with the flight paths of existing airports and other areas that would present significant hazards or nuisances. (RDR)

##### CTM-5.4

#### **Air Freight Service**

The County shall encourage industrial and commercial activities that involve goods movement by air to locate near airports with air freight service to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. (RDR)

##### CTM-5.5

#### **Airport Land Use Compatibility**

Discretionary development that would endanger the efficient, safe operation of an airport or would result in significant land use incompatibility impact with an airport shall be prohibited. (RDR, SO)



## 4.5 Emerging Technologies and Sustainable Practices

The transportation sector is one of the leading sources for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Ventura County. The County has an opportunity to reduce GHG emissions to achieve all adoption targets and proactively mitigate the impacts of climate change. The County can ensure environmental sustainability by making use of emerging technologies and sustainable practices.

### CTM-6

To use emerging technologies and environmentally-sustainable practices to increase transportation system efficiency and resiliency.

#### CTM-6.1



##### **Routine Use of Alternative Transportation Options**

The County shall support the integration of emerging technologies that increase the routine use of alternative transportation options to decrease single-passenger automobile travel. (MPSP)

#### CTM-6.2

##### **Autonomous Technology**

The County shall continue to consider and assess the implications of autonomous vehicles, alternative energy vehicles, and other transportation technological advancements on mobility planning and infrastructure. (MPSP)

#### CTM-6.3



##### **Permeable Pavement**

As part of new roadway planning and design as part of discretionary development, the County shall promote the use of permeable paving and other passive drainage features such as bio-swales to prevent flooding, particularly in urban areas (RDR, SO)

#### CTM-6.4



##### **Facilities for Emerging Technologies**

The County shall support the development of alternative fueling stations (e.g., electric and hydrogen) and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) technology for emerging technologies. (SO)

#### CTM-6.5



##### **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**

The County shall support the installation of electric vehicle charging stations, where feasible, at County facilities, parking lots, park-and-ride lots, truck stops, and new development. (RDR, SO)

#### CTM-6.6



##### **Neighborhood Electric Vehicles**

The County shall encourage developments and street systems that support the use of properly licensed Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV), where appropriate. (MPSP)

#### CTM-6.7



##### **Shared Mobility Operations**

The County shall encourage and support car share operators at multimodal facilities including public transportation hubs, passenger rail stations, and park-and-ride lots.

#### CTM-6.8



##### **Micro-Mobility Operations**

The County shall evaluate the feasibility and work to establish requirements for shared micro-mobility (e.g., bike sharing) vendors within unincorporated areas. (RDR)

#### CTM-6.9



##### **Mobility-as-a-Service Enterprises – Vehicle Operations**

The County shall encourage Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) providers to park between service calls versus driving within unincorporated communities (RDR, SO)

## 4. Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element

### CTM-6.10



#### **Mobility-as-a-Service Enterprises – Support Public Transportation**

The County shall encourage Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) providers to coordinate with public transportation providers that serve unincorporated areas to increase the attractiveness of public transportation through the provision of free or subsidized public transportation patron first and last mile connections within unincorporated communities (IGC, JP)

### CTM-6.11

#### **Mobility-as-a-Service Enterprises – Streetscape Design**

The County shall consider the need for designated curb space for Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) drop-off and pick-up activity in commercial/retail areas within unincorporated communities (SO)

## 4.6 Funding

This section supports the identification and pursuit of sufficient funds to construct, maintain, manage, and operate a multimodal transportation system. Transportation funding sources include federal funds, state, regional, and local funds.

### CTM-7

To maintain sufficient funding to provide for existing and future transportation facility and service needs, including the operation and maintenance of the transportation system.

### CTM-7.1

#### **Federal and State Funding**


The County shall identify, develop, and prioritize transportation projects to best compete for federal and state funds for roadway safety improvements, public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian improvements. (IGC)

### CTM-7.2

#### **Local Funding Mechanisms**

The County shall continue to use local financing mechanisms such as gas tax, vehicle registration fees, and Traffic Impact Mitigation Fees to help fund transportation projects. The County shall continue to support regional and county-wide measures for transportation funding. (FB)

## 4.7 Implementation Programs



Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
			Supporting Department(s)					
<b>A</b>	<b>Traffic Impact Mitigation Fee Program</b> The County shall update its Traffic Impact Mitigation Fee Program and perform a comprehensive update to the program a minimum once every ten (10) years pursuant to Government Code Section 66000 et seq. 	CTM-1.3 CTM-1.7 CTM-2.26 CTM-7.2	PWA	■				■
			CEO RMA					

## 4. Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>B Initial Study Assessment Guidelines</b> The County shall update and adopt its Initial Study Assessment Guidelines (ISAG) no later than 2025 to address Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and safety metrics pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3. This program shall consider inclusion of the following components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of screening criteria to define projects not required to submit detailed VMT analysis, such as infill projects, inclusion of locally serving commercial, transit supportive projects, or transportation enhancements that reduce VMT;</li> <li>Establishment of thresholds of significant for identifying VMT related transportation impacts to meet or exceed State requirements; at minimum the thresholds will be equivalent to the threshold values for different project types identified in Mitigation Measure CTM-1;</li> <li>Standard mitigation measures for significant transportation impacts; and</li> <li>Specify the County's procedures for reviewing projects with significant and unavoidable impacts, under CEQA, related to VMT.</li> </ul>	CTM-1.3 CTM-1.4 CTM-1.5 CTM-1.7 CTM-1.8 CTM-1.9	PWA	■				■
		RMA					


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Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>C Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Reduction Program</b>  To support climate change related goals and CEQA related VMT policies pursuant to SB 743 (2013), the County shall develop a VMT Reduction Program no later than 2025. This program will contain a range of project- and program-level mitigation measures and VMT reduction strategies, that could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Preparation of a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program to promote mode shifts from single occupant vehicle use to transit, ridesharing, active transportation, telecommuting, etc.; and,</li> <li>■ Transportation System Management applications such as park-and-ride lots, intelligent transportation system (ITS) field deployment, pavement management, etc.</li> </ul> This program shall identify measures to achieve an additional five percent overall reduction in VMT by 2030, and 10 percent by 2040 relative to 2030 and 2040 business as usual scenarios, respectively. During implementation of the 2040 General Plan, the County will review and update the VMT Reduction Program as warranted to provide additional mitigation measures and programs that achieve these levels of VMT reduction. <div>   </div>	CTM-1.1 CTM-1.2 CTM-4.1 CTM-4.2 CTM-4.3 CTM-4.4	PWA	■				■
		RMA					
















## 4. Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>D Regional Road Network Coordination</b> The County shall continue to coordinate across its own agencies as well as with cities in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties and Caltrans to identify needed improvements to the Regional Road Network.  This will include identification of funds available and needed for County and cities inter-city road-building purposes to construct improvements. 	CTM-1.7 CTM-2.6 CTM-2.7 CTM-2.8	PWA		■			■
		RMA					
<b>E Pavement Management System</b> The County shall continue to maintain its Pavement Management System (PMS) to identify Pavement Condition Index (PCI) and ensure that the County road network is kept in a state of good repair with an emphasis and priority on goods movement corridors (e.g., Surface Transportation Assistance Act, Overweight Vehicle corridor, or local County roadways designated as part of the National Highway System). The PCI thresholds for pavement rehabilitation shall be based on guidance provided by the Board of Supervisors.	CTM-1.11	PWA					■
		n/a					
<b>F Overweight Vehicle Corridors</b> The County shall maintain and update as needed its Overweight Vehicle Corridors as Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) Terminal Access routes to connect to the National Network.	CTM-1.12 CTM-1.13 CTM-1.14 CTM-1.15	PWA	■				
		RMA					

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>G</b> <b>Grade Separations</b> The County shall work with the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) to determine feasibility of grade separations for segments of the mobilization corridors to ease mobility and allow for uninterrupted mission operations and military readiness.	CTM-1.12 CTM-1.13 CTM-1.14 CTM-1.15	PWA n/a		■			
<b>H</b> <b>Complete Streets Guidelines</b> The County shall prepare and adopt Complete Streets Design Guidelines/standards to be used when constructing new roadways or improving existing roadways where Complete Streets would be appropriate/feasible. Complete Streets Design Guidelines/standards should be consistent with the pedestrian and bicycle design guidelines and design standards established by Caltrans and supporting state/federal guidelines when designing bicycle/pedestrian facilities. These include the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), Highway Design Manual, Federal Highway Administration, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).  The County shall improve pedestrian safety at intersections and mid-block locations in developed communities by providing pedestrian crossing treatments where appropriate. 	CTM-2.1 CTM-2.2 CTM-2.3 CTM-2.4 CTM-2.14 CTM-2.15 CTM-2.16 CTM-2.18 CTM-2.19 CTM-2.20 CTM-2.21 CTM-2.23 CTM-3.1 CTM-4.2	PWA n/a	■				■
<b>I</b> <b>County Road Standards Update</b> The County shall update Road Standards to include the Complete Street Design Guidelines/Standards. 	CTM-2.1 CTM-2.2 CTM-2.3 CTM-2.14 CTM-2.15 CTM-2.18 CTM-2.19 CTM-6.11	PWA n/a	■				■

## 4. Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element




Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>J Vision Zero</b> The County shall develop a Vision Zero strategy for the County of Ventura with the goal of reducing all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. 	CTM-2.4 CTM-2.19 CTM-2.20 CTM-2.21	PWA RMA					
<b>K Safe Routes to School</b> The County shall support the Safe Routes to School Program by identifying opportunities to support bike and pedestrian routes to schools, identify needed improvements and opportunities to increase public access and use of these routes. 	CTM-2.10	PWA n/a					
<b>L Master Bicycle Network Plan</b> The County shall develop a master bicycle network plan that includes the recommendations from the Bicycle Wayfinding Study and the prioritized list of bike lanes from the Board approved criteria. 	CTM-2.12 CTM-2.13 CTM-2.18 CTM-2.21 CTM-2.26 CTM-3.1 CTM-3.2 CTM-3.3 CTM-3.4 CTM-3.5 CTM-3.6 CTM-3.7 CTM-3.8 CTM-3.9 CTM-3.10	PWA RMA					
<b>M Bicycle Wayfinding Plan Participation</b> The County shall continue to participate in and support the Ventura County Transportation Commission in updates to the Bicycle Wayfinding Plan linking all Ventura County cities, unincorporated communities, and CSUCI. 	CTM-3.2 CTM-3.3 CTM-3.4 CTM-3.5 CTM-3.6 CTM-3.7 CTM-3.8 CTM-3.9	PWA RMA GSA					

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
			Supporting Department(s)					
<b>N</b>	<b>Storage Facilities for Shared Mobility Enterprises</b> The County shall work with the Ventura County Transportation Commission to analyze the feasibility of shared micro-mobility (e.g., bike sharing) vendors being required to provide storage/parking areas or facilities to be designated and/or physically placed outside of the public right-of-way if private shared mobility vendors are allowed to operate within the unincorporated areas of the county. 	CTM-6.8	RMA					
			GSA					
<b>O</b>	<b>Mobility-as-a-Service Enterprises – Parking</b> The County shall consider designating parking areas in County parking facilities for Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) vehicles to use between customer service runs and will work with cities to provide locations as well. 	CTM-6.9 CTM-6.10	RMA					
			GSA					
<b>P</b>	<b>Interim VMT CEQA Assessment Criteria</b> Following June 30, 2020 and prior to completion of Implementation Program CTM-B, all projects (not otherwise exempt from CEQA analysis) shall be evaluated for potential environmental impacts relative to VMT using the State’s minimum reduction standards, as follows:	CTM-4.1	RMA					
			PWA					


## 4. Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element

Programs			Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible		2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
				Supporting Department(s)						
	Program P (continued)									
	Project Type	Measurement Unit	Model Trip Types	Minimum Criteria	Baseline VMT	Threshold VMT				
	Residential	VMT/Capita	Average of all Home Based Trip Types	15% Reduction of Regional Average	9.66	8.21				
	Office	VMT/Employee	Home Based Work Trips	15% Reduction of Regional Average	13.52	11.49				
	Industrial	VMT/Employee	Home Based Work Trips	15% Reduction of Regional Average	13.52	11.49				
	Retail	Unincorporated VMT	All Trip Types	No Net Increase in Regional VMT	7,500,249	7,500,249				
	Agriculture	Unincorporated VMT	All Trip Types	No Net Increase in Regional VMT	7,500,249	7,500,249				
	Infrastructure	Unincorporated VMT	All Trip Types	No Net Increase in Regional VMT	7,500,249	7,500,249				
	All Other Project Types	Unincorporated VMT	All Trip Types	No Net Increase in Regional VMT	7,500,249	7,500,249				



Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<p><i>Program P (continued)</i></p> <p>If a proposed project is found to have a significant impact on VMT, the impact must be reduced, as feasible<sup>1</sup>, by modifying the project's VMT to a level below the established thresholds of significance and/or mitigating the impact through multimodal transportation improvements or mitigations to enhance transportation mode shift (use of alternative transportation modes). Following completion and adoption of VMT thresholds as part of the Ventura County ISAG, this implementation program shall no longer apply.</p> <p><i>1. "Feasible" means that this mitigation measure shall be applied to future discretionary projects under the 2040 General Plan when and to the extent it is "capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors" as determined by the County in the context of such future projects based on substantial evidence. This definition is consistent with the definition of "feasible" set forth in CEQA (Pub. Res. Code, § 21066.1) and the CEQA Guidelines (§ 15164). The County shall be solely responsible for making this feasibility determination in accordance with CEQA.</i></p> <p></p>							
<p><b>Q Updated Traffic Impact Fee Mitigation Program</b></p> <p>The County shall require that discretionary development which adds traffic to roadways traversing within a County designated substandard roadway impact area contribute the fair share cost of any safety counter-measures that improve the safety of the impacted roadways by paying the applicable fees under the County's Traffic Impact Fee Mitigation program prior to the issuance of Zoning Clearance.</p> <p></p>	CTM-7.2	PWA					
		n/a					

## 4. Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>R Emergency Access Maintenance</b>  The County shall plan capital improvements needed to provide transportation infrastructure that is maintained and/or upgraded to provide appropriate emergency access.  	CTM-2.5, CTM-2.28	PWA					■
		n/a					

*Please see the next page.*



*Please see the next page.*



## 5. Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element

This element provides the framework for decisions in Ventura County concerning public and private infrastructure, utilities, and services. Existing and planned development in the county is dependent on a complicated network of public facilities and services. At the same time, infrastructure and services to residents and businesses in Ventura County are provided by a range of public and private institutions, and organizations. Each type of facility and service has a unique set of challenges and must adapt to growth and change differently. The County is responsible for providing and maintaining certain facilities and services necessary to maintain safe communities and to support the existing and future development described in the Land Use and Community Character Element.

The goals, policies, and programs in this element support the provision and maintenance of infrastructure, facilities, and services in appropriate areas of the unincorporated county and provide for their timely expansion, if required to maintain adequate services. The goals and policies indicate where those facilities and services will be most beneficial to meet the needs of county communities, residents, and businesses. The element also includes policies, in coordination with the Health and Safety Element, for the provision of facilities and services to ensure the safety and welfare of residents and visitors and the protection of property and with the Water Element for water supply and delivery.

Goals, policies, and implementation programs in this element are organized under the following headings:

<b>Section</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
5.1	Public Facilities and Services .....	5-2
5.2	Energy Efficiency for County Operations.....	5-3
5.3	Infrastructure Funding.....	5-5
5.4	Wastewater Treatment and Disposal.....	5-6
5.5	Solid and Hazardous Waste .....	5-7
5.6	Flood Control and Drainage Facilities.....	5-8
5.7	Public Utilities.....	5-9
5.8	Community Facilities.....	5-11
5.9	Library Facilities and Services .....	5-12
5.10	Parks and Recreational Facilities .....	5-13
5.11	Law Enforcement and Emergency Services.....	5-14
5.12	Fire Protection.....	5-16
5.13	Implementation Programs.....	5-17





Goals, policies, and implementation programs concerning water are in Chapter 9, Water Resources Element.

## 5.1 Public Facilities and Services

The County is responsible for providing many public facilities and services, including a number that are essential to protection of public health and safety. It is vital to the provision of those facilities and services that the County secure funding for new services and maintenance of existing facilities. The County must ensure that adequate funding and resources are available to provide necessary public facilities and services to meet the needs of existing and future residents and businesses. The County must be responsive to meeting service needs, while also ensuring that new facilities are strategically located to maximize use and efficiency.

This section is intended to guide the overall provision of public facilities and services in the unincorporated area, ensuring that sufficient capacity exists to meet demand, funding exists for construction and maintenance, and collaboration occurs among partners to enhance efficiency.

### PFS-1

To equitably provide residents and businesses with quality, cost-effective, and accessible facilities and services.

#### PFS-1.1



##### Equitable Provision of Public Facilities and Services

The County shall require that facilities and services that are essential for public health and safety shall be equitably provided for all residents and businesses. (SO)

#### PFS-1.2



##### Resilient Facilities and Services

The County shall monitor the projected impacts of climate change and natural disasters to make adaptive improvements and upgrades to public facilities and services. (SO)

#### PFS-1.3



##### Location of New Essential Public Facilities

The County shall review plans for constructing new essential public facility, such as a hospital, health care facility, emergency shelter, emergency command center, or emergency communications facility, so that these facilities are located outside of at-risk areas whenever feasible. If such a location is infeasible, then the County shall require the use of construction methods and site design features to minimize potential damage to these facilities. (RDR, SO)






Information on hazards in the county are in Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element.

#### PFS-1.4



##### Collaboration on Infrastructure and Public Service Deficiencies

The County shall collaborate with the cities in Ventura County, neighboring jurisdictions, special districts, and regional agencies to address issues of mutual interest and concern, including infrastructure and public service deficiencies, particularly in Designated Disadvantaged Communities. (IGC)


- PFS-1.5**      **Infrastructure Expansion Coordination with Naval Base Ventura County**  
The County shall coordinate with Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) when planning for infrastructure expansions, improvements, and maintenance that may impact any NBVC facility or operation. (IGC)
- PFS-1.6**      **Capital Improvements Prioritizations**  
 The County shall prioritize non-emergency capital improvement projects that provide the greatest benefit to county residents, including repairing or replacing inadequate facilities; updating or upgrading aging facilities and structures that exceed their planned lifecycles; protecting sensitive resources; and addressing deficiencies in Designated Disadvantaged Communities. (IGC)
- PFS-1.7**      **Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Availability**  
 The County shall only approve discretionary development in locations where adequate public facilities, services, and infrastructure are available and functional, under physical construction, or will be available prior to occupancy. (RDR)
- PFS-1.8**      **Annexation Priority**  
Within a city's Sphere of Influence, annexation to that city is preferable to formation of new or expansion of existing County Service Areas. (RDR)
- PFS-1.9**      **Requirements Inside City Spheres of Influence**  
County shall only approve a discretionary development within a city's Sphere of Influence if the required public facilities and infrastructure meets or exceeds those required by the associated city. (RDR)
- PFS-1.10**      **Efficient County Operation and Maintenance**  
 The County shall operate and maintain County facilities in an efficient manner that meets community needs while conserving financial and natural resources. (SO)

## 5.2 Energy Efficiency for County Operations

The County is dedicated to investing in renewable energy to promote efficiency and economic vitality and to minimize impacts on the environment. Energy infrastructure that is resilient to changing climate conditions is essential for public safety and overall quality of life for future generations. This section focuses on becoming a leader in energy efficiency through new projects and enhancements to County operations.

### PFS-2

To be a regional leader in energy efficiency.

- PFS-2.1**      **Sustainable Plans and Operations**  
 The County shall encourage energy efficiency, greenhouse gas reduction features, and resiliency planning into County facility and service plans and operations. (PSP, SO)

### PFS-2.2



#### **Sustainable Community Facility Design**

The County shall encourage the incorporation of sustainable design features in community facilities to reduce energy demand and environmental impacts, such as solar reflective roofing, permeable pavement, and incorporation of shade trees. (SO, IGC)

### PFS-2.3



#### **Energy Efficient Facility Construction, Purchases, Leases, Retrofits, and Expansions**

The County shall prioritize energy efficiency and water conservation as key design features when constructing, purchasing, leasing, retrofitting or expanding County facilities. (SO)

### PFS-2.4



#### **Recycling Receptacles and Biodegradable/Recycled-Materials Products**

The County shall provide recycling and composting receptacles and use of biodegradable or recycled-material products at County facilities and events, where feasible. (SO)

### PFS-2.5



#### **County Employee Trip Reduction**

The County shall encourage its employees to reduce the number and distance of single-occupancy vehicle work trips. (SO)

### PFS-2.6



#### **County Alternative Fuel Vehicle Purchases**

The County shall review market-available technologies for alternative fuel vehicles and prioritize purchase of vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions where economically feasible. (SO)

### PFS-2.7

#### **Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse Coordination**

When processing commercial renewable energy development applications, the County shall comply with Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse requirements and standards published in Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 211. (RDR)

### PFS-2.8



#### **Electric Vehicle Charging Station Infrastructure**

The County shall include electrical vehicle charging station infrastructure in new County-initiated facility construction to the extent feasible. The County shall also look for opportunities to install EV charging stations as part of any major renovation, retrofit or expansion of County facilities. (SO)



*This goal addresses energy efficiency for County facilities. For other development, refer to policies in Section 6.7, Energy Resource Conservation.*

### 5.3 Infrastructure Funding

Implementing the County's vision for effective infrastructure requires funding. The County can most quickly and efficiently complete infrastructure projects if there is ample and predictable funding. This section focuses on securing funding for infrastructure through a range of mechanisms including new project fees, assessments, and grants.

#### PFS-3

To secure ample and predictable funding to maintain and upgrade infrastructure.

##### PFS-3.1

##### **Funding Mechanisms**

The County shall pursue and maximize the use of a wide range of funding mechanisms for capital improvements, maintenance, and operations of infrastructure. This shall include use of federal, state, regional, local, and private resources, including development impact fees, assessment districts, and grant funding. (RDR, FB)

##### PFS-3.2

##### **Fair Share of Improvement Costs**

The County shall require development to pay its fair share of community improvement costs through impact fees, assessment districts, and other mechanisms. (RDR)

##### PFS-3.3

##### **Grant Funding Cooperation**

The County shall coordinate with special districts and other agencies, as appropriate, when applying for state and federal funding for public infrastructure, water and wastewater treatment and distribution needs. (FB, IGC)

## 5.4 Wastewater Treatment and Disposal

Wastewater collection, treatment, reclamation, and disposal is provided by 16 agencies, districts, and other service providers in the unincorporated area. The focus of this section is to address wastewater treatment and disposal requirements, treated water quality, and alternative treatment methods to ensure wastewater is treated to an acceptable level and safely disposed.

PFS-4

To ensure the adequate provision of individual and public wastewater collection, treatment, reclamation, and disposal operations and facilities to meet the county's current and future needs in a manner that will protect the natural environment as well as public health, safety, and welfare.

PFS-4.1

### Wastewater Connections Requirement

The County shall require development to connect to an existing wastewater collection and treatment facility if such facilities are available to serve the development. An onsite wastewater treatment system shall only be approved in areas where connection to a wastewater collection and treatment facility is deemed unavailable. (RDR)

PFS-4.2

### Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

The County may allow the use of onsite wastewater treatment systems that meet the state Water Resources Control Board Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy, Ventura County Sewer Policy, Ventura County Building Code, and other applicable County standards and requirements. (RDR)

PFS-4.3

### Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Failure Repair

The County shall require landowners to repair or replace failing septic tanks, disposal area, and package systems that constitute a threat to water quality and public health. (SO)

PFS-4.4

CAP

### Groundwater Resource Protection

The County shall encourage wastewater treatment facilities to provide the maximum feasible protection and enhancement of groundwater resources. (SO, IGC)

PFS-4.5

### Onsite Water Reuse

The County shall encourage on-site water reuse for landscape irrigation and groundwater recharge consistent with health standards, to reduce demand for potable water, and increase drought and disaster resiliency. (SO, RDR)

PFS-4.6

CAP

### Reclaimed Water

The County shall encourage public wastewater system operators to upgrade existing wastewater treatment systems to reclaim water suitable for reuse for landscaping, irrigation, and groundwater recharge. (SO, IGC)

PFS-4.7

### Design to Minimize Inflow/Infiltration

The County shall require that new wastewater lateral and trunk collection lines be designed to allow the minimum feasible amount of inflow and infiltration into the wastewater collection system. (RDR)

### 5.5 Solid and Hazardous Waste

The County manages the collection and disposal of solid and hazardous waste in the unincorporated area. The County is focused on reducing waste, preventing pollution, and promoting sustainable management of waste materials. The County must also comply with the California Integrated Waste Management Act. The County maintains a Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP), which provides an assessment of the County's goals and objectives, issues and problems identified in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county, summary of waste management programs and infrastructure, existing and proposed solid waste infrastructure, and description of the steps that the County will take to achieve the outlined goals. This section focuses on the collection and disposal of solid and hazardous waste in the unincorporated area.

PFS-5	To maximize recycling, reuse, and composting of solid waste and ensure the safe handling and disposal of the remaining solid and hazardous waste
<b>PFS-5.1</b> 	<b>Solid Waste Facility Location</b> The County shall require new landfills and other solid waste processing and disposal facilities (including facilities for composting, green waste, food waste) to be sited in areas that do not pose health and safety risks to residents and groundwater resources. The County shall require such facilities to be located based on objective criteria that do not disproportionately impact Designated Disadvantaged Communities. (RDR)
<b>PFS-5.2</b>	<b>Land Use Compatibility with Solid Waste Facilities</b> The County shall review and condition discretionary development near landfills and other solid waste processing and disposal facilities (including facilities for composting, green waste, food waste) to avoid incompatible development and future nuisance complaints from encroachment by incompatible land uses. (RDR)
<b>PFS-5.3</b>	<b>Solid Waste Capacity</b> The County shall require evidence that adequate capacity exists within the solid waste system for the processing, recycling, transmission, and disposal of solid waste prior to approving discretionary development. (RDR)
<b>PFS-5.4</b> 	<b>Food Waste Reduction</b> The County shall continue to provide educational and informational materials to restaurants, grocery stores, and other food providers, as part of food facility inspections, to support donation of safe, unused food to non-profit service agencies. (SO)
<b>PFS-5.5</b> 	<b>Agricultural Waste Reuse</b> The County shall support the beneficial reuse of agricultural wastes for activities such as composting and energy generation. (RDR, SO)
<b>PFS-5.6</b> 	<b>Value-Added Alternatives to Waste Disposal</b> The County shall promote value-added alternatives to solid waste management, such as compost, energy, biochar, and wood products to avoid open burning of agricultural biomass wastes. (SO, PI)



### PFS-5.7

#### **Discretionary Development Siting and the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan**

The County shall require that discretionary development adjacent to existing and proposed waste treatment, transfer, and disposal sites, as identified in the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan, shall not conflict with the current and anticipated future use of these waste facilities. (RDR)

### PFS-5.8

#### **Waste Treatment and Disposal Operations**

The County shall require sites used for waste treatment and disposal operations to be restored to a use compatible with surrounding uses upon conclusion of the operation. (RDR)

### PFS-5.9

#### **Waste Reduction Practices for Discretionary Development**

The County shall encourage applicants for discretionary development to employ practices that reduce the quantities of wastes generated and engage in recycling activities to further reduce the volume of waste disposed of in landfills. (RDR, SO)

## **5.6 Flood Control and Drainage Facilities**

The primary stormwater drainage watercourses in Ventura County are the Ventura River, the Santa Clara River, and Calleguas Creek, all of which traverse the southern and most populated areas of the county. Coastal watercourses drain stormwater from cities of Ventura, Oxnard, and Port Hueneme, as well as the County's unincorporated coastal areas. Watercourses in the northern part of Ventura County travel through the largely unpopulated and mountainous areas of the Los Padres National Forest. Each of these watercourses are subject to periodic flooding.



*A goal and associated policies and implementation programs addressing flood hazards are in Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element.*

### PFS-6

To provide adequate surface drainage and flood control facilities to protect public health and safety.

### PFS-6.1

#### **Flood Control and Drainage Facilities Required for Discretionary Development**



The County shall require discretionary development to provide flood control and drainage facilities, as deemed necessary by the County Public Works Agency and Watershed Protection District. The County shall also require discretionary development to fund improvements to existing flood control facilities necessitated by or required by the development. (RDR)

### PFS-6.2

#### **Multi-Purpose Flood Control Projects**

The County shall encourage the integration of design features into flood control projects, when feasible: to address resource conservation and restoration and preservation of natural riparian habitats, to provide groundwater recharge, to enhance water quality, to protect scenic vistas, and to incorporate recreational areas or opportunities. (RDR, SO)

## 5. Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element


- PFS-6.3**  **Climate Change Impacts on Flood Control and Drainage Facilities - Capacity**  
The County shall monitor projected climate change impacts, and coordinate with local, regional, state, and federal agencies to identify existing and potential projected impacts and develop strategies to maintain and improve flood control facilities accordingly. (SO, IGC)
- PFS-6.4**  **Climate Change Impacts on Flood Control and Drainage Facilities - Retention**  
The County shall coordinate with local, regional, state, and federal agencies to identify existing and potential infrastructure improvements to increase water retention to respond to drought conditions. (SO, IGC)
- PFS-6.5** **Stormwater Drainage Facilities**  
The County shall require that stormwater drainage facilities are properly designed, sited, constructed, and maintained to efficiently capture and convey runoff for flood protection and groundwater recharge. (RDR)
- PFS-6.6** **Natural Drainage Courses**  
The County shall retain drainage courses in their natural state to the extent feasible. (SO)
- PFS-6.7** **Flood Control and Beach Sand Nourishment**  
The County shall include beach sand nourishment as an important factor in the design and maintenance of flood control facilities. (SO)

## 5.7 Public Utilities

Public utility service providers are central to supporting residents and businesses and increasing capacity for the county's economic base. Utility infrastructure typically includes facilities that provide energy (e.g., electricity and natural gas) and communication services to residential, commercial, and institutional users. Electricity in Ventura County is primarily supplied by the Southern California Edison Company, while the Southern California Gas Company provides natural gas service. This section focuses on the provision of sufficient public utilities and methods for enhancing service into the future.

**PFS-7**

To promote the efficient distribution of public utility facilities and transmission lines to ensure that public utilities are adequate to service existing and projected land uses and are sited and constructed to avoid hazards and land use incompatibility.

- PFS-7.1** **Accessible Public Utilities**  
The County shall work with utility companies and service providers to ensure that gas, electric, broadband, cellular mobile communications, cable television, and telephone utility transmission lines are located appropriately to provide for adequate services throughout the unincorporated area. (JP)
- PFS-7.2**  **Reduce Transmission Facility Fire Hazard Risk**  
The County shall work with utility companies to modernize and upgrade transmission lines and associated equipment to reduce the risk of fire in areas with a high wildfire hazard risk. (JP)



*Additional goals, policies, and implementation programs on fire hazards are in Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element.*

### PFS-7.3

#### **Transmission Line Visual Impacts**

The County shall work with utility companies to ensure that new gas, electric, cellular mobile communications, cable television, and telephone utility transmission lines use or parallel existing utility rights-of-way, where feasible. When existing right-of-way cannot be used, the County should encourage utility companies to design and locate transmission lines to avoid scenic areas and viewsheds, and to site in a manner that minimizes impacts on community character, the natural environment, and existing development. (JP)

### PFS-7.4

#### **Discretionary Development Utility Service Line Placement**

The County shall require discretionary development to place new utility service lines underground if feasible. If undergrounding is determined by the County to be infeasible, then new utility service lines shall be placed in parallel to existing utility rights-of-way, if they exist, or sited to minimize their visual impact. (RDR)

### PFS-7.5



#### **Broadband Service Access**

The County shall encourage broadband service providers to expand service areas and provide high quality access to broadband (high-speed internet) and cellular mobile communications services to residents and businesses, including unserved and underserved areas. (JP)

### PFS-7.6



#### **Smart Grid Development**

The County shall work with utility providers to implement smart grid technologies as part of new developments and infrastructure projects. (JP)

### PFS-7.7



#### **Community Microgrids**

The County shall collaborate with renewable energy developers, community choice aggregation programs, and local serving entities to develop solar generation plus energy storage at critical facilities and community microgrids for resilience during power outages with a priority in designated disadvantaged communities. (JP)

### PFS-7.8

#### **Minimized Disruption of Natural Vegetation**

The County shall encourage location and construction of all transmission lines in a manner which minimizes disruption of natural vegetation and agricultural activities and avoids unnecessary grading of slopes when not in conflict with the rules and regulations of the California Public Utilities Commission. (JP)

### 5.8 Community Facilities

Community facilities enhance the quality of life of county residents and promote economic vitality, social opportunities, and community health and safety. This section focuses on the provision of community facilities to support educational, community and social engagement.

#### PFS-8

To promote public community facilities and services to provide robust educational, community and social engagement.

##### PFS-8.1



##### **Collaboration on Maintenance of Community Facilities**

The County shall work with cities, non-profit organizations, schools, and other community service providers to maintain and support public and private community facilities that are located throughout the county. (IGC)

##### PFS-8.2



##### **Community Facility Co-Location**

The County shall promote the co-location and integration of parks, schools, civic facilities, health service providers, and other community-oriented facilities to support community cohesion and leverage limited resources. (IGC)

##### PFS-8.3



##### **Community Facility Design to Promote Health**

The County shall encourage the integration of design features in community facilities that promote healthy activities, such as designing staircases to be visually prominent and attractive, providing secure bicycle parking, and providing connections to trails and outdoor activities. (SO, IGC)

##### PFS-8.4

##### **Joint Use Facilities for Community Activities**

The County shall work with school districts to provide joint use of County and school facilities. (IGC)

## 5.9 Library Facilities and Services

The Ventura County Library System (VCLS) is a County agency that consists of 12 library branches, a Mobile Library, an administration office facility, and a Virtual Library or e-Library that can be accessed 24/7 online. The VCLS provides services to all County residents, serving both the unincorporated area and cities (or areas within cities), which are neither served by a city library nor within the boundaries of an independent library district. The VCLS offers free access to books, audiobooks, magazines, comic books, music, and movies for checkout and in streaming or electronic format. The VCLS also has the Mobile Library, which the first mobile service in California dating back to 1924. This is a key service for underserved areas where many people have little or no library service.

### PFS-9

To provide individuals free access to library collections, resources, and services to help them be successful in their educational and work goals, and to serve as a social and cultural hub where community members can engage and collaborate to improve their overall quality of life.

#### PFS-9.1



##### Library Programs, Services, and Resources

The County shall continue to provide access to library facilities and services throughout the county. Library programs, services, and resources shall be periodically evaluated to identify opportunities to expand vocational training, literacy, life skills, lifelong learning, health, and wellness programs. (SO)

#### PFS-9.2



##### Location of New Libraries

The County shall consider the following factors when selecting new library locations:

- Ease of access from major vehicular and pedestrian traffic routes;
- Feasibility for ensuring adequate, well-lit, and secure automobile and bicycle parking;
- Walking distance to residential neighborhoods, senior housing, and schools;
- Proximity to businesses and community-serving organizations; and
- Unique community demographics that may impact access to or use of the facility and services.

(SO)

#### PFS-9.3



##### Modern Library Facilities

The County shall ensure that library facilities are designed and renovated to best meet community needs, such as collaborative and flexible work spaces, sufficient public meeting room spaces, or computers and other technological tools. (SO)

#### PFS-9.4



##### Innovative Library Services

The County shall explore new and expansive approaches to providing and expanding access to library facilities and services, including use of satellite sites, virtual and online services, and self-services. (SO)

#### PFS-9.5



##### Library Facilities as Part of Affordable Housing Projects

The County shall consider opportunities to partner with affordable housing developers to leverage development or renovation of community library facilities as part of the housing development strategy. (IGC, JP, FB)

### 5.10 Parks and Recreational Facilities

The County owns and manages a wide variety of parks, open spaces, golf courses, and trails. Many recreation opportunities also exist in the unincorporated area, including mountain hiking trails, bicycle paths, beach parks, golf courses, camp sites, equestrian facilities, access to the off-shore Channel Islands, and lakes. This section addresses open space for outdoor recreation, such as parks, areas of scenic and cultural value, trails, and other links between open spaces. In Ventura County, a large portion of federal and state open space lands are accessible to the public and provide several recreational resources such as beaches, trails, playgrounds, scenic vistas, and campgrounds. Public open spaces that provide recreation resources are important for maintaining a high quality of life in the county. The County parks system financially operates as an enterprise fund whereby operations and maintenance costs and expenses are offset through user fees.

#### PFS-10

To develop and maintain a comprehensive system of parklands and recreational facilities that meet the active and passive recreational needs of residents and visitors, as funding is available.

##### PFS-10.1



##### Trail Network

The County shall encourage the establishment of a countywide network of trails to meet the needs of equestrians, bicyclists, hikers, and other trail user groups. (SO)

##### PFS-10.2



##### Recreational Use of Public Facilities

The County shall make public facilities, such as flood control channels and easements, available for recreational use, if feasible, safe, and appropriate for the site's primary function. (SO)

##### PFS-10.3



##### Amenities at Public Parks and Recreational Facilities

The County shall provide a full range of amenities at public parks and recreational facilities including playgrounds, restrooms, drinking fountains, trees and landscaping, outdoor furniture, trash cans, and lighting, to the maximum extent feasible. (SO)

##### PFS-10.4



##### New Park and Recreational Facility Locations and Park Accessibility

Parks and recreational facilities shall be located and designed to be accessible and inclusive for all users, to the maximum extent feasible. (RDR, SO)

##### PFS-10.5



##### Parkland Dedication Requirement

The County shall require discretionary development to provide new trails and/or parkland dedication, or equivalent in-lieu fees, based on a standard of five acres of local parkland per thousand population in accordance with the Quimby Act (Gov. Code, § 66477) and County Quimby Ordinance (contained in Ventura County Subdivision Ordinance). Any lands dedicated to meeting this requirement shall be accessible to the general public. (SO, RDR)

##### PFS-10.6



##### Additional Lands for Recreational Use

As part of subdivision development, the County shall encourage developers to set aside unused open space for active and passive recreational uses. (RDR)

##### PFS-10.7



##### Parkland Development, Operation, and Maintenance

The County shall require discretionary projects to provide funding for development, operation, and maintenance of park facilities appropriate to serve the needs of the project. (SO, RDR)



### PFS-10.8



#### **Discretionary Development near Trails**

The County shall require discretionary development near existing trails to mitigate or avoid adverse impacts to the existing trail system. Where appropriate, a condition of approval or other means of permanent dedicated trail access shall be provided. (RDR)

### PFS-10.9



#### **Partnerships for Recreational Programming**

The County shall develop partnerships with, and encourage efforts by, service clubs, civic groups, and individuals wishing to provide recreational programs in the county. (SO, IGC)

## **5.11 Law Enforcement and Emergency Services**

This section focuses on law enforcement facilities and services in Ventura County. The Sheriff's Office has been responsible for the security and safety of county residents and their property since 1873. The Sheriff's Office oversees the county jail system and the investigation of all criminal activities occurring in the unincorporated area. A fundamental aspect of the county's quality of life is the public perception of safety, and county residents identified their sense of safety as a top asset of the county.

It is also critical for the County to vigilantly maintain adequate emergency preparedness. This refers to the coordinated efforts by the County and other agencies to prevent, prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate natural and humanmade disasters and emergencies. The Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services is responsible for countywide all hazards disaster preparedness, planning, response, and recovery.



*Additional goals, policies, and implementation programs on disaster preparedness are found in Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element.*

### PFS-11

To protect the public through effective law enforcement, disaster preparedness, and emergency services.

### PFS-11.1



#### **Emergency Response**

The County shall maintain adequate staffing, equipment, and facilities to provide timely and effective responses to emergencies. (FB, SO)

### PFS-11.2

#### **Mutual Training and Aid Agreements**

The County shall work with other public agencies and organizations to develop, maintain, and enhance mutual training and aid agreements to efficiently prevent and respond to regional emergencies. (SO, IGC)

### PFS-11.3

#### **Emergency Services Accessibility**

The County shall work with cities, local and regional agencies, and organizations to identify and remove impediments to emergency services accessibility, particularly for residents facing systemic barriers, such as a disability, limited mobility, language barrier, or limited telecommunications. (IGC, SO)

## 5. Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element

### PFS-11.4 **Emergency Vehicles Access**

The County shall require all discretionary development to provide, and existing development to maintain, adequate access for emergency vehicles, including two points of access for subdivisions and multifamily developments. (RDR)

### PFS-11.5 **Individual Readiness Educational Programs**

The County shall support educational programs that empower individuals to prepare for self-sufficiency in emergencies through an understanding of risk reduction, and emergency response protocols and procedures. (PI)

### PFS-11.6 **Emergency Notifications**

The County shall work with the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services to provide effective and timely emergency notifications to the public in the event of an emergency or disaster. (SO, PI)

### PFS-11.7 **Social Support Networks**



The County shall support efforts to cultivate social support networks to improve community preparedness, response, and recovery from hazards and disasters to minimize injury and loss of life. (SO, PI)

### PFS-11.8 **Avoidance of Surveillance Interference**

The County shall condition discretionary development to avoid landscaping which interferes with police surveillance (e.g., landscaping must not cover any exterior door or window, landscaping at entrances and exits or at any parking lot intersection must not block or screen the view of a seated driver from another moving vehicle or pedestrian, trees must not be placed underneath any overhead light fixture which would cause a loss of light at ground level). (RDR)

## 5.12 Fire Protection

This section focuses on fire protection services in the county. The Ventura County Fire Protection District (VCFPD or Fire Protection District) was established in 1928. VCFPD provides a wide range of programs and services designed to protect lives and property in Ventura County from the adverse effects of fires, sudden medical emergencies, exposure to hazardous materials, and other emergency situations. These programs and services include fire protection planning, fire prevention education, fire law and code enforcement, fire suppression and recovery, first responder level emergency medical services, and assistance and support for other non-fire emergencies such as floods, earthquakes, and similar disasters. Superior fire protection services are essential for protecting life and property in the county.



*Goals, policies, and implementation programs concerning fire hazards can be found in Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element.*

### PFS-12

To protect life and property through the efficient provision of fire prevention, suppression, and rescue services and facilities.

#### PFS-12.1 Collaboration Among Partners

The County shall encourage the Fire Protection District to continue to develop relationships with local, state, and federal agencies and non-profit organizations to collaboratively inform and prepare citizens for wildland fires. (IGC, PI)

#### PFS-12.2 Fire Station Locations



The County shall work with the Fire Protection District to site fire stations in locations central to the area served and on or near arterial highways to minimize call response time. (IGC)

#### PFS-12.3 Adequate Water Supply, Access, and Response Times for Firefighting Purposes

The County shall prohibit discretionary development in areas that lack and cannot provide adequate water supplies, access, and response times for firefighting purposes. (RDR)

#### PFS-12.4 Consistent Fire Protection Standards for New Development








The County, in coordination with local water agencies and the Fire Protection District, shall require new discretionary development to comply with applicable standards for fire flows and fire protection. (RDR, IGC)





#### PFS-12.5 Training for Emergency Response Personnel

All County Fire Protection District and Sheriff's Department personnel shall be given initial training in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations for the position they hold. On-going training shall be provided to maintain all required certifications and to maintain appropriate proficiency in their position.

The County highly encourages additional training and education to further enhance the capabilities of Fire Protection District and Sheriff's Department personnel. In addition, all County Disaster Service Workers (DSWs) shall be trained in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS).

### 5.13 Implementation Programs

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>A Infrastructure Improvements and Funding</b> The County shall prepare, adopt, and periodically update capital improvement programs for all County-owned and operated facilities and services to maintain adequate levels of service and consistency with the General Plan. 	PFS-1.1 PFS-1.2 PFS-1.3 PFS-1.4 PFS-1.5 PFS-1.6 PFS-3.1 PFS-3.3	CEO <hr/> PWA GSA					
<b>B Accessibility in General Services Agency Maintained County Owned and Leased Buildings</b> The County shall continue the ongoing facilities program to inventory County owned and leased buildings for compliance with State and Federal Handicapped Accessibility laws, including the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as required by HUD for Block Grant Funds.	PFS-1.1 PFS-1.10	GSA <hr/> n/a					
<b>C Sea Level Rise Impacts Monitoring</b> The County shall conduct, and periodically update, Climate Change Impacts Monitoring reports to map locations of communication, energy, public service, transportation facilities, and infrastructure that are vulnerable to rising sea levels and coastal flooding. 	PFS-1.2	CEO <hr/> RMA GSA PWA					

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>D Sea Level Rise Adaptation Response</b> Based on findings from the Climate Change Impacts Monitoring reports, in cases where existing County facilities are found to be vulnerable to sea-level rise or coastal flooding, the County shall identify funding and create an action plan to protect, accommodate, or manage the retreat of County facilities to areas of higher elevation or reduced flood exposure. For facilities operated by other entities, the County shall work with these entities to create an action plan to protect, accommodate, or manage the retreat of their facilities to areas of higher elevation or reduced flood exposure. 	PFS-1.2	CEO <hr/> RMA GSA PWA					
<b>E County Purchasing Policy</b> The County shall prioritize the procurement of products made from recycled materials (e.g., office products and equipment, recycled asphalt use in roads and bike paths) and for reusing or sharing equipment/resources, when feasible. 	PFS-2.1 PFS-2.4	GSA <hr/> PWA					

## 5. Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>F Trip Reduction for County Staff</b> The County shall provide support for the following trip-reduction methods for County staff members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ carpooling/vanpooling,</li> <li>■ active transportation options (e.g., pedestrian or biking),</li> <li>■ use of electric or alternative energy vehicles, and</li> <li>■ public transit use.</li> </ul> <p>These will be accomplished through incentives, such as dedicated parking areas, electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at County facilities, carpool/vanpool coordination, and flexible work shifts.</p>	PFS-2.5 PFS-2.8	CEO HR GSA					■
<b>G Local Agency Management Program</b> The County shall review and update the Local Agency Management Program plan every five years consistent with the State Water Resources Control Board Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy.	PFS-4.1 PFS-4.2 PFS-4.3 PFS-4.4	PWA RMA n/a	■	■	■		■
<b>H Ventura County Sewer Policy</b> The County shall maintain a policy regarding the requirements and exemptions related to the connection to a wastewater treatment system.	PFS-4.1	RMA n/a					■



Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>I Onsite Wastewater System for Commercial and Industrial Uses</b> Discretionary development for commercial or industrial facilities served by onsite wastewater treatment facilities shall be conditioned to grant an access easement to the applicable County Service Area. In addition, regular testing and monitoring of onsite wastewater treatment system shall be performed to the satisfaction of the County's Environmental Health Division.	PFS-4.2	RMA n/a					■
<b>J Public Education of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Care</b> The County shall promote and support programs to educate homeowners on the care and maintenance of private onsite wastewater treatment systems and environmental implications of improper maintenance. CAP	PFS-4.2 PFS-4.3 PFS-4.4	RMA PWA					■
<b>K Coordination on Large Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Repairs</b> The County shall coordinate with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to address compliance and repair issues for large onsite wastewater treatment systems (over 5,000 gallons) and package treatment systems. CAP	PFS-4.2 PFS-4.3 PFS-4.4	RMA n/a					■
<b>L Solid Waste Reduction</b> The County shall continue to support and promote programs focused on solid waste prevention, reduction, recycling, and composting efforts, including food waste reduction in cases where consumable food can be redistributed rather than disposed. HC CAP	PFS-5.4	PWA RMA					■

## 5. Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>M Joint Use Facilities</b> The County General Services Agency will work with the cities, local civic groups, and public and private school districts throughout the county to establish cooperative agreements for use of each other's facilities to provide parks and recreational opportunities for all residents of the Ventura County.	PFS-8.4	GSA n/a					■
<b>N Open Space Zone for Parks and Recreation</b> The County shall amend the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance to create a new Open Space zone for public lands that will be limited to parks and recreational uses.	PFS-10.1 PFS-10.6 PFS-10.7	RMA GSA	■				
<b>O Crime Prevention Programs</b> The County shall continue to support efforts to organize neighborhood, rural, and industrial crime prevention programs.	PFS-11.1	VCSO n/a					■
<b>P Adequate Fire Flow – Water Districts/Companies Capabilities</b> The County shall work with mutual water districts/companies to identify and address the capabilities of each entity to provide adequate fire flows to address existing and potential development (including the anticipated growth of accessory dwelling units), within their service areas.	PFS-12.3	FD PWA					■
<b>Q Adequate Fire Flow – New Development</b> The County shall continue to review all new development to ensure that an adequate level of water for fire flow and fire protection can be provided.	PFS-12.4	FD RMA					■

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>R Biogas Control Systems</b> The County shall review and update regulations to allow the development of appropriate biogas facilities near the source of organic waste materials and develop a program to coordinate public-private local investment in biogas control systems to encourage their development.	PFS-5.5 PFS-5.6	AGC CEO	■				
<b>S Organic Waste Recycling at County Facilities and Events</b> The County shall evaluate the feasibility of establishing organic waste recycling programs at County facilities and County-sponsored events.	PFS-2.4	GSA PWA	■				
<b>T Development and Inclusion of Los Padres National Forest and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Trails and Map</b> The County shall prepare a map of public trails within and into the Los Padres National Forest and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, including those that cross private lands for inclusion in Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element.	PFS-10.1 PFS-10.6 PFS-10.8	RMA n/a	■				

## 5. Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>U Review Future Projects for Incorporation of Law Enforcement Security Measures</b> Future discretionary projects shall be reviewed by the County Sheriff's Department to determine whether the project includes adequate security measures and access so as not to exacerbate the need for new law enforcement/emergency services. Security measures considered adequate include but are not limited to: nighttime security lighting; cameras; alarms; fencing; window and door locks; private security patrols or special event security assistance; treatment of vulnerable surfaces with community supported murals (e.g. endorsed via petition by neighbors), anti-graffiti coating, or landscaping; removal of graffiti within a specified time period and/or other design measure to create defensible space.	PFS-11.1	SO RMA					■

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# 6

## 6. Conservation and Open Space Element

The Conservation and Open Space Element covers two key aspects of County planning:

- Provides guidance and programs for the conservation, management, development, and use of natural and cultural resources; and
- Provides guidance and programs for the long-term preservation and conservation of open space lands. This includes the preservation of natural resources and scenic resources, and the provision of land for outdoor recreation.
- Provides guidance and programs related to energy resources and planning for climate change impacts.

The Conservation and Open Space Element is coordinated with the Land Use and Community Character Element to guide and balance conservation and development within the unincorporated area. Goals, policies, and implementation programs in this element are organized under the following headings:

Section	Title	Page
6.1	Biological Resources .....	6-2
6.2	Coastal Resources.....	6-4
6.3	Scenic Resources .....	6-7
6.4	Cultural, Historical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Resources .....	6-8
6.5	Soil and Mineral Resources.....	6-10
6.6	Oil and Gas Resources.....	6-12
6.7	Energy Resource Conservation.....	6-13
6.8	Open Space .....	6-15
6.9	Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction.....	6-16
6.10	Implementation Programs.....	6-18



*Additional topics related to state requirements for the Conservation and Open Space Element can be found in other elements, as follows:*

- Water (Chapter 9, Water Element)
- Water, hydraulic force, flooding and fire (Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element)

# 6.1 Biological Resources

Ventura County lies within one of only five areas on earth characterized by the warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters known as Mediterranean climate. Mediterranean climates occur over only about two percent of the land area of the earth. Areas subject to such climate, however, support over 15 percent of the world's plant species, including many species occurring nowhere else on earth (Rundel and Tiszler 2007). Ventura County contains a diverse range of elevations, biogeographic features and ecosystems. The County's biological resources include plant and animal species, their habitats, plant communities and ecosystems that include habitat linkages and wildlife corridors. Numerous special-status species of plants and animals require special consideration and protection to federal, state and local law.

COS-1	To identify, preserve, protect, and restore sensitive biological resources, including federal and state-designated endangered, threatened, rare, or candidate species and their supporting habitats; wetland and riparian habitats; coastal habitats; habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors; and habitats and species identified as "locally important" by the County.
COS-1.1	<p><b>Protection of Sensitive Biological Resources</b></p> <p>The County shall ensure that discretionary development that could potentially impact sensitive biological resources be evaluated by a qualified biologist to assess impacts and, if necessary, develop mitigation measures that fully account for the impacted resource. When feasible, mitigation measures should adhere to the following priority: avoid impacts, minimize impacts, and compensate for impacts. If the impacts cannot be reduced to a less than significant level, findings of overriding considerations must be made by the decision-making body. (MPSP, IGC, RDR)</p>
COS-1.2	<p><b>Consideration of Sensitive Biological Resources</b></p> <p>The County shall identify sensitive biological resources as part of any land use designation change to the General Plan Land Use Diagram or zone designation change to the Zoning Ordinance that would intensify the uses in a given area. The County shall prioritize conservation of areas with sensitive biological resources. (MPSP)</p>
COS-1.3	<p><b>Wildlife Corridor Crossing Structures</b></p> <p>Based on the review and recommendation of a qualified biologist, the design and maintenance of road and floodplain improvements, including culverts and bridges, shall incorporate all feasible measures to accommodate wildlife passage. (RDR, MPSP)</p>
COS-1.4	<p><b>Consideration of Impacts to Wildlife Movement</b></p> <p>When considering proposed discretionary development, County decision-makers shall consider the development's potential project-specific and cumulative impacts on the movement of wildlife at a range of spatial scales including local scales (e.g., hundreds of feet) and regional scales (e.g., tens of miles). (RDR)</p>
COS-1.5	<p><b>Development Within Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors</b></p> <p>Development within the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors overlay zone and Critical Wildlife Passage Areas overlay zone shall be subject to the applicable provisions and standards of these overlay zones as set forth in the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance. (RDR)</p>

## 6. Conservation and Open Space Element

### **COS-1.6 Discretionary Development on Hillsides and Slopes**

The County shall require discretionary development on hillsides and slopes, which have an average natural slope of 20 percent or greater in the area where the proposed development would occur, to be sited and designed in a manner that will minimize grading, alteration of natural land forms, and vegetation removal to avoid significant impacts to sensitive biological resources to the extent feasible. (RDR, MPSP)

### **COS-1.7 Balancing Resource Preservation and Flood Protection**

The County shall require that discretionary development and County-initiated projects balance the preservation of streams, wetlands, and riparian habitats with the need to adequately protect public safety and property from flooding hazards by incorporating natural or nature-based flood control infrastructure, (e.g., wetland restoration, soil conservation, vegetated levees), when feasible. (MPSP)

### **COS-1.8 Bridge Crossing Design**

The County shall require discretionary development that includes new or modified road crossings over streams, wetlands and riparian habitats to include bridging design features with bridge columns located outside the riparian habitat areas, when feasible. (RDR)

### **COS-1.9 Agency Consultation Regarding Biological Resources**



The County shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Audubon Society, California Native Plant Society, National Park Service for development in the Santa Monica Mountains or Oak Park Area, and other resource management agencies, as applicable during the review of discretionary development applications to ensure that impacts to biological resources, including rare, threatened, or endangered species, are avoided or minimized. (MPSP, IGC, RDR)

### **COS-1.10 Evaluation of Potential Impacts of Discretionary Development on Wetlands**

The County shall require discretionary development that is proposed to be located within 300 feet of a wetland to be evaluated by a County-approved biologist for potential impacts on the wetland and its associated habitats pursuant to the applicable provisions of the County's Initial Study Assessment Guidelines. (RDR)

### **COS-1.11 Discretionary Development Sited Near Wetlands**

The County shall require discretionary development to be sited 100 feet from wetland habitats, except as provided below. The 100-foot setback may be increased or decreased based upon an evaluation and recommendation by a qualified biologist and approval by the decision-making body based on factors that include, but may not be limited to, soil type, slope stability, drainage patterns, the potential for discharges that may impair water quality, presence or absence of endangered, threatened or rare plants or animals, direct and indirect effects to wildlife movement, and compatibility of the proposed development with use of the wetland habitat area by wildlife. Discretionary development that would have a significant impact on a wetland habitat shall be prohibited unless mitigation measures are approved that would reduce the impact to a less than significant level. Notwithstanding the foregoing, discretionary development that would have a significant impact on a wetland habitat on land within a designated Existing community may be approved in conjunction with the adoption of a statement of overriding considerations by the decision-making body. (RDR)

- COS-1.12**      **Discretionary Development and Landscaping**  
The County shall require landscaping associated with discretionary development, or subject to the California Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO), to be water-efficient and include native, pollinator-friendly plants consistent with WELO guidelines, as applicable. The planting of invasive and watch list plants as inventoried by the California Invasive Plant Council shall be prohibited, unless planted as a commercial agricultural crop or grown as commercial nursery stock. (RDR)
- COS-1.13**      **Partnerships for Protection of Natural and Biological Resources**  
 The County shall continue to work in partnership with agencies, organizations, and entities responsible for the protection, management, and enhancement of the county's biological resources. (IGC)
- COS-1.14**      **Ecological Information Programs**  
The County shall support programs that encourage awareness and respect for the natural environment. (PI)
- COS-1.15**      **Countywide Tree Planting**  
 The County shall establish and support a countywide target for the County, cities in Ventura County, agencies, organizations, businesses, and citizens to plant two million trees throughout the county by 2040. (SO, JP, IGC)

## 6.2 Coastal Resources

There are 42 miles of coastline in Ventura County. Coastal resources are significant scenic resources, home to endangered and threatened species and habitats, and contain areas with cultural, paleontological, and archeological resources.

Beaches add significant value to quality of life for both their aesthetic beauty as well as free and safe access to leisure and recreational opportunities. Additionally, sections of State Route 1 and US Highway 101 along the coast are state eligible for official designation as “scenic” through the Caltrans California Scenic Highway Program. These scenic eligible highways offer outstanding views of the Pacific Ocean, as well as the foothills and mountainous areas on the inland side of coastal viewsheds.

Beaches also provide coastal habitats containing rich biodiversity. For example, the Mugu Lagoon has the richest biological diversity of all the coastal marsh areas in the county. It provides habitat for more than 30 “special-status species” and shelters the remnants of many plant, bird, fish, and insect populations that once inhabited preexisting lagoons. Ventura County is also home to several coastal wetlands including McGrath Lake, the Ormond Beach area, and the mouths of the Ventura and Santa Clara Rivers.

The coastal and interior zones of Ventura Country contain areas with marine and terrestrial fossils that are among the best in Southern California. Paleontological resources are present in many of the geologic formations in the county.

## 6. Conservation and Open Space Element

Through the Coastal Act, the State mandates that coastal communities manage the conservation and development of coastal resources through creation and adoption of a Local Coastal Program. Ventura County's Coastal Area Plan and the Coastal Zoning Ordinance together constitute the Local Coastal Program for unincorporated areas of the county. The primary goal of the Local Coastal Program is to ensure that the County's land use plans, policies, and actions meet the requirements of and implement the provisions and policies of the Coastal Act within the county.



*Policies related to coastal resources are contained in the Coastal Area Plan. The Coastal Area Plan covers the land within the Coastal Zone Boundary along the Pacific Coast. The Coastal Area Plan addresses shoreline access and public trails; development in scenic areas, coastal hazards, and coastal bluffs; environmentally sensitive habitat areas; cultural resources; transportation; and public services.*

*For policies concerning sea level rise, see Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element.*

### COS-2

To protect and conserve coastal beaches and sand dunes, proactively enhance coastal and marine resources, and respond to projected sea level rise.

#### COS-2.1

##### **Beach Erosion**

The County shall strive to minimize the risk from the damaging effects of coastal wave hazards and beach erosion and reduce the rate of beach erosion, when feasible. (MPSP, RDR, IGC)

#### COS-2.2

##### **Beach Nourishment**



The County shall support activities that trap or add sand through beach nourishment, dune restoration, and other adaptation strategies to enhance or create beaches in areas susceptible to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. (MPSP)

#### COS-2.3

##### **Coastal Regional Sediment Action Committee**

The County should work with the Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON), Ventura Port District, Channel Islands Harbor, cities, and the Navy to identify issues and establish common goals and objectives regarding sediment management, as well as to identify resources to meet defined goals. (IGC)

#### COS-2.4

##### **Mining Activities**

The County shall require discretionary development for all mining activities in County streams and rivers to incorporate all feasible measures to mitigate beach sand replenishment impacts. (RDR)

#### COS-2.5

##### **Shoreline Protective Structure Design**

The County shall require all shoreline protective structures which alter natural shoreline processes to be designed to eliminate or mitigate adverse impacts on local shoreline sand supplies. (MPSP, IGC)

#### COS-2.6

##### **Public Access**



The County shall continue to plan for the preservation, conservation, efficient use of, enjoyment of, and access to resources, as appropriate, within Ventura County for present and future generations. (IGC)



### **COS-2.7**



#### **Preserve Public Access**

The County shall work with federal, state, and local jurisdictions, agencies, and organizations to assess the vulnerability of public coastal access points and prioritize protection for those that provide the greatest benefits to residents and visitors. (PSR, IGC, JP)

### **COS-2.8**

#### **Coastal Fisheries**

The County shall encourage community programs that are designed to improve the quality of coastal fisheries and marine resources (PSR, IGC)

### **COS-2.9**

#### **Estuarine Protections**

The County shall support efforts by other agencies and organizations to maintain and enhance estuarine systems in order to protect and enhance coastal fisheries and other marine resources. (PSR, IGC)

### **COS-2.10**



#### **Saltwater Intrusion**

The County shall work with Federal, State, and local jurisdictions, agencies, and organizations to monitor saltwater intrusion and take proactive steps to reduce intrusion, including:

- working to maintain and restore coastal wetlands buffers;
- enhancing groundwater management to prevent excessive pumping in order to restore groundwater levels needed to reduce saltwater intrusion; and
- implementing mitigation measures to prevent saltwater intrusion into estuaries and groundwater basins including, but not limited to, implementation of reactive barriers and use of pumps to divert saltwater.

(PSR, IGC, JP)

### **COS-2.11**

#### **Dune Vegetation**

Discretionary development which would result in the removal of dune vegetation shall be conditioned to replace the vegetation. (RDR)

### 6.3 Scenic Resources

Scenic resources improve quality of life. From the coastline to the forested mountains of the north, the county contains aesthetic features that continue to attract visitors and provide pleasure to residents. The County is dedicated to conservation of these resources and ensuring visual access to them. Conservation of aesthetic resources is most critical where they will frequently be viewed, such as in proximity to a highway or a residential area. From panoramic views of the Santa Monica Mountains in the south to northern vistas of the Topatopa mountain range in the Los Padres National Forest and scenic views of coastal beaches and cliffs in the west, Ventura County offers a variety scenic resources.



*Policies related to parks and recreational facilities are in Chapter 5, Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element.*

#### COS-3

To preserve, protect, and enhance the unique scenic resources in Ventura County, and ensure access to scenic resources within Ventura County for present and future generations.

##### COS-3.1

##### **Scenic Roadways**

The County shall protect the visual character of scenic resources visible from state or County designated scenic roadways. (RDR)

##### COS-3.2



##### **Tree Canopy**

The County shall encourage the planting of trees and the protection of existing urban forests and native woodlands, savannahs, and tree canopy throughout the county, including along State or County designated scenic roadways and in residential and commercial zones throughout the county, especially those located within designated disadvantaged communities. (MPSP, RDR)

##### COS-3.3



##### **Utility Undergrounding Priority**

The County shall give overhead utility undergrounding within high fire hazard areas and Scenic Resource Areas first priority when allocating County Utility Undergrounding Funds. (MPSP, FB)

##### COS-3.4

##### **Visual Impacts from Reservoirs**

The County shall ensure that reservoirs are not sited on prominent ridgelines and that new reservoirs are well-screened with native vegetation and berms and, if possible, are undergrounded. (RDR)

##### COS-3.5

##### **Ridgeline and Hilltop Preservation**

The County shall ensure that ridgelines and major hilltops remain undeveloped and that discretionary development is sited and designed to remain below significant ridgelines, except as required for communication or similar facilities. (RDR)

### **COS-3.6**

#### **Open Space Character**

The County shall require discretionary development outside of Existing Communities be planned and designed to maintain the scenic open space character of the surrounding area, including view corridors from highways. Discretionary development should integrate design, construction, and maintenance techniques that minimize the visibility of structures from public viewing locations within scenic vistas. (RDR)

## **6.4 Cultural, Historical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Resources**

Cultural resources are most frequently identified with prehistoric (archaeological) or historic resources. Cultural resources in Ventura County include prehistoric indigenous Native American sites, historic areas of occupation and activity, and features of the natural environment. Cultural resources also include non-renewable, nonmaterial resources such as cognitive systems (including meanings and values attached to items of material culture, biota, and the physical environment), religion and world views, traditional or customary behavior patterns, kinship and social organization, and folklore.

Historical resources refer to the material and nonmaterial expressions of human adaptations that characterized the post-contact (historic) period. These resources include historic event or activity sites, historic archaeological sites, standing architecture and other significant properties, and documents and other sources of historical information, and objects of material culture. Also, more nonmaterial cultural qualities, such as folklore, social organization, and value systems, can be associated with these properties.

Paleontological resources refer to the fossilized remains of plant and animal life. In Ventura County, paleontological remains include examples from most of geological history, including the Paleozoic (542 to 251 million years ago), the Mesozoic (251 to 65.5 million years ago), and the Cenozoic (65.5 million years ago to the present). Careful scientific study of fossilized life forms preserved in the sedimentary and metamorphic rocks of the Ventura County region can lead to identification of local paleo-environmental conditions and biological evolutionary trends. In addition, certain fossil remains are only found in isolated outcrops in Ventura County and are therefore of unique scientific interest.

Archaeological resources refer to the material remains (e.g., artifacts, structures) produced by human beings, whether intentionally or accidentally. The scientific study of these remains can lead to identification of activities, types of adaptation to the environment, and changes in activities and organization that groups of people in the past experienced. Furthermore, these remains often have special significance to Native Americans, ethnic groups, special interest groups (e.g., avocational archaeologists), as well as the general public.

### COS-4

To identify, inventory, preserve and protect cultural, historical, paleontological, and archaeological resources in Ventura County, including Native American resources, for their scientific, educational, and cultural value.

#### COS-4.1



##### **Tribal, Cultural, Historical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Resources Inventory**

The County shall maintain an inventory of tribal, cultural, historical, paleontological, and archaeological resources in Ventura County based on project studies and secondary resources, including record studies and reports filed with natural history programs, the California Historical Resources Information System and the Native American Heritage Commission. (MPSP)

#### COS-4.2



##### **(a) Cooperation for Cultural, Historical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Resource Preservation**

The County shall cooperate with cities, special districts, appropriate organizations and private landowners to identify known cultural, archaeological, historical, and paleontological resources to preserve identified resources within the county (IGC).



##### **(b) Cooperation for Tribal Cultural Resource Preservation**

For discretionary projects, the County shall request local tribes contact information from Native American Heritage Commission, to identify known tribal cultural resources. If requested by one or more of the identified local tribes, the County shall engage in consultation with each local tribe to preserve, and determine appropriate handling of, identified resources within the county. (IGC)

#### COS-4.3

##### **Historical Landmarks Preservation**

The County shall require all structures and sites that are designated, or eligible for designation, as County Historical Landmarks to be preserved as a condition of discretionary development, in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior Standards, unless a structure is unsafe or deteriorated beyond repair. The property owner shall place an appropriate marker on the site to describe the historical significance of the structure, site or event. (RDR)

#### COS-4.4



##### **Discretionary Development and Tribal, Cultural, Historical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Resource Preservation**

The County shall require that all discretionary development projects be assessed for potential tribal, cultural, historical, paleontological, and archaeological resources by a qualified professional and shall be designed to protect existing resources. Whenever possible, significant impacts shall be reduced to a less-than-significant level through the application of mitigation and/or extraction of maximum recoverable data. Priority shall be given to measures that avoid resources. (RDR)

#### COS-4.5

##### **Adaptive Reuse of Historic Structures**

The County shall require, in all feasible circumstances, discretionary development to adaptively reuse architecturally or historically significant buildings if the original use of the structure is no longer feasible and the new use is allowed by the underlying land use designation and zoning district. (RDR)

#### COS-4.6

##### **Architectural Design to Reflect Historic and Cultural Traditions**

The County shall require discretionary development to incorporate architectural designs and features that reflect the historical and cultural traditions characteristic to the area or community. (RDR)

**COS-4.7**



**Cultural Heritage Board Review**

Prior to environmental review of discretionary development projects, the County shall initiate a records search request with the South Central Coastal Information Center and coordinate with the Cultural Heritage Board to identify sites of potential archaeological, historical, tribal cultural and paleontological significance, to ensure that all known resources have been properly identified. Should a site of archaeological, tribal, architectural, or historical significance be identified, the County shall provide an opportunity for the Cultural Heritage Board to include recommendations specific to the discretionary project and identified resource(s). If it is determined during the review that a site has potential archaeological, tribal, architectural, or historical significance, information shall be provided to the County Cultural Heritage Board for evaluation. Recommendations identified by the Cultural Heritage Board shall be provided to the appropriate decision-making body. (RDR)

**COS-4.8**

**State Historic Building Code**

The Building and Safety Division shall utilize the State Historic Building Code for preserving historic sites in the County.

## 6.5 Soil and Mineral Resources

Approximately 65 percent of the soil associations in the county have the capacity to produce varying amounts and types of agricultural commodities. Typically, gentler slopes can produce the largest crop variety including strawberries, irrigated vegetables, row crops, and citrus. The steeper the elevation, the more rooted the crops must be, which tends to favor tree nuts, avocados, and citrus crops. The remaining 35 percent of soil associations in the county either cannot support agricultural production due to slope, soil composition, access to water, elevation, or the capacity for production is minimal.

Mineral Resources are defined as naturally occurring inorganic materials in the earth's crust that are of economic value and can be extracted. Mineral resources in Ventura County consist primarily of aggregate resources, more commonly known as construction grade sand, gravel, and stone. Other mineral resources within the County include clay, shale, gypsum, silica sand, limestone, and phosphate. The location of Mineral Resource Zones and petroleum resources in the county are described and illustrated in Section 8.4, "Mineral Resources," of the Background Report,

**COS-5**

To preserve and protect soil resources in the county from erosion and for agricultural productivity.

**COS-5.1**

**Soil Protection**

The County shall strive to protect soil resources from erosion, contamination, and other effects that substantially reduce their value or lead to the creation of hazards. (RDR, SO)

**COS-5.2**

**Erosion Control**

The County shall encourage the planting of vegetation on soils exposed by grading activities, not related to agricultural production, to decrease soil erosion. (RDR, PSR)

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### COS-5.3



#### Soil Productivity

The County shall encourage landowners to participate in voluntary programs that reduce soil erosion and increase soil productivity. To this end, the County shall promote coordination between the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ventura County Resource Conservation District, University of California Cooperative Extension, and other similar agencies and organizations. (RDR)



*Policies related to landslide potential and erosion are in Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element.*

### COS-6

To manage mineral resources in a manner that identifies economically significant mineral deposits and plans for and protects access to, extraction, and long-term conservation of mineral resources for existing and future generations.

#### COS-6.1

##### Balanced Mineral Resource Production and Conservation

The County shall balance the development and conservation of mineral resources with economic, health, safety, and social and environmental protection values. (MPSP, IGC, RDR)

#### COS-6.2

##### Significant Mineral Resource Deposits

In accordance with California Code of Regulations Section 3676, the County shall maintain classification and/or designation reports and maps of mineral resources deposits as identified by the California State Geologist as having regional or statewide significance and any additional deposits as may be identified by the County, and as provided by the State Mining and Geology Board. The County shall provide notice to landowners and the general public on the location of significant mineral resource deposits. (MPSP, PI)

#### COS-6.3



##### Mineral Extraction Location Priority

The County shall promote the extraction of mineral resources locally to minimize economic costs and environmental effects associated with transporting these resources. (IGC, JP)

#### COS-6.4

##### Mineral Resource Area Protection

Discretionary development within Mineral Resource Zones identified by the California State Geologist shall be subject to the Mineral Resource Protection (MRP) Overlay Zone and is prohibited if the use will significantly hamper or preclude access to or the extraction of mineral resources. (RDR)

#### COS-6.5



##### Mineral Resource Land Use Compatibility

The County shall ensure that discretionary development is compatible with mineral resources extraction and processing if the development is to be located in areas identified on the Mineral Resource Zone Maps prepared by the California State Geologist or in County identified mineral resource areas. The County shall:

1. Require an evaluation to ascertain the significance of the mineral resources deposit located in the area of a discretionary development and to determine if the use would significantly hamper or preclude access to or the extraction of mineral resources.



2. Require discretionary development proposed to be located adjacent to existing mining operations to provide a buffer between the development and mining operations to minimize land use incompatibility and avoid nuisance complaints.
3. Establish a buffer distance based on an evaluation of noise, community character, compatibility, scenic resources, drainage, operating conditions, biological resources, topography, lighting, traffic, operating hours, and air quality.

(RDR)

### **COS-6.6**

#### **In-River Mining**

The County shall require discretionary development for in-river mining to incorporate all feasible measures to mitigate water, biological resource, flooding, and erosion impacts. (RDR)

## **6.6 Oil and Gas Resources**

Oil and gas are major energy resources in Ventura County. There are currently (2018) 57 oil companies operating in Ventura County under the authority of 135 conditional use permits granted by the County to authorize oil and gas activities. Oil and gas are produced in Ventura County using both traditional and enhanced recovery techniques. While there is significant oil and gas production in Ventura County, no new offshore oil and gas development is anticipated in the county or nearby Federal waters because of regulation and opposition from the California State Lands Commission.

### **COS-7**

To effectively and safely manage the exploration, production, and drilling of oil and gas resources in Ventura County.

#### **COS-7.1**

##### **Minimum Site Area**

The County shall only approve discretionary development for oil and gas development if the area of ground disturbance constitutes the minimum necessary to accomplish the project objectives. (RDR)

#### **COS-7.2**



##### **Oil Well Distance Criteria**

The County shall require new discretionary oil wells to be located a minimum of 1,500 feet from residential dwellings and 2,500 from any school. (RDR)

#### **COS-7.3**

##### **Compliance with Current Policies, Standards, and Conditions**

The County shall require new or modified discretionary development permits for oil and gas exploration, production, drilling, and related operations be subject to current State and County policies, standards, and conditions. (RDR)


#### **COS-7.4**



##### **Electrically-Powered Equipment for Oil and Gas Exploration and Production**

The County shall require discretionary development for oil and gas exploration and production to use electrically-powered equipment from 100 percent renewable sources and cogeneration, where feasible, to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from internal combustion engines and equipment. (RDR)

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- COS-7.5**      **Restoration and Revegetation of Sites Used for Oil and Gas Exploration, Extraction, and Production**  
The County shall require that discretionary development for oil and gas exploration activities be conditioned to require the restoration and revegetation of the site if the exploration does not result in oil and gas production facilities. (RDR) ]
- COS-7.6**      **Abandoned Oil and Gas Well Identification**  
The County shall evaluate discretionary development to identify any abandoned oil and gas wells on the project site. (RDR)
- COS-7.7**      **Conveyance for Oil and Produced Water**  
 The County shall require new discretionary oil wells to use pipelines to convey oil and produced water; oil and produced water shall not be trucked. (RDR)
- COS-7.8**      **Gas Collection, Use, and Disposal**  
The County shall require that gases emitted from all new discretionary oil and gas wells shall be collected and used or removed for sale or proper disposal. Flaring or venting shall only be allowed in cases of emergency or for testing purposes. (RDR)

### 6.7 Energy Resource Conservation



Energy resources are important natural resources that support the expansion of the region's economic base, its agricultural sector, and infrastructure capacity. As traditional sources of energy are depleted, there is a need to reduce energy consumption and develop alternate methods of power generation. California has made it a priority over the past decade to reduce energy demand through energy conservation and efficiency. As such, there has been an increasing investment in a range of energy efficiency and conservation programs. In line with statewide requirements and best practices, this section focuses on promoting energy conservation and supporting a diversity of energy resource development in the county.



*Additional policies related to climate change monitoring and adaptation are in Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element.*

#### COS-8

To minimize energy consumption and increase the use of renewable energy.

- COS-8.1**      **Reduce Reliance on Fossil Fuels**  
 The County shall promote the development and use of renewable energy resources (e.g., solar, thermal, wind, tidal, bioenergy, hydroelectricity) to reduce dependency on petroleum-based energy sources. (IGC, RDR)
- COS-8.2**      **Incentives for Energy Efficiency**  
 The County shall encourage the State, [community choice aggregation programs](#), and energy utility companies to provide programs, rebates, and incentives for energy efficiency installation and retrofit projects. (IGC)

### **COS-8.3      **Coordinate Climate Action Plan with Cities and Organizations****



The County shall facilitate the coordination of its Climate Action Plan implementation and maintenance with the cities in the county, the Air Pollution Control District, and other organizations to promote countywide collaboration on addressing climate change. (SO, IGC)

### **COS-8.4      **Clean Power Alliance****



The County, as a signatory to a legal entity created under a Joint Powers Authority with neighboring communities, shall continue to serve as an active member of the Clean Power Alliance or similar organization providing local customer access to electricity generated from low carbon renewable energy sources in excess of State requirements. (SO, IGC)

### **COS-8.5      **Decarbonize Communitywide Electricity Supplies****



The County shall work with utility providers to offer residents options to purchase and use renewable energy resources. (SO, IGC, JP)

### **COS-8.6      **Zero Net Energy and Zero Net Carbon Buildings****



The County shall support the transition to zero net energy and zero net carbon buildings, including electrification of new buildings. (RDR)

### **COS-8.7      **Sustainable Building Practices****



The County shall promote sustainable building practices that incorporate a “whole systems” approach for design and construction that consumes less energy, water, and other non-renewable resources, such as by facilitating passive ventilation and effective use of daylight. (RDR)

### **COS-8.8      **Renewable Energy Features in Discretionary Development****



The County shall encourage the integration of features that support the generation, transmission, efficient use, and storage of renewable energy sources in discretionary development (RDR)

### **COS-8.9      **Urban Tree Canopy Improvements for Energy Conservation****



The County shall encourage discretionary development to include the planting of shade trees on each property and within parking areas to reduce radiation heat production. (RDR)

### **COS-8.10      **Battery Energy Storage Systems****



The County shall encourage battery energy storage systems as an option for optimizing the management of electricity generated by renewable resources. (RDR)

### **COS-8.11      **Energy Conservation in Area Plan Land Use Policies****

Land use policies in area plans should be developed to promote energy conservation and should include the following:

1. The pattern of residential, commercial and industrial land use should be compact, relate to transit routes and centers and minimize vehicular travel.
2. The infill of vacant lots should be encouraged over step-out developments

(RDR)

### 6.8 Open Space

There are approximately 640,000 acres of open space in Ventura County that are managed by federal, state, county, special district, local, and non-profit agencies and organizations. A portion of these open spaces are accessible to the public and offer a variety of recreational opportunities in different settings.

The United States Forest Service (USFS) manages 87 percent, or 561,000 acres, of open space lands in Ventura County, which makes up almost all of north Ventura County. However, access to USFS lands is limited in part due to the wildlife conservation areas for the California condor and the existence of private lands near the southern forest boundary, which often do not have easements for public access. Non-USFS lands in Ventura County (other federal, state, and local lands) totaling approximately 79,000 acres, are mostly clustered near Ventura County's southeastern border.

Although Ventura County residents have a wide array of open space and recreational opportunities, distance to open space, and access, varies substantially throughout the county. Thus, some Ventura County residents do not have access to open space/park resources within walking distance, or a half mile of their residence.

#### COS-9

To develop and maintain a comprehensive system of parks, recreation, and natural open space lands that meet the active and passive recreation and open space needs of Ventura County residents and visitors.

##### COS-9.1



##### Open Space Preservation

The County shall preserve natural open space resources through:

- the concentration of development in Urban Areas and Existing Communities;
- use of cluster or compact development techniques in discretionary development adjacent to natural open space resources;
- maintaining large lot sizes in agricultural areas, rural and open space areas;
- discouraging conversion of lands currently used for agricultural production or grazing;
- limiting development in areas constrained by natural hazards; and
- encouraging agricultural and ranching interests to maintain natural habitat in open space areas where the terrain or soil is not conducive to agricultural production or grazing.

(RDR)

##### COS-9.2



##### Public Open Space

The County shall explore possible resources for public acquisition of permanent open space for public use. (IGC, JP)

##### COS-9.3




##### Open Space Preservation

The County shall place a high priority on preserving open space lands for recreation, habitat protection, wildlife movement, flood hazard management, public safety, water resource protection, and overall community benefit. (PSP)

## 6.9 Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction

Climate change is a global problem caused by the cumulative warming effects of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Governments at all levels, non-governmental agencies, and private citizens and businesses are now acting to mitigate GHG emissions as quickly as possible to reduce or avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change.



*This section contains policy components of the County's approach to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and is a key part of the County's overall Climate Action Plan (CAP). As noted in the General Plan introduction, the County developed an integrated approach to addressing climate change in the General Plan by incorporating policies and programs that address climate change throughout the General Plan elements. These policy components are designated with the  icon next to applicable CAP policies. As such, the General Plan will serve as the County's CAP.*

*Details on the purpose of the CAP, details regarding the General Plan's integrated climate action strategy, and a summary of results of key technical analyses used to develop the CAP strategy are contained in Appendix B. Section B.1 of this Appendix includes the components of the County's GHG emissions reduction strategy, while Section B.2 of this Appendix documents the County's vulnerability to climate change and climate adaptation strategy. Also refer to Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 2040 General Plan, specifically Appendix D of the Draft EIR and Chapters 2 and 3 and Attachment 2 of the Final EIR, for detailed information regarding the County's GHG emissions inventory and forecasts.*

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Strategy

The current inventory of GHG emissions is organized by the following seven sectors, presented in decreasing order by level of contribution. Information on the detailed activity data, assumptions, and calculations used to develop the County's GHG inventory are included in Appendix D of the Draft EIR, and Chapters 2 and 3 and Attachment 2 of the Final EIR.

- Transportation
- Building Energy
- Solid Waste
- Stationary Sources
- Agriculture
- Water and Wastewater
- Off-Road Equipment

### Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Strategy

In accordance with the requirements of SB 379 (2015), codified in Government Code section 65302(g)(4), climate change adaptation and resilience must be addressed in the safety element of all general plans in California. Appendix B contains a section that summarizes the County's vulnerability assessment and a list of all CAP policies within the General Plan in Section B.3. Chapter 12, "Climate Change," of the General Plan Background Report, released in January of 2018, summarizes the County's vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change over the coming century. The key findings of Chapter 12 of the General Plan Background Report include:

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- a rise of three to six degrees Fahrenheit (°F) by 2090 in the County;
- coastal erosion of up to 1.36 meters (4.46 feet) by 2100 due to sea-level rise;
- more frequent flooding events and more extensive and longer duration of flooding;
- elevated groundwater levels and salinity intrusion due to sea-level rise;
- the exposure of approximately 23,300 people countywide to inundation from a 100-year flood event combined with a 1.4-meter (4.6-foot) rise in sea level, many of whom are low income or especially vulnerable;
- the exposure of approximately 170 miles of roads and railways, hospitals, schools, emergency facilities, wastewater treatment plants, three power plants, and a naval base from a 100-year flood event combined with a 1.4-meter (4.6-foot) rise in sea level;
- habitat fragmentation due to changes in precipitation, increased temperatures, and rising sea levels;
- an increase of up to 79 extreme heat days per year by 2099; and
- a 15 percent increase countywide in the potential amount of area burned by wildfire between 2020 and 2085 as compared to historical trends.

This background information is further summarized in Appendix B. Specific policies and implementation programs contained in the General Plan elements that address climate vulnerability and adaptation are identified in Sections B.1 and B.3.

### COS-10

To improve the long-term sustainability of the community through local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

#### COS-10.1 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Strategy



The County shall maintain and refer to the General Plan and its integrated greenhouse gas (GHG) Reduction Strategy as the County's comprehensive plan for reducing community-wide GHG emissions in the unincorporated County. (RDR) ]

#### COS-10.2 Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Target for 2030



The County shall work toward achieving a community-wide GHG emissions reduction target of 41 percent below 2015 levels by 2030. (RDR)

#### COS-10.3 Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goals for 2040 and 2050



The County shall work toward achieving longer-term, post-2030 community-wide GHG emissions reduction goals, as follows:

- 61 percent below 2015 levels by 2040, and
- 80 percent below 2015 levels by 2050.

(RDR)



**COS-10.4**





**Greenhouse Gas Reductions in Existing and New Development**

The County shall reduce GHG emissions in both existing and new development through a combination of measures included in the GHG Strategy, which includes new and modified regulations, financing and incentive-based programs, community outreach and education programs, partnerships with local or regional agencies, and other related actions. (RDR)

## 6.10 Implementation Programs



Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>A</b>	<b>Standards for Compact Development</b> The County shall update the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance to include design and development standards to achieve compact siting of development adjacent to scenic or sensitive biological resources.	COS-1.1 COS-1.2	RMA	■				
			n/a					
<b>B</b>	<b>Update Initial Study Assessment Guidelines</b> The County shall update the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines to identify a range of mitigation measures for protected biological resources. This will include updating Section 4, Biological Resources, to include the following California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) policy language regarding compensatory mitigation: “When there is no other feasible alternative to avoiding an impact to a wetland habitat, the County shall require the discretionary development to provide restoration and/or replacement habitat as compensatory mitigation such that no overall net loss of wetland habitat results from the development. The restoration and/or replacement habitat shall be “in kind” (i.e. same type and acreage) and provide wetland habitat of comparable biological value. On-site restoration and/or replacement shall be preferred wherever possible. A habitat restoration and/or replacement plan to describe and implement such compensatory mitigation	COS-1.1 COS-1.2 COS-1.6 COS-1.10 COS-1.11	RMA	■				
			n/a					







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Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
	shall be developed in consultation with all agencies that have jurisdiction over the resource.”							
<b>C</b>	<b>Update Tree Protection Ordinance</b> The County shall update existing Tree Protection Regulations in the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance to further enhance conservation of our urban forests and the preservation of the County’s oak woodland resources. Updates shall include incorporation of Board-adopted recommendations from the Ventura County Oak Woodlands Management Plan (2007), which includes tree replacement offsets for ministerial development projects that remove protected trees. The County shall also re-evaluate and modify, if necessary, mitigation ratios for tree removal and oak woodland impacts for discretionary development projects, evaluate existing protections for invasive, non-native trees and consider the degree to which they provide habitat for a species during critical life stages (e.g., colonial roost sites, breeding sites, etc.). In addition, the evaluation shall also include anticipated effects of climate change on the urban forest environment 	COS-1.1 COS-3.2	RMA					
			GSA (Parks)					









Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>D</b>	<b>Research Feasibility of Updating Vegetation Maps</b> In partnership with other natural resource agencies and organizations, the County shall explore the feasibility of updating vegetation maps for unincorporated areas to facilitate the accurate analysis of potential impacts of development on vegetation communities and other sensitive biological resources. If necessary, the County shall develop or modify regulations and development standards to ensure adequate protections for vegetation communities.	COS-1.1 COS-1.10 COS-1.11	RMA	■				
			PWA Watershed Protection					
<b>E</b>	<b>Update Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance Standards for Vegetation Communities</b> Based on the results of Implementation Program COS-D, (updated vegetation mapping), the County shall develop or modify regulations and development standards to ensure adequate protections for vegetation communities and other sensitive biological resources, if necessary.	COS-1.1 COS-1.6 COS-1.10 COS-1.11	RMA		■			
			n/a					
<b>F</b>	<b>Evaluate Increase to Standard Setback from Wetland</b> The County shall evaluate whether a standards 200-foot setback from wetlands should apply to development in order to improve water quality, reduce the impacts of flooding and provide adequate protection for sensitive biological resources.	COS-1.1 COS-1.2 COS-1.10 COS-1.11	RMA		■			
			n/a					
<b>G</b>	<b>Identification of Critical Habitats</b> The County shall continue to partner with state and federal agencies to identify those areas of the County that are considered to be critical habitats of endangered, threatened or rare species as well as for other significant biological resources.	COS-1.9 COS-1.10 COS-1.11	RMA					■
			n/a					

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Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>H</b>	<b>County Tree Planting Program</b> The County shall plant at least one thousand trees annually. ] 	COS-1.15	CEO GSA RMA  Other County Agencies, as appropriate				■	
<b>I</b>	<b>Grants for Climate Change Adaptation Activities</b> The County shall apply for grants through the California Coastal Commission and other organizations for beach nourishment, dune restoration, and other adaptation activities to improve the resilience of county beaches to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. 	COS-2.1 COS-2.2	PWA  n/a					■
<b>J</b>	<b>Scenic Highway Designations</b> The County shall seek official State Scenic Highway designations for County designated Scenic Highways.	COS-3.1	RMA		■			
<b>K</b>	<b>Preservation Guidelines for Significant Cultural, Historical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Resources</b> The County shall prepare, and regularly update as needed, specific guidelines for the preservation of significant cultural, historical, paleontological, and archaeological resources.	COS-4.1 COS-4.2 COS-4.3 COS-4.4	RMA  n/a					■
<b>L</b>	<b>Oil and Gas Well Stimulation Treatment</b> The County shall require discretionary projects that include fracking, well stimulation treatment, cyclic steaming, and/or steam flooding be evaluated for potential effects on ground water contamination, exacerbation of seismic activity, water use, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and other impacts.	COS-7.4	RMA  n/a					■

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>M</b>	<b>Oil and Gas Tax</b> The County shall evaluate the feasibility of establishing a local tax on all oil and gas operations located in the unincorporated county. 	COS-8.1	CEO					
			n/a					
<b>N</b>	<b>Sustainable Building, Siting, and Landscaping Practice Guidelines</b> The County shall prepare sustainable building, siting, and landscaping practice guidelines that promote a whole systems approach to building designs and construction techniques that reduce consumption of non-renewable resources such as oil, gas and water and promote renewable energy use. 	COS-8.7 COS-8.8	RMA					
			GSA					
<b>O</b>	<b>Assessment of Land Near Electrical Transmission and Distribution Lines</b> The County shall conduct a study and prepare a publicly available assessment of suitable undeveloped lands near electrical transmission and distribution lines that serve as priority areas for the development of utility-scale solar energy generation and storage projects. If suitable locations are identified, the County shall establish a new zone, if necessary, called a Renewable Energy Priority Zone, for these sites in the County's Coastal and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinances. 	COS-8.1 COS-8.5	RMA					
			REA					

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Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>P</b>	<b>Study to Demonstrate Energy and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Savings</b> The County shall conduct a study that demonstrates the energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) savings of the options identified in Implementation Program COS-R using modeled building prototypes. To satisfy state regulatory requirements for Energy Reach Code adoption, the study shall also demonstrate long-term cost savings of the options through a life-cycle cost analysis that considers the initial costs of efficiency improvements offset by utility bill cost savings and other relevant factors. 	COS-8.1 COS-8.6	CEO					
			RMA REA					
<b>Q</b>	<b>Incentives for Development of Renewable Energy Projects</b> To incentivize the development of the Renewable Energy projects, the County shall consider waiving permit fees for renewable energy generation or storage projects. 	COS-8.5	CEO					
			RMA REA					
<b>R</b>	<b>Performance-Based Building Code for Green Building</b> The County shall maintain and update as needed the Building Code to establish performance-based standards that incentivize green building techniques. 	COS-8.6 COS-8.7 COS-8.8	RMA					
			REA					
<b>S</b>	<b>Building Code Update</b> The County shall update the Building Code to include a mandatory Energy Reach Code. 	COS-8.6 COS-8.7	RMA					
			REA					



T	<b>Energy Consumption Performance</b> The County shall continue to review its energy consumption performance and implement programs designed to increase energy efficiency in County-owned buildings, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ reduced operating hours for heating, ventilating and lighting systems,</li> <li>■ installation of weather stripping on all openable doors and windows,</li> <li>■ development of energy audit and energy management programs,</li> <li>■ implementation of operation and maintenance programs which contribute to energy conservation,</li> <li>■ develop energy audits and energy management programs for all County-owned facilities,</li> <li>■ develop a plan to re-invest utility company rebates and utility savings into a long-range funding program for on-going conservation projects,</li> <li>■ implement operational and maintenance programs which contribute to energy conservation,</li> <li>■ investigate and implement new energy technologies such as solar and fuel cells,</li> <li>■ install energy management systems in all County-owned facilities to control air conditioning and lighting systems where beneficial,</li> <li>■ install ceiling, wall, and roof insulation whenever feasible,</li> <li>■ install plumbing flow restrictors in toilets, lavatories and showers, and</li> <li>■ provide energy conservation training and literature to all County agencies.</li> </ul>	COS-8.7	GSA						
			REA						







## 6. Conservation and Open Space Element

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>U</b>	<b>Solar Canopies in Non-Residential Projects</b> The County shall amend the County's Coastal and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinances to require parking lots for new non-residential construction projects, with floor area of greater than 50,000 square feet, to include solar canopies.  	COS-8.8 COS-8-9	RMA					
			PWA					
<b>V</b>	<b>Improve Energy Conservation Awareness</b> The County shall encourage community members to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase awareness about energy efficiency and climate change and adaptation, to conduct targeted outreach to homeowners and contractors to encourage installation of electric appliances upon routine replacement of natural gas appliances and heaters and provide information regarding financial incentives.  	COS-8.1 COS-8.6 COS-8.7	CEO					
			REA					
<b>W</b>	<b>Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program</b> The County shall develop a behavior change program for energy efficiency and conservation. This program would provide energy literacy training for low-income customers on buying energy-efficient products or using energy more efficiently; develop and offer digital applications offering real-time energy use information to residents and businesses; offer anonymized data on community energy use for residents to compare performance; and provide rewards or rebates for improved energy conservation.  	COS-Goal 8	CEO					
			REA					

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
			Supporting Department(s)					
X	<b>Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Implementation</b> The County shall implement the General Plan GHG Strategy through specific policies, programs, and implementing actions integrated throughout the General Plan and summarized in Appendix B.	See all policies and programs tagged with a CAP symbol in General Plan	RMA					■
			Varies (see descriptions for individual components or GHG reduction measures)					
Y	<b>Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Monitoring</b> The County shall implement, under the overall direction of the CEO and with support of RMA, PWA, GSA, AGC, FD, and other departments as appropriate, the GHG Strategy through specific policies, programs, and implementing actions integrated throughout the General Plan and summarized in Appendix B, Climate Action Plan, as well as other appropriate actions adopted from time to time. The greenhouse gas reduction strategy shall consist of a comprehensive program to systematically reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet adopted emission reduction targets and deadlines from all sectors – transportation, buildings, solid waste, stationary sources, agriculture, water and wastewater, and off-road equipment.	COS-10.1 COS-10.2 COS-10.3 COS-10.4	RMA					■
			PWA GSA AGC FD					

## 6. Conservation and Open Space Element




Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>Z</b>	<b>Public Reporting on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Progress</b> The County shall prepare public reports on the results of GHG Strategy implementation and monitoring and present these reports to the Board of Supervisors. The first report shall be submitted to the Board of Supervisors two years after the approval of the General Plan, after which the Board of Supervisors will determine the appropriate future reporting interval. The County shall also present a more detailed progress report to the Board of Supervisors, including results of the latest GHG inventory update, every five years. 	COS-10.1 COS-10.2 COS-10.3 COS-10.4	RMA CEO				■	
<b>AA</b>	<b>Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Updates</b> The County shall update the County's GHG emissions inventory at least every five years. 	COS-10.1 COS-10.2 COS-10.3 COS-10.4	RMA CEO	■	■	■		■
<b>BB</b>	<b>Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Amendments</b> The County may amend the GHG Strategy to ensure that the County is on track to achieve its 2030 target and making substantial progress towards achieving its longer-term, post-2030 goals. 	COS-10.1 COS-10.2 COS-10.3 COS-10.4	RMA CEO					■

<p><b>CC</b></p>	<p><b>Climate Emergency Council</b></p> <p>The County shall establish a Climate Emergency Council (CEC) by a resolution of the Board of Supervisors to advise the Board of Supervisors on climate action planning and implementation of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) goals, policies, and programs. The County agency or department responsible for implementation of this program shall draft, administer, and maintain the CEC bylaws. Initial establishment of the CEC and its bylaws shall include the following terms, duties, and membership composition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Term of each member is two years. At the conclusion of a term, a CEC member may be re-appointed or re-selected, as applicable, for a consecutive term by the appointing authority.</li> <li>■ Duties of the CEC members include attendance at duly called meetings; review, in advance, of all written material provided in preparation for CEC meetings; serve and participate on committees and/or sub-committees; and contribute to the CEC's advisory recommendations to the Board of Supervisors;</li> <li>■ The officers of the CEC shall be Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.</li> <li>■ Officers shall be elected annually at regular meeting each year by CEC members. Nomination shall be made from the floor. Election shall be by simple majority.</li> <li>■ Officers shall serve a one-year term. An officer may be re-elected, but no individual shall serve more than three full consecutive terms in the same office. No member shall hold more than one office at a time.</li> <li>■ The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the CEC, sign all correspondence, reports, and other materials produced by the CEC,</li> </ul>	<p>See all policies and programs tagged with a  symbol in General Plan</p>	<p>CEO</p> <hr/> <p>RMA</p>	<p>■</p>				
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## 6. Conservation and Open Space Element

	<p>and perform any and all other duties prescribed by the CEC from time to time. The Chairperson may serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The Vice-Chairperson shall represent the Chairperson and/or substitute in performance of the Chairperson during their absence.</li><li>■ Membership of the CEC shall be comprised of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ One person representing each Supervisorial District who has demonstrated interest in and knowledge of climate action planning shall be nominated by each of the five members of the Board of Supervisors, and confirmed by a majority of the Board of Supervisors resulting in a total of five Supervisorial District representatives;</li><li>■ One resident from each of the designated disadvantaged communities identified in the 2040 General Plan who has demonstrated an understanding of their community's needs as well as an interest in and knowledge of climate action planning shall be appointed by a majority of the Board of Supervisors; and</li><li>■ Two additional at-large members who have demonstrated special interest, competence, experience, or knowledge in climate action planning shall be selected by a majority of the CEC members.</li></ul></li></ul>							
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Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each member is entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the CEC.</li> </ul>  							
<b>DD</b>	<b>Budget and Staffing Plan for CAP Implementation</b> The CEO shall, within six months from the adoption of the General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan, present to the Board of Supervisors a proposed budget and staffing plan (including qualified technical consultants) to implement the Climate Action Plan, and shall update the budget and staffing plan each year. 	COS-10.1 COS-10.2 COS-10.3 COS-10.4	CEO <hr/> RMA					■
<b>EE</b>	<b>Amend Initial Study Assessment Guidelines to Reference Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines</b> The County shall amend the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines at Section 7, Paleontological Resources, Attachment: Minimum Qualifications for Paleontological Consultants, and at Section 8a., Cultural Resources – Archaeological, Attachment 2: Minimum Qualifications for Archaeologists, to indicate that archaeology and paleontology consultants shall meet the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Standards and Guidelines for archeology and historic preservation. The County shall also amend the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines at Section 7, Paleontological Resources, at Section 8a., Cultural Resources – Archeological, and at Section 8b., Cultural Resources – Historic, to indicate that staff conducting field surveys shall be supervised by an archaeology, paleontology or architectural historian consultant that meets the SOI's Standards and Guidelines within one-year of adoption of the 2040 General Plan.	COS 4.4	RMA	■				

## 6. Conservation and Open Space Element

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>FF</b>	<b>Review Discretionary Development for Glare Effects Along Regional Road Network Roadways</b> Applicants for future discretionary development projects that include use of reflective surfaces such as metal, glass, or other materials that could produce glare and that the County determines would potentially be visible to motorists traveling along one or more (RRN) roadways shall submit a detailed site plan and list of project materials to the County for review and approval. If the County determines that the project would include materials that would produce disability or discomfort glare for motorists traveling along one or more RRN roadways then the County will either require the use of alternative materials, such as high-performance tinted non-mirrored glass, painted (non-gloss panels), and pre-cast concrete or fabricated textured wall surfaces, or require that the applicant submit a study demonstrating that the project would not introduce a glare source that exceeds 3:1 in a luminance histogram, which consists of inputting a set of digital photographs from a subject glare source into a computer simulation program and generating a graph that identifies the brightness level of different sections of that scene, from darkest to brightest. Glare impacts from future projects would be considered significant when the glare source to the median of the background ration exceeds 3:1 in a luminance histogram. 	COS-3.6	RMA					■
<b>GG</b>	<b>Protection of Sensitive Biological Resources</b> For any future discretionary development project that could potentially impact	COS-1.1	RMA	■				■

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<p>sensitive biological resources, the project shall be evaluated pursuant to the methodology described in the Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines which shall be amended within one year of 2040 General Plan adoption to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A preliminary assessment of the project shall be completed by County staff, in consultation with a qualified biologist, using available mapped biological resource data and aerial imagery to determine if the project has the potential to impact sensitive biological resources in the defined impact area (direct and indirect impacts). County staff will determine if project conditions or mitigation measures can be developed and implemented that would reduce or avoid those impacts to a less than significant level without requiring a more comprehensive biological resource assessment, otherwise known as an Initial Study Biological Assessment. Examples of projects that would not require a biological resource assessment may include but are not limited to: Projects that occur in previously developed areas, if additional vegetation removal is not required or the use may not impact surrounding natural areas; or projects on land consisting of non-native grasslands totaling less than one acre that are completely surrounded by existing urban development (such as urban infill lots).</li> <li>■ If County staff find that the project may adversely affect sensitive</li> </ul>							

## 6. Conservation and Open Space Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
	<p>biological resources, then a County approved qualified biologist shall prepare a biological resource assessment to assess and mitigate the adverse impacts of the proposed project. The procedures detailed in Step 3 of the County of Ventura Initial Study Guidelines, Biological Resources Chapter, Methodology Section shall be followed to prepare this biological resource assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The biological resource assessment shall be conducted by a County approved qualified biologist that meets the minimum qualifications for biological consultants listed in Attachment 1 to the County of Ventura Initial Study Assessment Guidelines. The qualified biologist shall have expertise in the taxonomic group or species on which the surveys are focused as well as the County's data review procedures and survey methods recommended by natural resource agencies or commonly accepted standards in the taxonomic group, community, or species (e.g., California Native Plant Society survey protocols).</li> <li>■ The biological field survey area will be determined by the County agency responsible for administering the project with consideration of recommendations from the qualified biologist. The survey area will include all areas of proposed disturbance, including associated equipment or personnel staging areas, and the surrounding area of potential sensitive biological resources that may be indirectly</li> </ul>						

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
	<p>adversely affected by the project. The size of the survey area will be based on the characteristics of surrounding habitat, the potential for sensitive biological resources to occur, and the nature of the project. For example, an infill project within an already developed area may not require a large survey area; however, a development project adjacent to natural habitat may require a larger survey area based on the potential for disturbance. The procedure for delineating the size of the survey area will follow Step 1 of the County of Ventura Initial Study Guidelines, Biological Resources Chapter, Methodology Section.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Prior to conducting any field surveys, the qualified biologist shall conduct an initial data review to determine the type of sensitive biological resources that may occur within the survey area using the procedures detailed in Step 3 (a) of the County of Ventura Initial Study Guidelines, Biological Resources Chapter, Methodology Section. This will include but not be limited to review of the best available, current data including: vegetation mapping data, mapping data from the County (Locally Important Species, Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor, Water Protection District data, past biological reports in the area, etc.); National Wetland Inventory Database (NWI); USGS National Hydrographic Dataset; EcoAtlas; and database searches of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat, Environmental</li> </ul>							

## 6. Conservation and Open Space Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<p>Conservation Online System (ECOS) and Information, Planning, and Conservation System (IPaC); California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB); and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California; Audubon Important Bird Areas and Red Lists, Xerces Society, etc.</p> <p><b>Biological Inventory -Special Status Species, Sensitive Habitats, Wetlands, Other Non-wetland Waters, Native Wildlife Nursery Sites, and Wildlife Corridors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The biological inventory shall be conducted as detailed in Step 3 (b) Conduct Field Survey and (c) biological inventory, of the County of Ventura Initial Study Guidelines, Biological Resources Chapter, Methodology Section, which includes a general floristic survey of the project impact areas.</li> <li>Vegetation communities within the survey area shall be inventoried using the CDFW vegetation classification standards (Manual of California Vegetation) and the most recent version of CDFW vegetation mapping standards “Survey of California Vegetation Classification and Mapping Standards [CDFW, 2019].</li> <li>If the initial data review shows a wetland or water occurring within 300 feet (in non-coastal zone) or 500 feet (in coastal zone) from the edge of the proposed disturbance areas, then a qualified biologist</li> </ul>							



Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
			Supporting Department(s)					
	<p>shall delineate the aquatic habitat (including waters of the United States and other waters including those under State jurisdiction). A summary of the type of aquatic habitat, primary water source, species diversity, connectivity to off-site habitat or other hydrological features, hydric soils, and hydrophytic vegetation, and the boundary of the feature (based upon the outermost limit of associated vegetation (canopy drip line or scrub line), hydric soils, bank and bed – whichever is greater) shall be included in the biological resource assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ If the initial data review indicates that sensitive biological resources have the potential to occur within the survey area, a qualified biologist shall conduct additional focused surveys for these species or other protected habitats using the most recently updated protocols recommended by natural resource agencies (e.g., Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities [CDFW 2018]. Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation [CDFG 2012]), or if not available, standards accepted in the professional biological community to survey that taxonomic group, community, or species. If an established protocol is not available for a special-status species then the qualified biologist will consult with the County, and CDFW or</li> </ul>							

## 6. Conservation and Open Space Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<p>USFWS, to determine the appropriate survey protocol.</p> <p><b>Mitigation for Special-Status Species, Sensitive Habitats, Wetlands, Other Non-wetland Waters, Native Wildlife Nursery Sites, and Wildlife Corridors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ If a sensitive biological resource is identified during field surveys, then the County shall require implementation of mitigation measures at the project level that fully account for the adversely affected resource. To the maximum extent feasible<sup>1</sup>, mitigation measures should adhere to the following priority to reduce adverse impacts of a proposed project to the resource: avoid impacts, minimize impacts, and compensate for impacts.</li> <li>■ Mitigation measures shall be used on a project level basis and be tailored to on site conditions and sensitive biological resources present as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 1. Avoid of Impacts: Proposed development shall avoid impacts to the maximum extent feasible<sup>1</sup> by not taking certain actions or parts of an action. Projects shall be sited to avoid direct or indirect impacts on the resource, and include measures such as implementing no-disturbance buffers (e.g., nesting bird buffer areas during construction, siting staging areas outside buffer area), or implementing project-specific design features (e.g., wildlife-friendly fencing and lighting in a wildlife corridor), such that</li> </ul> </li> </ul>							

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
			Supporting Department(s)					
	<p>indirect adverse effects of project development are avoided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 2. Minimize Impacts: Proposed development shall be conditioned to minimize adverse impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation to less than significant to the maximum extent feasible<sup>1</sup>. Other mitigation measures may include reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.</li> <li>• Measures to mitigate the spread of invasive plant species and invasive wildlife species (e.g., New Zealand mudsnail) shall include but will not be limited to: cleaning of equipment, footwear, and clothing before entering a construction site and the identification and treatment of significant infestations of invasive plant species within a project site.</li> <li>■ Priority 3. Compensate for Impacts: Compensating for the impact can be done by replacing or providing substitute resources or by rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment.</li> <li>■ Compensatory mitigation ratios for protected sensitive resources will be established based on the rarity of the resource, quality of affected habitat associated with the resource, temporary and permanent losses to habitat function, the type of mitigation</li> </ul>							

## 6. Conservation and Open Space Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
	<p>proposed (restoration, enhancement, preservation, establishment), and other requirements associated with state or federal permits. Mitigation ratios will be determined at the project level in consultation with the County, the qualified biologist, and, where applicable, federal or state agencies with jurisdiction over the resource (e.g., CDFW, USACE, USFWS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>if impacts on a protected sensitive biological resource are unavoidable, then the project proponent shall mitigate for the type of resource as follows:</li> <li>Endangered, Rare, Threatened, or Candidate Species: The applicant shall obtain incidental take authorization from USFWS (16 U.S. Code [U.S.C.] Section 1531 et seq.) or CDFW (California Fish and Game Code Sections 2050–2115.5) prior to commencing development of the project site, apply minimization measures or other conditions required under the incidental take authorization, and shall provide equivalent compensation for the unavoidable losses of these resources, generally at a minimum ratio of 1:1, or greater. Compensation may include purchasing credits from a USFWS- or CDFW-approved mitigation bank or restoring or enhancing habitat within the project site or outside of the project site.</li> <li>Special-Status Species (includes Locally Important Species): The applicant shall provide equivalent</li> </ul>						

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
			Supporting Department(s)					
	<p>compensation for impacts on special-status species by restoring or significantly enhancing existing habitat where the species occurs, acquiring or protecting land that provides habitat function for affected species that is at least equivalent to the habitat function removed or degraded as a result of project implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If impacts on sensitive habitats, wetlands, other non-wetland waters, riparian habitats, native wildlife nursery sites, and wildlife corridors cannot be avoided, then the project applicant shall:</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal or State Protected Sensitive Habitats: Obtain the required regulatory authorization (e.g., Section 404 permits for impacts on waters of the United States, 401 water quality certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, a Streambed Alteration Agreement for impacts on aquatic or riparian habitats within CDFW jurisdiction under Fish and Game Code Section 1602, a coastal development permit for impacts on ESHA), and provide equivalent compensation for the unavoidable losses of the above mentioned resources such that there is no net loss<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>Other Protected Sensitive Habitats (includes locally important plant communities, sensitive natural communities, habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors, native wildlife nursery or overwintering sites): Provide compensation for other</li> </ul>							

## 6. Conservation and Open Space Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<p>protected sensitive habitats which may include the restoration, enhancement, or preservation of the aforementioned habitats within or outside of the project site, or the purchasing of credits at an existing mitigation bank or in lieu fee program deemed acceptable by the County Planning Director.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All compensatory mitigation sites shall be protected in perpetuity through a conservation easement (if off-site), or deed restriction (or other comparable legal instrument) if on-site.</li> </ul> <p>The County shall, in harmonizing the 2040 General Plan with the Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, add definitions for the habitat types included in this mitigation measure, including which components are subject to compliance with the County's Local Coastal Program and Coastal Zoning Ordinance versus non-coastal areas.</p> <p>1. "Feasible" means that this mitigation measure shall be applied to future discretionary projects under the 2040 General Plan when and to the extent it is "capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors" as determined by the County in the context of such future projects based on substantial evidence. This definition is consistent with the definition of "feasible" set forth in CEQA (Pub. Res. Code, § 21066.1) and the CEQA Guidelines (§15164). The County shall be solely responsible for making this feasibility determination in accordance with CEQA.</p> <p>2. "Mitigation, No-Net-Loss" A principle where if a development project cannot avoid the loss of a valued natural resource, the project mitigates the impacts by replacing the impacted habitat with a newly created or restored habitat of the same size and similar functional condition so that there is no</p>							



Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
	<p><i>loss of ecological functions and values of that habitat type for a defined area. Similar functional condition means the relative ability to support and maintain the same species composition, diversity, and functional organization as the impacted habitat.</i></p> <p><b>EIR</b></p>							
<b>HH</b>	<p><b>Cultural Records Research</b> As part of a discretionary application process, project applicants (Ventura County for County projects) shall initiate a records search and Sacred Lands File search with the South Central Coastal Information Center.</p> <p><b>EIR</b></p>	COS-4.4	RMA					■
<b>II</b>	<p><b>Cultural, Historical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Resource Assessment Procedures</b> For discretionary projects, the County shall require the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projects shall be designed to protect existing resources and shall avoid potential impacts to the maximum extent feasible<sup>1</sup>.</li> <li>If determined necessary by the County, an archaeological or paleontological and/or Native American monitor shall be retained to monitor ground-disturbing activities during construction.</li> <li>If any materials or artifacts are discovered during ground disturbance and/or construction activities, construction shall halt until a qualified archaeologist, paleontologist, or Native American monitor can access the discovery. A report or memorandum shall be prepared by the qualified monitor documenting any findings and identifying recommendations for</li> </ul>	COS-4.4	RMA					■




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Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
	<p>protection or avoidance of discovered resources. Recommendations or mitigation identified by the qualified monitor shall be implemented prior to commencing</p> <p><b>EIR</b></p> <p><i>1 “Feasible” means that this mitigation measure shall be applied to future discretionary projects under the 2040 General Plan when and to the extent it is “capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors” as determined by the County in the context of such future projects based on substantial evidence. This definition is consistent with the definition of “feasible” set forth in CEQA (Pub. Res. Code, § 21066.1) and the CEQA Guidelines (§ 15164). The County shall be solely responsible for making this feasibility determination in accordance with CEQA. or continuing project activities and/or construction.</i></p>							
<b>JJ</b>	<p><b>Project-Level Historic Surveys and Protection of Historic Resources</b></p> <p>During project-specific environmental review of discretionary development, the County shall define the project’s area of potential effect for historic buildings and structures. The County shall determine the potential for the project to result in historic resource impacts, based on the extent of ground disturbance and site modification anticipated for the project. The potential for adverse impacts to historic resources shall also be determined pursuant to the requirements and protocol set forth in the Ventura County ISAG and Cultural Heritage Board Ordinance.</p> <p>Before altering or otherwise affecting a building or structure 50 years old or older, the project-applicant shall retain a qualified architectural historian according to the Secretary of the Interior Standards, to record it on a California Department of</p>	COS-4.4	RMA					■

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<p>Parks and Recreation DPR 523 form or equivalent documentation, if the building has not previously been evaluated. Its significance shall be assessed by a qualified architectural historian, using the significance criteria set forth for historic resources under CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. The evaluation process shall include the development of appropriate historical background research as context for the assessment of the significance of the structure in the county and the region. For buildings or structures that do not meet PRC 5024.1 or the CEQA criteria for historical resource, no further mitigation is required.</p> <p>1) If the building or structure can be preserved on site, but remodeling, renovation or other alterations are required, this work shall be conducted in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.</p> <p>2) If a significant historic building or structure is proposed for major alteration or renovation, or to be moved and/or demolished, the County shall ensure that a qualified architectural historian thoroughly documents the building and associated landscape and setting. Documentation shall include still and video photography and a written documentary record/history of the building to the standards of the Historic American Building Survey or Historic American Engineering Record, including accurate scaled mapping, architectural descriptions, and scaled architectural plans, if available. The record shall be prepared in consultation with State Historic Preservation Officer and filed with the Office of Historic Preservation. The record shall be accompanied by a report</p>							

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Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<p>containing site-specific history and appropriate contextual information. This information shall be gathered through site specific and comparative archival research, and oral history collection as appropriate.</p> <p>3) If preservation and reuse at the site are not feasible<sup>1</sup>, the historical building shall be documented as described in item (2) and, when physically and financially feasible<sup>1</sup>, be moved and preserved or reused.</p> <p>4) If, in the opinion of the qualified architectural historian, the nature and significance of the building is such that its demolition or destruction cannot be fully mitigated through documentation, the County shall reconsider project plans in light of the high value of the resource, and implement more substantial modifications to the proposed project that would allow the structure to be preserved intact. These could include project redesign, relocation or abandonment. If no such measures are feasible,<sup>1</sup> the historical building shall be documented as described in item (2).</p> <p><b>EIR</b></p> <p><i>1 "Feasible" means that this mitigation measure shall be applied to future discretionary projects under the 2040 General Plan when and to the extent it is "capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors" as determined by the County in the context of such future projects based on substantial evidence. This definition is consistent with the definition of "feasible" set forth in CEQA (Pub. Res. Code, § 21066.1) and the CEQA Guidelines (§ 15164). The County shall be solely responsible for making this feasibility determination in accordance with CEQA. or continuing project activities and/or construction.</i></p>							

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
			Supporting Department(s)					
<b>KK</b>	<b>Implement Project-Level Security Measures</b> During project-level ground disturbance activities for discretionary development, in areas where paleontologically rich sites or tribal cultural resources are known to be present, project sites shall be secured during non-construction hours to ensure that the unauthorized access and the unlawful curation of fossil materials or tribal cultural resources does not occur. Such security measures may include construction fencing, unauthorized access signage, security lighting, and security cameras. For large-scale development, a security plan may be prepared prior to construction activities to detail security measures and protocol for the project site. 	COS-4.4	RMA					
<b>LL</b>	<b>Greenhouse Gas Reduction Policy Enhancement Program</b> The Climate Emergency Council that would be established under COS-CC shall develop recommended subprograms which implement the 52 policies identified in Table 4.8-7 of the draft EIR that do not have associated implementation programs in the 2040 General Plan. For any additional future policies that may be adopted as part of the County's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Strategy (2040 General Plan, Policy COS-10.1), the CEC may recommend new subprograms. The CEC shall demonstrate in the materials submitted to the Board of Supervisors that the proposed subprograms and policies would result in quantifiable GHG emission reductions that further the County's progress towards achieving the 2030, 2040, and 2050 GHG reduction targets and goals established in the 2040 General Plan. The GHG emission	COS-10.1 COS-10.2 COS-10.3 COS-10.4	CEO RMA					

## 6. Conservation and Open Space Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<p>reduction policy topics that may be considered and analyzed by the CEC for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors are identified in the Table 4.8-7 and include but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Sustainable Technologies;</li> <li>■ Regional Bicycle Infrastructure;</li> <li>■ Funding and Maintenance for Sidewalks;</li> <li>■ Amtrak Service Improvements;</li> <li>■ Routine Use of Alternative Transportation Options;</li> <li>■ Permeable Pavement;</li> <li>■ Facilities for Emerging Technologies;</li> <li>■ Electric Vehicle Charging Stations;</li> <li>■ Neighborhood Electric Vehicles;</li> <li>■ Shared Mobility Operations;</li> <li>■ Sustainable Community Facility Design;</li> <li>■ Energy Efficient Facility Construction, Purchases, Leases, Retrofits, and Expansions;</li> <li>■ Agricultural Waste Reuse;</li> <li>■ Value-Added Alternatives to Waste Disposal;</li> <li>■ Smart Grid Development;</li> <li>■ Consistent Fire Protection Standards for New Development;</li> <li>■ Soil Productivity;</li> <li>■ Incentives for Energy Efficiency;</li> <li>■ Battery Energy Storage Systems;</li> <li>■ Air Pollutant Reduction;</li> <li>■ Air Pollution Impact Mitigation Measures for Discretionary Development;</li> </ul>							



Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Transportation Control Measures Programs;</li> <li>■ Alternative Transportation Modes;</li> <li>■ Urban Greening;</li> <li>■ Integrated Pest Management Practices;</li> <li>■ Technological Innovation; and</li> <li>■ Renewable Energy Facilities.</li> </ul> <p>The CEC's recommended GHG reduction subprograms and policies shall be presented to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, and then to the Board of Supervisors for consideration and approval, no later than 2025. The Board of Supervisors shall have sole authority to adopt (including as modified) and direct the County's implementation of the subprograms and policies that are developed and recommended by the CEC. Any CEC recommendation that would require amendments to the 2040 General Plan, County ordinances, policies or regulations shall be processed and approved by the County in accordance with all applicable legal requirements.</p> <p><b>EIR</b></p>							
<b>MM</b>	<p><b>Surface Mining Reclamation Act Ordinance</b></p> <p>The County shall evaluate and as necessary update the local Surface Mining Reclamation Act ordinance within three years of adoption of the 2040 General Plan.</p>	COS-6.1 COS-6.2 COS-6.3 COS-6.4 COS-6.5 COS-6.6	RMA	■				

## 6. Conservation and Open Space Element

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
			Supporting Department(s)					
<b>NN</b>	<b>Oil and Gas Setbacks</b> By 2022, the County shall conduct a study of going to 2,500-foot setback(s) that should be required between oil wells and related extraction facilities and surrounding sensitive receptors for a future potential General Plan amendment.	COS-7.2	RMA	■				

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## 7. Hazards and Safety Element

Ventura County is in a region that is prone to a variety of natural disasters, including wildfires, coastal flooding and flood hazards, and debris flows. Flood, wildfire, and sea level rise events associated with climate change are likely to increase in frequency and severity in the region. In addition to natural hazards, Ventura County also has a number of transportation facilities and military installations that increase risks for human-induced hazards, such as aircraft accidents, hazardous material spills, and exposure to excessive noise. While it is impossible to completely avoid natural and human-induced hazards, this Element establishes goals and policies to protect life, minimize property damage, and maintain or restore services during future disasters and emergencies. This policy framework will help to reduce hazards and ensure public safety in Ventura County.

This Element, along with other Elements in the General Plan, includes policies and programs that will help the County adapt to climate change impacts and increase the County's resilience. A detailed discussion of the County's vulnerability to climate change, along with a summary of which policies and programs in various Elements are part of the County's adaptation strategy in response to such effects, is included in Appendix B, Climate Change.

Goals, policies, and implementation programs in this element are organized under the following headings:

<b>Section</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
7.1	Wildfire Hazards.....	7-2
7.2	Flood Hazards.....	7-12
7.3	Coastal Flooding .....	7-13
7.4	Geologic and Seismic Hazards.....	7-14
7.5	Hazardous Materials .....	7-17
7.6	Transportation Related Hazards.....	7-18
7.7	Oil and Gas Production and Transportation Incidents.....	7-20
7.8	Military Compatibility .....	7-21
7.9	Noise .....	7-23
7.10	Air Quality .....	7-29
7.11	Increasing Temperatures .....	7-32
7.12	Emergency Response .....	7-34
7.13	Implementation Programs.....	7-38



The Hazards and Safety Element includes a series of diagrams (i.e., maps) to depict applicable hazard areas described in the policies. These are as follows:

Figure	Title	Page
Figure 7-1	Hazards Protection Map .....	7-3
Figure 7-2	Hazards Protection Map Southern Half .....	7-5
Figure 7-3	Fire Hazard Severity Zones .....	7-7
Figure 7-4	Fire Hazard Severity Zones Southern Half .....	7-9


7.1 Wildfire Hazards

Portions of Ventura County are at very high risk for wildfire with high concentrations on the northern coast leading inland between Santa Paula and Ojai. Additional high fire Hazard Severity Zones, as designated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), occur along the southern coast and continue inland toward Simi Valley. Figures 7-3 and 7-4 show areas of significant fire hazards based on fuels, terrain, weather, and other relevant factors. The maps distinguish these Fire Hazard Severity Zones based on local or State responsibility. Local responsibility areas generally include cities, cultivated agriculture lands, and portions of the desert. Local responsibility area fire protection is typically provided by city fire departments, fire protection districts, counties, and by Cal FIRE under contract to the local government. State responsibility area is a legal term defining the area where the state has financial responsibility for wildfire protection. Incorporated cities and federal ownership are not included. The prevention and suppression of fires in all areas that are not state responsibility areas are primarily the responsibility of federal or local agencies. Additional fire hazard areas are identified on the Ventura County Fire Department Hazardous Fire Areas maps.

Given rising temperatures combined with changes in precipitation patterns, the county may continue to experience an increase in wildfire frequency and intensity as fuel loads become drier and more flammable. Wildfire also presents other health-related impacts associated with emissions of air pollutants during the combustion of organic fuels and other materials, such as particulates (soot and smoke), carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and other substances that can be widely dispersed through a region and degrade air quality. Exposure to these air pollutants can cause acute (short-term) and exacerbate chronic (long-term) respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, especially in vulnerable populations such as the elderly, children, and agricultural and outdoor workers.

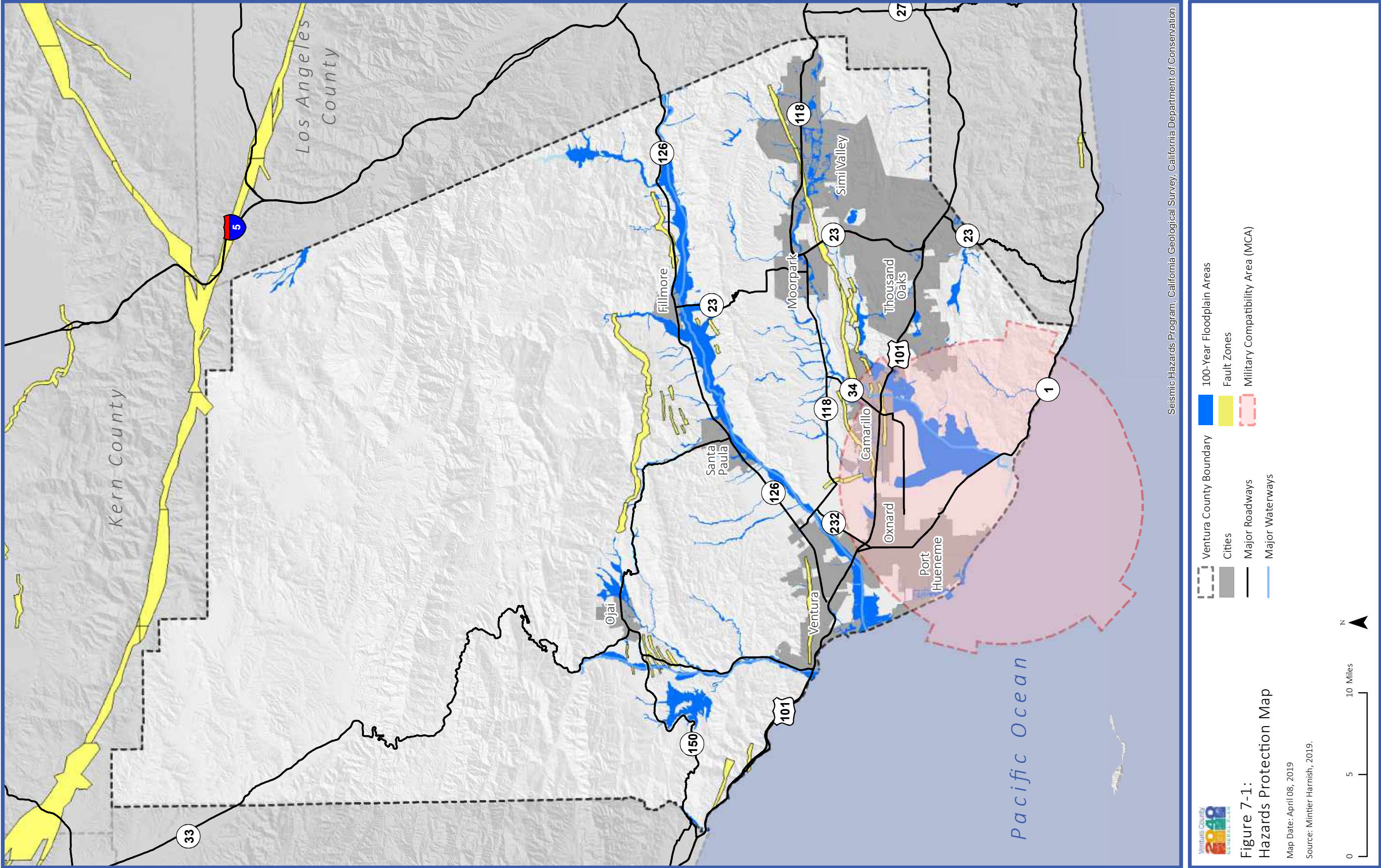
Additionally, wildfire can cause direct and indirect damage to utilities and communication infrastructure, roads, and other public infrastructure. Direct exposure to fire can sever transmission lines, and heat and smoke can affect transmission capacity. Furthermore, fires can cause acute damage to soil structure and moisture retention thus increasing susceptibility to erosion or landslides. Following the Thomas Fire in December 2017, Santa Barbara County, which is located directly northwest of Ventura County, experienced powerful debris flows following a severe rain event. The level of precipitation coupled with the exposed landscape resulted in debris flows that caused the deaths of 22 people.

This section focuses on protecting against and preparing for potential wildfire hazards as well as restoration efforts for previously burned areas.



Goals, policies, and implementation programs focusing on access and evacuation during a wildfire disaster are in Section 7.12, Emergency Response of this Element, and fire protection are in Chapter 5, Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element.





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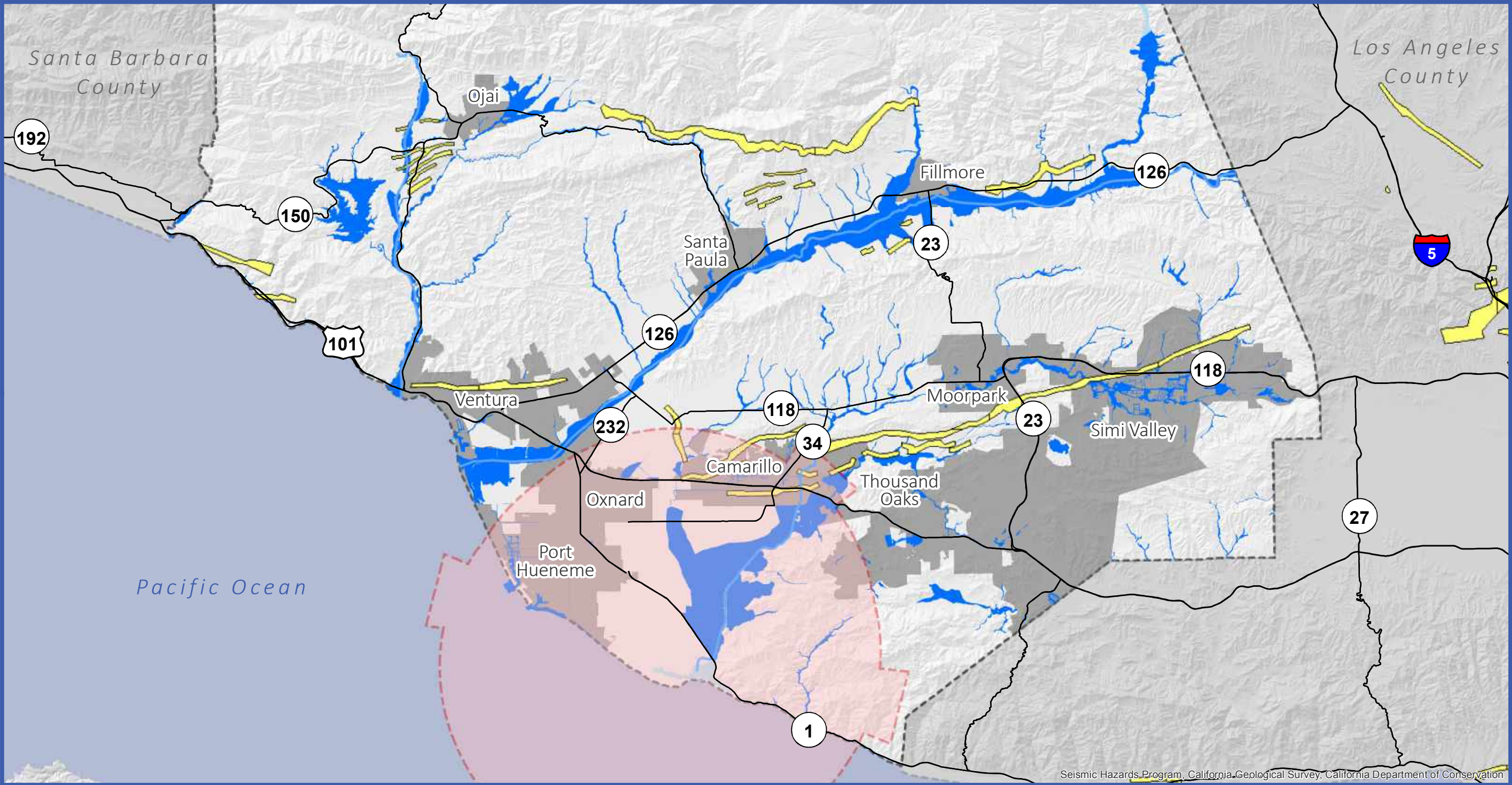


Figure 7-2:  
Hazards Protection Map  
Southern Half

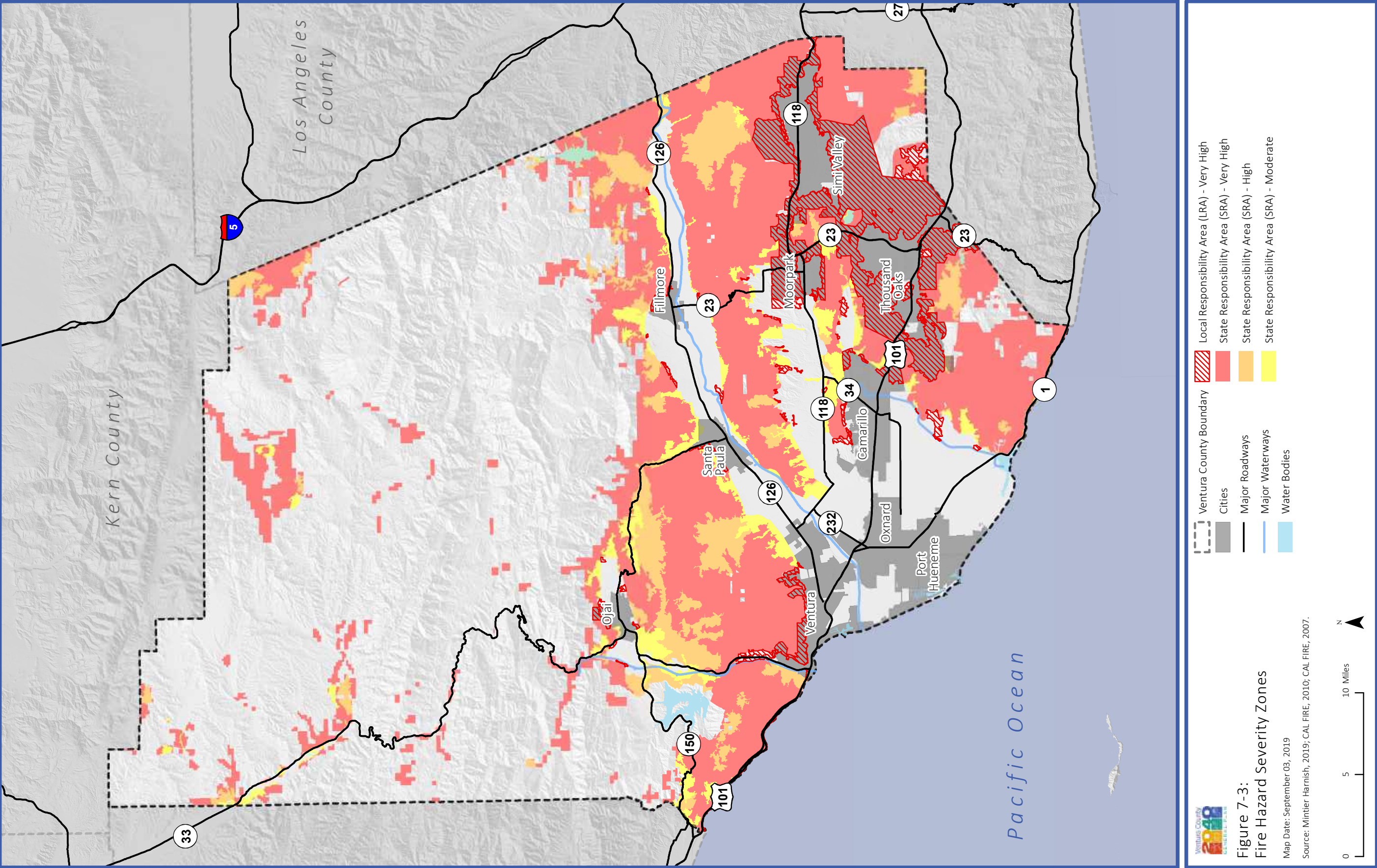
Map Date: April 08, 2019  
Source: Mintier Harnish, 2019.



- Ventura County Boundary
- Cities
- Major Roadways
- Major Waterways
- 100-Year Floodplain Areas
- Fault Zones
- Military Compatibility Area (MCA)

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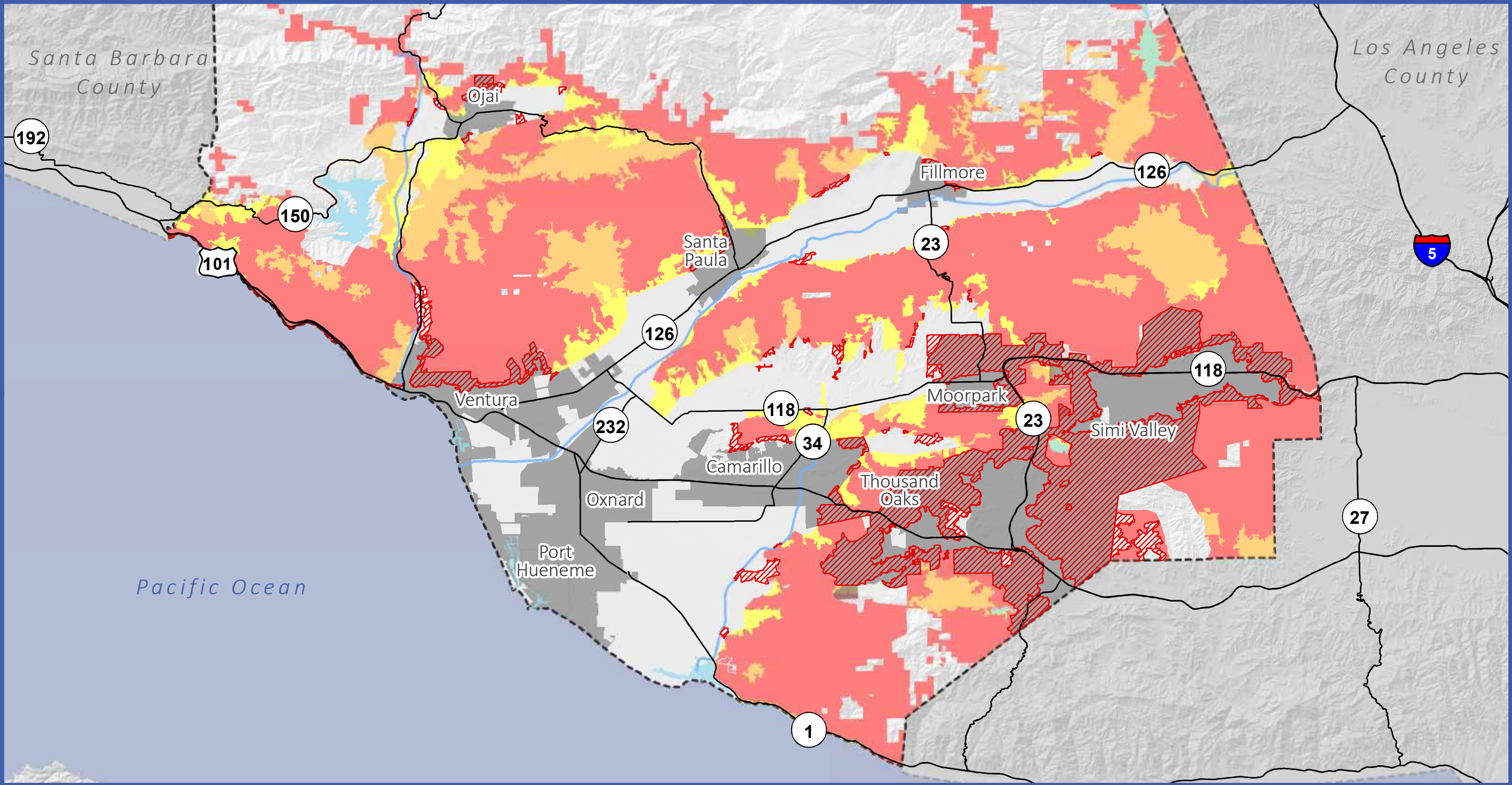
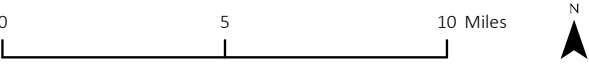


Figure 7-4:  
Fire Hazard Severity Zones  
Southern Half

Map Date: September 03, 2019  
Source: Mintier Harnish, 2019; CAL FIRE, 2010; CAL FIRE, 2007.



- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Ventura County Boundary | Local Responsibility Area (LRA) - Very High |
| Cities                  | State Responsibility Area (SRA) - Very High |
| Major Roadways          | State Responsibility Area (SRA) - High      |
| Major Waterways         | State Responsibility Area (SRA) - Moderate  |
| Water Bodies            |   |

*Please see the next page.*

### HAZ-1

To improve the resilience of the County to wildfire risk by locating, designing, and constructing development in a manner that minimizes the risk, and by providing effective fire prevention, suppression, and rescue services and facilities.

#### HAZ-1.1



##### **Fire Prevention Design and Practices**

The County shall continue to require development to incorporate design measures that enhance fire protection in areas of high fire risk. This shall include but is not limited to incorporation of fire-resistant structural design, use of fire-resistant landscaping, and fuel modification around the perimeter of structures. (RDR, PI)

#### HAZ-1.2



##### **Defensible Space Clear Zones**

The County shall require adherence to defensible space standards, or vegetation “clear zones,” for all existing and new structures in areas that are designated as Hazardous Fire Areas by the Ventura County Fire Protection District and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. (IGC, PI, RDR)

#### HAZ-1.3



##### **Controlled Burns and Other Fire Prevention Measures**

The County shall continue to recognize the role of fire in local ecosystems by supporting controlled burns and other fire prevention measures. (IGC)

#### HAZ-1.4



##### **Development in High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and Hazardous Fire Areas**

The County shall require the recordation of a Notice of Fire Hazard with the County Recorder for all new discretionary entitlements (including subdivisions and land use permits) within areas designated as Hazardous Fire Areas by the Ventura County Fire Department or High Fire Hazard Severity Zones by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). (RDR)

#### HAZ-1.5

##### **Discouragement of Home-Building in Very High Fire Severity Zones**

The County should discourage the building of homes in Very High Fire Severity Zones. (RDR)

#### HAZ-1.6



##### **Wildfire Risk Education**

The County shall continue to develop and distribute educational materials and conduct educational outreach activities informing the public about wildfire risk and protection strategies. (PSR, IGC, PI)

#### HAZ-1.7

##### **Post-Fire Community and Natural Resource Recovery**

The County shall assemble an interagency team as needed to maintain response plans and coordinate the management of resources following wildfire events. (PSR, IGC)

#### HAZ-1.8

##### **Federal Fire Risk Management**


The County should collaborate with the federal agencies to better manage fuel loads on federally-owned or managed lands. (IGC)

# 7.2 Flood Hazards

A flood occurs when the existing channel of a stream, river, canyon, or other watercourse cannot contain excess water runoff from natural processes such as heavy or sustained rainfall events as well as human-induced incidents such as dam, pipe, or water tank failures that result in overflows onto adjacent lands. In coastal areas, flooding may also occur when large waves, high winds, or tides cause seawater to surge into areas that are above the normal high tide line.

Wildfires are a common occurrence in the hills and mountainous regions of Ventura County. By reducing or destroying vegetative cover and altering surface soil characteristics, fires often result in conditions that can significantly increase runoff and erosion during rainfall events. These conditions may also result in a debris flows (also referred to as mud flow) where a mixture of water-laden rock and sediment can funnel into stream channels and pose additional safety threats.

The focus of this section is to address all potential flood hazards by maintaining and improving the flood protection infrastructure, requiring all new developments provide adequate flood protection, and by continuing effective emergency response efforts in response to flooding events.



A goal and associated policies and implementation programs addressing flood control and drainage facilities are located in Chapter 5, Public Facilities and Services Element.

HAZ-2

To minimize the loss of life, injury, property damage, and economic and social dislocations resulting from flooding, dam failure, seismic-induced flooding, post-fire debris flow, tsunamis, or other water inundation hazard.

HAZ-2.1

Principal Floodway Purpose

The County should limit land use in the regulatory floodway, as identified in the Ventura County Flood Plain Management Ordinance, limited to open space, agriculture, or passive to low intensity recreational uses, subject to the approval of the County Public Works Agency. The floodway’s principal use should be maintained for safely conveying floodwater away from people and property while protecting ecological functions of the river. (RDR)

HAZ-2.2

Best Available Flood Hazard Information

The County shall continue to use the best available flood hazard information from local, regional, State, and Federal agencies to inform decision-making on appropriate land uses, discretionary development, and infrastructure investments. (SO, MPSP, RDR)

HAZ-2.3



Incompatible Land Uses in Floodplains

The County shall prohibit incompatible land uses and limit discretionary development within floodplains. (RDR)

HAZ-2.4

Low Impact Development Upstream of Military Installations

The County shall encourage discretionary development upstream of military installations to incorporate low impact designs that reduce the risk of flooding downstream. (RDR)



### **HAZ-2.5      Recordation of a Notice of Flood Hazard**

The County shall require the recordation of a Notice of Flood Hazard with the County Recorder for all new discretionary entitlements (including subdivisions and land use permits) within areas subject to flooding as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on the latest available Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs). (RDR)

### **HAZ-2.6      Recordation of a Notice of Dam Inundation Hazard**

The County shall require the recordation of a Notice of Dam Inundation Hazard with the County Recorder for new discretionary entitlements (including subdivisions and land use permits) within areas subject to flooding from a dam breach as identified by the California Department of Water Resources Dam Inundation Maps. Evidence of a federally held flowage easement can be used as well. (RDR)

### **HAZ-2.7      Tsunami Hazard Areas – Planning**

The County shall strive to locate essential facilities, special occupancy structures and hazardous materials storage facilities outside of tsunami hazard areas. (RDR)

### **HAZ-2.8      Natural Flood Protection Solutions**

The County shall consider natural, or nature-based flood protection measures for discretionary development or County-initiated development, when feasible. (PSR, IGC)

## **7.3      Coastal Flooding**

California's coastline, which includes more than 2,000 miles of open coast and enclosed bays, is vulnerable to a range of natural hazards, including storms, extreme high tides, tsunamis, and rising sea levels related to climate change. Sea level rise will increase the threat of coastal flooding. Along the central and southern California coast, the sea has risen by more than 5.9 inches over the 20th Century. Climate change modeling, as reported in the Ocean Protection Council's Sea Level Rise Guidance document (Natural Resources Agency, State of California, 2018), provides sea level rise guidance that projects up to 85.2 inches of increase by 2100.

Popular coastal recreational resources, critical transportation infrastructure, facilities associated with Naval Base Ventura County, as well as residential and commercial properties along the coast are vulnerable to five or more feet of sea level rise within Ventura County, particularly in conjunction with one hundred year storm events along the coast (one percent annual chance). Open space uses such as beaches, sand dunes, agriculture, and estuaries are also highly vulnerable. By the year 2040, prominent sea level models predict that beach widths will noticeably decrease. By 2100, narrow beaches on the north and south coasts of the County will disappear, and the expansive central coast beaches will be reduced by half.

Additionally, areas close to the ocean with high groundwater could become flooded as rising tides infiltrate through soils and pond in low-lying areas. Along coastal highways, increasing forces of erosion may expose and damage buried infrastructure and roadway structures. Groundwater quality is likely to degrade due to increased saltwater intrusion.

Sea level rise will also have an impact on Ventura County's coastal ecosystems. Aquatic ecosystems located in creeks, streams, and estuaries along the coast, many containing a range of sensitive species of plants and animals, will need to adapt to changes in water quality from saltwater intrusion/incursion further upstream. The beneficial services that coastal ecosystems provide, such as flood protection, water filtration, and support for fisheries will be threatened as rising sea levels expose beach, dune, estuarine, and freshwater habitats. Finally,



natural resources, such as cobble, sand, and dunes that have been overlooked for coastal planning will be increasingly necessary to hold and maintain the County's beaches for sea level rise adaptation.



*For policies concerning coastal resources, see Chapter 6, Conservation and Open Space Element.*

### HAZ-3

To improve resilience to sea level rise and coastal flooding.

#### HAZ-3.1



##### **Sea Level Rise Planning and Adaptation**

The County shall continue to actively plan for sea level rise by using the best available science to analyze critical vulnerabilities, identify measures to conserve coastal resources, minimize impacts on residents and businesses, maintain public services, and strengthen resiliency. (MPSP)

#### HAZ-3.2



##### **County Infrastructure Projects and Sea Level Rise**

County-initiated infrastructure projects sited along or seaward of Highway 101, such as bridges and levees, that will provide 100 years or more of service, shall be planned with the potential to be easily modified to accommodate 100-years of projected sea level rise in accordance with the H++ extreme risk aversion sea level rise scenario. (PSR, IGC)

#### HAZ-3.3



##### **Sea Level Rise Educational Outreach**

To the extent feasible, the County shall incorporate education elements into coastal adaptation projects to inform the public about the risks of sea level rise and options for adaptation. (RDR, SO, JP)

## 7.4 Geologic and Seismic Hazards

Consistent with the 2015 Ventura County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, this section focuses on geologic and seismic hazards in Ventura County, which include the following areas of concern:

- Earthquake Faults
- Seismic Hazards -Liquefaction/Earthquake Induced Landslides
- Landslides
- Soil Erosion
- Expansive Soils
- Seiche
- Subsidence

It is important to note that there are several earthquake faults in the county that have a status of "Active" or "Potentially Active," according to the California Geological Survey's Seismic Hazards (Assessment and Mapping) Program. Areas throughout the county are also susceptible to liquefaction, with the most vulnerable locations being along the Santa Clara River and the Oxnard Plain. These areas are described and illustrated on figures in Section 11.1, "Geologic and Seismic Hazards," of the Background Report.

### HAZ-4

To minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, collapse of habitable structures, and economic and social dislocations resulting from geologic and seismic hazards.

#### HAZ-4.1



##### **Projects in Earthquake Fault Zones**

The County shall prohibit new structures for human occupancy and subdivisions that contemplate the eventual construction of structures for human occupancy in Earthquake Fault Zones unless a geologic investigation is performed to delineate any hazard of surface fault rupture and appropriate and sufficient safeguards, based on this investigation, are incorporated into the project design. (RDR)

#### HAZ-4.2

##### **Linear Project Intersection with Active Faults**

The County shall require that linear projects, including roads, streets, highways, utility conduits, water transmission facilities, and oil and gas pipelines, avoid intersecting active faults to the extent possible. When such locations are unavoidable, the project design shall include measures to minimize the effects of any fault movement. (RDR)

#### HAZ-4.3

##### **Structural Design**

The County shall require that all structures designed for human occupancy incorporate engineering measures to reduce the risk of and mitigate against collapse from ground shaking. (RDR)

#### HAZ-4.4

##### **Discretionary Development Below Rocky Outcrops**

The County shall require discretionary development below rocky outcrops to evaluate and mitigate potential rockfall hazards including but not limited to by avoiding placement of structures that could be impacted by rockfall hazards, rock removal, rock anchoring, walls, fence barriers, or other similar systems. (RDR)

#### HAZ-4.5

##### **Soil Erosion and Pollution Prevention**

The County shall require discretionary development be designed to prevent soil erosion and downstream sedimentation and pollution. (RDR)

#### HAZ-4.6

##### **Vegetative Resource Protection**

The County shall require discretionary development to minimize the removal of vegetation to protect against soil erosion, rockslides, and landslides. (SO)

#### HAZ-4.7

##### **Temporary Revegetation on Graded Areas**

The County shall require, as necessary, the use of soil stabilization methods on graded areas to reduce the potential for erosion, particularly during the construction phase. (RDR)

#### HAZ-4.8

##### **Seismic Hazards**

The County shall not allow development of habitable structures or hazardous materials storage facilities within areas prone to the effects of strong ground shaking, such as liquefaction, landslides, or other ground failures, unless a geotechnical engineering investigation is performed and appropriate and sufficient safeguards, based on this investigation, are incorporated into the project design. (RDR)

#### HAZ-4.9

##### **Slope Development**

The County shall require geotechnical reports that demonstrate adequate slope stability and construction methods for building and road construction on slopes greater than 50 percent pursuant to the California Building Code Appendix J Section 108.6. (RDR)

- HAZ-4.10      Development in Landslide/Debris Flow Hazard Areas**  
The County shall not allow development in mapped landslide/debris flow hazard areas unless a geologic and geotechnical engineering investigation is performed and appropriate and sufficient safeguards, based on this investigation, are incorporated into the project design. (RDR)
- HAZ-4.11      Alteration of Land in Landslide/Debris Flow Hazard Areas**  
The County shall not allow alteration of land in landslide/debris flow hazard areas, including concentration of water through drainage, irrigation or septic systems, removal of vegetative cover, and undercutting of the bases of slopes or other grading activity unless demonstrated by geologic, geotechnical, and civil engineering analysis that the project will not increase the landslide/debris flow hazard. (RDR)
- HAZ-4.12      Slope Drainage**  
Drainage plans that direct runoff and drainage away from slopes shall be required for construction in hillside areas. (RDR)
- HAZ-4.13      Design for Expansive Soils**  
The County shall not allow habitable structures or individual sewage disposal systems to be placed on or in expansive soils unless suitable and appropriate safeguards are incorporated into the project design to prevent adverse effects. (RDR)
- HAZ-4.14      Development in Seiche Hazard Areas**  
The County shall not allow development in potential seiche hazard areas unless a geotechnical engineering investigation is performed and appropriate and sufficient safeguards, based on this investigation, are incorporated into the project design. (RDR)
- HAZ-4.15      Subsidence Hazard – Extraction Wells**  
The County shall require that potential ground surface subsidence be evaluated prior to approval of new oil, gas, water or other extraction well drilling permits and appropriate and sufficient safeguards are incorporated into the project design and facility operation. (RDR)
- HAZ-4.16      Subsidence and Hydroconsolidation Hazard – Structural Design**  
Structural design of buildings and other structures shall recognize the potential for subsidence and hydroconsolidation and provide mitigation recommendations for structures that may be affected. (RDR)
- HAZ-4.17      Earthquake Fault Zone Maps or Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation**  
The County should, where feasible, require that land in Earthquake Fault Zones and potentially Holocene active fault areas be designated Open Space or Agriculture on the General Land Use Diagram. (RDR)
- HAZ-4.18      Preparation of Plans in Seiche Hazard Areas**  
The County shall consider Seiche Hazard Areas during the preparation of regional and area plans and special studies and be used to guide future investigations of the hazard. (RDR)

### 7.5 Hazardous Materials

This section addresses hazardous materials, which include any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant existing or potential hazard. Hazardous materials include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material that is potentially injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released or encountered.

#### HAZ-5

To minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, serious illness, damage to property, and economic and social dislocations resulting from the use, transport, treatment and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes.

##### HAZ-5.1

###### **Hazardous Materials and Waste Management**

The County shall manage hazardous materials and wastes produced by County facilities and operations in such a way that waste reduction through alternative technology is the County's first priority. When not possible, the County's priorities will progress from recycling and reuse, then on-site treatment, and finally disposal as the last resort. (SO)

##### HAZ-5.2



###### **Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Facilities**

The County shall require discretionary development involving facilities and operations which may potentially utilize, store, and/or generate hazardous materials and/or wastes be located in areas that would not expose the public to a significant risk of injury, loss of life, or property damage and would not disproportionately impact Designated Disadvantaged Communities. (SO)

##### HAZ-5.3

###### **Preventing Contamination of Natural Resources**

The County shall strive to locate and control sources of hazardous materials to prevent contamination of air, water, soil, and other natural resources. (SO)

##### HAZ-5.4



###### **Household Hazardous Waste**

The County shall continue to develop and distribute educational materials and conduct educational outreach to inform the public about household hazardous waste and the proper disposal methods. (PI)

##### HAZ-5.5

###### **Hazardous Waste Reduction at the Source**

The County shall, as part of the discretionary review process, require that hazardous wastes and hazardous materials be managed in such a way that waste reduction through alternative technology is the first priority, followed by recycling and on-site treatment, with disposal as the last resort. (RDR)

##### HAZ-5.6

###### **Hazardous Materials – County Regulatory Oversight**

The County shall continue to provide regulatory oversight for all facilities or activities that store, use, or handle hazardous materials. (SO)

##### HAZ-5.7

###### **Presence of Hazardous Wastes**

Applicants shall provide a statement indicating the presence of any hazardous wastes on a site, prior to discretionary development. The applicant must demonstrate that the waste site is properly closed, or will be closed, pursuant to all applicable state and federal laws, before the project is inaugurated. (RDR)

### HAZ-5.8



#### Siting Criteria for Hazardous Waste Generators

The County shall require commercial or industrial uses which generate, store, or handle hazardous waste and/or hazardous materials to locate, operate, and maintain hazardous waste and/or hazardous materials in a manner that does not endanger public health and safety and is located based on objective criteria that do not disproportionately impact Designated Disadvantaged Communities. (RDR)

## 7.6 Transportation Related Hazards

Hazards associated with movement of goods and people or conveyance of hazardous materials have been grouped together and are addressed below. These include incidents related to aviation, vehicles, and railroad operations.



*Policies concerning hazards related to oil and gas transportation can be found in Section 7.7, Oil and Gas Production and Transportation Incidents.*

Although airplane crashes can occur anywhere, crashes that affect life and property on the ground occur most frequently in airport approach and departure zones. Residences, schools, and other buildings occupied by people that are located in such zones are subject to an ever-present risk from airplane accidents. Hazard zones have been identified for the four airports within the county: 1) Ventura County Airport at Oxnard; 2) Ventura County Airport at Camarillo; 3) Santa Paula Airport; and 4) Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu.

Ground-based transportation also poses risks associated with potential incidents. A major train derailment that occurs in a heavily populated area can result in loss of life and considerable property damage. Potential hazards could be overturned rail cars and direct impact into adjacent buildings. With similar results, a major truck incident that occurs in a heavily populated industrial area or residential area can also result in loss of life and property damage. In addition to more routine traffic incidents, more significant hazards could include spills or other leaks from overturned tank trailers.

### HAZ-6

To minimize the loss of life, injury, damage to structures, and economic and social dislocations resulting from hazards created by proximity to airports, railroads and truck routes.

#### HAZ-6.1

##### **Airport Land Use Plan**

The County shall regulate land use types, density, and intensity using guidance from the Ventura County Comprehensive Airport Land Use Plan, NBVC-Point Mugu Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) study, State Aeronautics Act, and California Airport Land Use Planning Handbook guidelines. (RDR)

#### HAZ-6.2

##### **Airport Safety Zones**

The County shall require density and allowed uses within the Airport Safety Zones to be as defined in the Ventura County Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan (ACLUP) and the current NBVC-Point Mugu Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) study, as applicable to the project location. The County shall require any overrides of a determination of inconsistency with the ACLUP to be done in accordance with state law. (RDR)

#### HAZ-6.3

##### **Airspace Protection**

The County shall use the current Ventura County Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan (ACLUP) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) airport design standards and Part 77 surfaces to keep the airspace surrounding each airport or airfield free of objects affecting navigable airspace where required by the FAA or shall limit the height of objects as required by the FAA. The County shall also ensure obstruction clearance is provided for all enroute and terminal (airport) instrument procedures as per the United States Standard for Terminal Instrument Procedures (TERPS) to avert modifications to any planned or published instrument approach or instrument departure procedures at the affected airport or airfield. (RDR)

#### HAZ-6.4

##### **Private Airstrips and Agricultural Landing Fields**

The County shall require private airstrips and agricultural landing fields be sited so as not to conflict with the flight paths of existing airports and outside of areas that would present significant hazard or an annoyance to existing or planned land uses. (RDR)

#### HAZ-6.5

##### **Review by Ventura County Transportation Commission**

The County shall require discretionary development within the Airport Safety Zones, as defined in the Ventura County Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan for (ACLUP), shall be reviewed by the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) for consistency with the ACLUP. (RDR)

#### HAZ-6.6

##### **Recordation of a Notice of Aviation Hazard**

The County shall require the recordation of a Notice of Aviation Hazard with the County Recorder for new discretionary entitlements (including subdivisions and land use permits) within the Airport Safety Zones identified in the Ventura County Comprehensive Airport Land Use Plan. (RDR)

#### HAZ-6.7

##### **Risk Reduction for Railroad and Trucking Hazards**

The County shall condition discretionary development to minimize, to the maximum extent practical through site design or setbacks, the risk for exposure to railroad and trucking hazards. (RDR)



### HAZ-6.8

#### Airport Safety Zones

the County shall designate land located within the Airport Safety Zones, as defined in the current Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan, as Agricultural or Open Space on the General Plan Land Use Diagram, and limit such land to the following uses:

- Airports and ancillary uses;
- Agriculture and agricultural operations;
- Cemeteries;
- Energy production from renewable resources;
- Mineral resource development;
- Public utility facilities;
- Temporary storage of building materials;
- Waste treatment and disposal; or
- Water production and distribution facilities.

(RDR, MPSP)

## 7.7 Oil and Gas Production and Transportation Incidents

The potential exists for offshore oil accidents and spills in Ventura County involving petroleum products due to oil and gas development, transportation of liquid bulk products by tanker, and other vessel traffic carrying petroleum products for fuel. An offshore spill can result in oil-contaminated beaches. The major potential sources of offshore spills are separated into the following categories:

- **Oil Platform Production.** There are four platforms in federal waters offshore Ventura County. They are Chevron's Platforms Grace and Gail and Unocal's Platforms Gina and Gilda. There are no platforms in state waters (i.e., within three miles of shore). Rincon Island contains 68 inactive well ports is being decommissioned. There are additional platforms in state and federal waters offshore Santa Barbara County. The probability of an oil spill from a platform is small but possible. As a result of the Santa Barbara Oil well blowout in 1969, operating and safety requirements were substantially strengthened. During drilling, all offshore wells are equipped with redundant blowout protectors that can be closed hydraulically from a remote-control station in the event of a blowout.
- **Vessel Traffic.** The number of liquid bulk carriers presently transiting the Santa Barbara Channel is estimated to be between one and three per day. The Alaskan tankers may each carry as much as 1.5 million barrels of oil although the average is about 675,000 barrels. The other tankers are much smaller carrying 100,000 to 300,000 barrels. Although the probability of a tanker spill is low, it is possible. Potential causes of spills include collisions, rammings, groundings, and structural failures. The other commercial vessels transiting the channel carry fuel (bunkers), which can be released in the event of an accident.
- **Subsea Pipelines.** All of the platforms listed in the oil platform production section ship their oil to shore via subsea pipelines. Potential causes of pipeline spills include corrosion, mechanical defects, and ruptures caused by events such as anchor dragging or earthquakes. Oil pipelines are normally equipped with

## 7. Hazards and Safety Element

various sensors and/or valves that will allow the pipeline to be shut down rapidly and automatically in the event of a rupture.

- **Marine Terminals.** Fuel is off-loaded at the Port of Hueneme for the Ormond Beach power plant. Spills from marine terminals can be caused by operation errors or a rupture or leak in the loading/unloading lines.
- **Onshore Oil Pipeline Spill.** Similar to a marine oil spill, an onshore oil pipeline spill can be a serious hazard to surface and groundwater resources, property, animals and human life. Oil and gas transport lines have been mapped on the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) to allow improved response to spills in the event of pipeline system failure or a seismic event. Although available to emergency responders and planners, GIS information on the location of these transport lines is proprietary and contact must be first made with the California State Fire Marshall.

### HAZ-7

To reduce or mitigate the effects of marine oil spills or onshore oil pipeline spills upon the population and environment.

#### HAZ-7.1

##### Oil Spill Prevention

The County shall review and analyze all proposed oil and gas exploration and production projects, and shall condition all County discretionary permits for such projects, to require compliance with local, state, and federal oil spill prevention regulations. The County shall also provide input and comments on permit applications that are under the purview of an outside agency. (RDR, IGC)



*This topic is highly regulated by Federal and State agencies; therefore, policy is limited to topics covered by the County directly.*

## 7.8 Military Compatibility

Ventura County is home to several significant military installations and operations areas. These facilities are not only critical to the nation's defense, but also provide significant economic benefits and land use challenges.

Naval Base Ventura County consists of three main operating facilities – Point Mugu, Port Hueneme, and San Nicolas Island – that encompass a diverse set of specialties, including three warfare centers (Naval Air Warfare Center – Weapons Division, Naval Surface Water Center – Port Hueneme Division, and Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center). NBVC is also home to deployable units, including the Pacific Seabees and the West Coast E-2 Hawkeyes. Smaller sites used for communications and supporting services are also located in the county, but outside the main operating facilities. The 204-acre Channel Islands Air National Guard Station is located adjacent to Naval Base Ventura County-Point Mugu. Additionally, the Instrument Route-200 (IR-200) military training route passes through Ventura County connecting the Point Mugu Sea Range and the Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake.

Compatibility between military installations, adjacent land uses, and local communities is essential to protect military missions, the health of local economies and industries, and the quality of life for county residents. In order to achieve compatibility, the military and local governments must be collaborative and cooperative in their planning efforts. The policies in this section are intended to support that collaboration.



*Further information on Military Compatibility can be found in Chapter 2, Land Use Element and in these documents:*

- *Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) report for Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu*
- *Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)*

### HAZ-8

To make County plans and policies consistent with state laws concerning military compatibility and the recommendations contained in the Naval Base Ventura County Joint Land Use Study as they relate to safety.

#### HAZ-8.1 **Enhancing Military Facility Security**

The County shall educate and encourage community members to assist in reporting suspicious activities near Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) facilities to help enhance the security. (IGC)

#### HAZ-8.2 **Emergency Drills**

The County, in coordination with Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), shall continue to conduct planned emergency drill exercises with local public safety responders to test how communications are relayed to the public during an emergency. (SO)

#### HAZ-8.3 **Military Compatibility and Renewable Energy Development**

The County shall require that new larger-scale commercial renewable energy development is consistent with Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) policies and regulations and that Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) and the Department of Defense (DOD) Siting Clearinghouse are included in the development review process. (MPSP)

#### HAZ-8.4 **Frequency Spectrum Encroachment Review**

For discretionary development within 10 miles of Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), Point Mugu that includes transmission facilities operating near military spectrum, the County shall submit project applications to NBVC for review and comment to determine appropriate coordination and review. (SO, IGC)

#### HAZ-8.5 **Light and Glare Control**

The County shall coordinate and consult with Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) when reviewing applications for commercial alternative energy facilities (e.g., wind, solar, tidal) to ensure the systems do not impact flight or test operations. (RDR)

### 7.9 Noise

The predominant sources of noise in the county include traffic noise on major roadways, transit and freight trains, and aircraft. In addition to the information provided in Section 11.6, “Noise and Vibration,” of the Background Report on existing conditions, Table 7-1 includes the calculated future noise levels at 50 feet from County roadways, as well as distances to the 60, 65, and 70 dBA CNEL noise contours for all modeled roadways.

Noise-sensitive land uses are generally considered to include those uses where noise exposure could result in health-related risks to individuals, as well as places where quiet is an essential element of their intended purpose. These uses include: residences; schools; historic sites; cemeteries; parks, recreation, and open space areas; hospitals and care facilities; sensitive wildlife habitats, including the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered species; hotels and other short-term lodging (e.g., bed and breakfasts, and motels); places of worship; and libraries.

#### HAZ-9

To protect the health, safety, and general welfare of county residents by striving to eliminate or avoid the adverse noise impacts on existing and future noise sensitive uses.

##### HAZ-9.1

##### Limiting Unwanted Noise

The County shall prohibit discretionary development which would be impacted by noise or generate project-related noise which cannot be reduced to meet the standards prescribed in Policy Haz-9.2. This policy does not apply to noise generated during the construction phase of a project. (SO)

##### HAZ-9.2



##### Noise Compatibility Standards

The County shall review discretionary development for noise compatibility with surrounding uses. The County shall determine noise based on the following standards:

1. New noise sensitive uses proposed to be located near highways, truck routes, heavy industrial activities and other relatively continuous noise sources shall incorporate noise control measures so that indoor noise levels in habitable rooms do not exceed Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) 45 and outdoor noise levels do not exceed CNEL 60 or Leq1H of 65 dB(A) during any hour.
2. New noise sensitive uses proposed to be located near railroads shall incorporate noise control measures so that indoor noise levels in habitable rooms do not exceed Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) 45 and outdoor noise levels do not exceed L10 of 60 dB(A)
3. New noise sensitive uses proposed to be located near airports:
  - a. Shall be prohibited if they are in a Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) 65 dB or greater, noise contour; or
  - b. Shall be permitted in the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) 60 dB to CNEL 65 dB noise contour area only if means will be taken to ensure interior noise levels of CNEL 45 dB or less.

4. New noise generators, proposed to be located near any noise sensitive use, shall incorporate noise control measures so that ongoing outdoor noise levels received by the noise sensitive receptor, measured at the exterior wall of the building, does not exceed any of the following standards:
  - a. Leq1H of 55dB(A) or ambient noise level plus 3dB(A), whichever is greater, during any hour from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.;
  - b. Leq1H of 50dB(A) or ambient noise level plus 3dB(A), whichever is greater, during any hour from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; and
  - c. Leq1H of 45dB(A) or ambient noise level plus 3dB(A), whichever is greater, during any hour from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
5. Construction noise and vibration shall be evaluated and, if necessary, mitigated in accordance with the Construction Noise Threshold Criteria and Control Plan (Advanced Engineering Acoustics, November 2005). (RDR)

**Table 7-1 Projected 2040 Noise Levels and Contours**

Corridor and Segment		Noise (dBA CNEL) at 50 feet from Roadway	Noise Contour Distance in Feet		
			60 dBA	65 dBA	70 dBA
Roadways					
1	Aggen Road north of Los Angeles Avenue (SR 118)	55.0	32	10	3
2	Balcom Canyon Road south of South Mountain Road	58.2	65	21	7
3	Balcom Canyon Road north of Los Angeles Avenue (SR 118)	57.1	51	16	5
4	Bardsdale Avenue east of Sespe Street	56.7	47	15	5
5	Beardsley Road north of Central Avenue	62.8	190	60	19
6	Box Canyon Road south of Santa Susana Pass Road	59.3	86	27	9
7	Bradley Road north of Los Angeles Avenue (SR 118)	62.2	166	52	17
8	Briggs Road south of Telegraph Road	62.9	197	62	20
9	Briggs Road north of Telegraph Road	58.8	75	24	8
10	Bristol Road west of Montgomery Avenue	65.9	387	123	39
11	Broadway Road west of Grimes Canyon Road (SR 23)	61.0	125	40	13
12	Burnham Road south of Baldwin Road (SR 150)	57.7	59	19	6
13	Burnham Road east of Santa Ana Road	57.3	54	17	5
14	Calle Yucca north of Camino Manzanias	54.2	26	8	3
15	Camino Dos Rios west of Lynn Road	57.2	52	17	5
16	Canada Larga Road east of Ventura Avenue	54.4	28	9	3
17	Casitas Vista Road west of Ojai Freeway (SR 33)	58.6	72	23	7
18	Center School Road south of Los Angeles Avenue (SR 118)	56.2	42	13	4
19	Center Street (Piru) west of Telegraph Road (SR 126)	54.7	29	9	3
20	Central Avenue west of Ventura Freeway (US 101)	67.9	619	196	62
21	Central Avenue west of Santa Clara Avenue	67.9	620	196	62
22	Central Avenue east of Vineyard Avenue (SR 232)	64.5	284	90	28
23	Channel Islands Boulevard west of Rice Avenue	68.4	693	219	69
24	Creek Road east of Country Club Drive	55.8	38	12	4
25	Creek Road east of Ventura Avenue (SR 33)	62.6	181	57	18
26	Donlon Road north of La Cumbre Road	52.0	16	5	2
27	Doris Avenue east of Victoria Avenue	64.9	311	98	31

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Corridor and Segment		Noise (dBA CNEL) at 50 feet from Roadway	Noise Contour Distance in Feet		
			60 dBA	65 dBA	70 dBA
28	El Roblar Drive west of Maricopa Highway (SR 33)	57.7	58	18	6
29	Etting Road east of Dodge Road	62.0	159	50	16
30	Fairview Road east of Maricopa Highway (SR 33)	51.4	14	4	1
31	Fairway Drive north of Valley Vista Drive	57.3	53	17	5
32	West Fifth Street east of North Harbor Boulevard	59.6	92	29	9
33	Foothill Road west of Peck Road	61.1	128	40	13
34	Foothill Road west of Briggs Road	56.2	42	13	4
35	Foothill Road east of North Wells Road	62.1	161	51	16
36	Foothill Road east of Saticoy Avenue	63.3	211	67	21
37	Gonzales Road east of North Harbor Boulevard	63.3	213	67	21
38	Grimes Canyon Road north of Los Angeles Avenue (SR 118)	61.5	142	45	14
39	Guiberson Road east of Chambersburg Road (SR 23)	57.7	58	18	6
40	Harbor Boulevard north of Gonzales Road	70.6	1,153	365	115
41	Harbor Boulevard south of Gonzales Road	70.3	1,074	340	107
42	Howe Road east of Torrey Road	51.6	14	5	1
43	Hueneme Road east of Las Posas Road	67.1	512	162	51
44	Hueneme Road east of Nauman Road	66.9	495	156	49
45	Hueneme Road east of Wood Road	66.2	417	132	42
46	Hueneme Road east of Olds Road	68.7	746	236	75
47	Kanan Road east of Lindero Canyon Road	66.6	460	145	46
48	Kanan Road east of Hollytree Drive/Oak Hills Drive	66.6	454	143	45
49	Kanan Road south of Tamarind Street	68.2	667	211	67
50	La Luna Avenue south of Lomita Avenue	56.4	44	14	4
51	Laguna Road east of Pleasant Valley Road	60.4	109	34	11
52	Las Posas Road north of East Fifth Street (SR 34)	67.7	587	186	59
53	Las Posas Road south of East Fifth Street (SR 34)	67.8	601	190	60
54	Las Posas Road south of Hueneme Road	65.6	361	114	36
55	Lewis Road south of Pleasant Valley Road	69.0	788	249	79
56	Lewis Road north of Potrero Road	67.9	617	195	62
57	Lockwood Valley Road west of Kern County Line	56.8	48	15	5
58	Lockwood Valley Road east of Maricopa Highway (SR 33)	49.0	8	3	1
59	Lomita Avenue east of Tico Road	59.1	82	26	8
60	Main Street (Piru) north of Telegraph Road (SR 126)	56.7	46	15	5
61	Moorpark Road north of Santa Rosa Road	70.7	1,168	369	117
62	Old Telegraph Road west of Grand Avenue	59.2	82	26	8
63	Olds Road north of Hueneme Road	61.4	137	43	14
64	Olivas Park Drive west of Victoria Avenue	68.9	769	243	77
65	Pasadena Avenue east of Sespe Street	50.7	12	4	1
66	Patterson Road south of Doris Avenue	52.5	18	6	2
67	Pleasant Valley Road south of East Fifth Street (SR 34)	69.4	861	272	86
68	Pleasant Valley Road west of Las Posas Road	68.2	663	210	66
69	Portero Road east of Lake Sherwood Drive East	62.8	193	61	19
70	Portero Road west of Stafford Road	59.9	97	31	10
71	Portero Road west of Hidden Valley Road	52.4	17	6	2
72	Portero Road at Milepost 2.75	58.6	73	23	7
73	Portero Road east of Lewis Road	62.7	188	59	19
74	Rice Avenue south of East Fifth Street (SR 34)	72.9	1,936	612	194
75	Rice Avenue north of Channel Islands Boulevard	71.9	1,559	493	156



Corridor and Segment		Noise (dBA CNEL) at 50 feet from Roadway	Noise Contour Distance in Feet		
			60 dBA	65 dBA	70 dBA
76	Rice Avenue north of Hueneme Road	59.8	96	30	10
77	Rice Road south of Lomita Avenue	59.8	96	30	10
78	Rose Avenue south of Los Angeles Avenue (SR 118)	64.2	265	84	26
79	Rose Avenue south of Central Avenue	64.5	279	88	28
80	Rose Avenue north of Collins Street	67.3	540	171	54
81	Santa Ana Boulevard east of Ventura River	58.8	76	24	8
82	Santa Ana Road south of Baldwin Road (SR 150)	54.6	29	9	3
83	Santa Ana Road south of Santa Ana Boulevard	60.7	119	37	12
84	Santa Clara Avenue north of Friedrich Road	69.0	803	254	80
85	Santa Clara Avenue south of Los Angeles Avenue (SR 118)	69.9	983	311	98
86	Santa Rosa Road west of Moorpark Road	70.8	1,203	380	120
87	Santa Rosa Road west of East Las Posas Road	69.0	801	253	80
88	Santa Susana Pass Road east of Katherine Road	58.2	66	21	7
89	Sespe Street north of South Mountain Road	61.6	144	45	14
90	Sespe Street south of Pasadena Avenue	55.7	37	12	4
91	South Mountain Road east of Balcom Canyon Road	55.1	32	10	3
92	South Mountain Road south of Santa Clara River	58.4	69	22	7
93	Stockton Road east of Balcom Canyon Road	56.4	43	14	4
94	Sturgis Road west of Pleasant Valley Road	65.4	350	111	35
95	Tapo Canyon Road south of Bennett Road	52.8	19	6	2
96	Telegraph Road west of Briggs Road	65.2	331	105	33
97	Telegraph Road west of Olive Road	64.7	292	92	29
98	Tico Road north of Ventura Avenue (SR 150)	56.6	46	14	5
99	Tierra Rejada Road east of Moorpark Freeway (SR 23)	71.8	1,526	483	153
100	Torrey Road south of Telegraph Road (SR 126)	56.9	49	16	5
101	Valley Vista Drive south of Calley Aurora	59.5	88	28	9
102	Ventura Avenue north of Canada Larga Road	57.5	57	18	6
103	Ventura Avenue north of Shell Road	60.2	105	33	10
104	Victoria Avenue south of Olivas Park Drive	73.8	2,386	755	239
105	Walnut Avenue north of Los Angeles Avenue (SR 118)	53.3	21	7	2
106	Wendy Drive north of Gerald Drive	63.6	229	72	23
107	Wood Road south of Hueneme Road	58.8	75	24	7
108	Wood Road south of East Fifth Street (SR 34)	67.8	601	190	60
109	Wooley Road west of Rice Avenue	68.4	694	219	69
110	Yerba Buena Road north of Pacific Coast Highway (SR 1)	49.4	9	3	1
<b>Freeways / Highways</b>					
111	SR 1 at Calleguas Creek	73.7	2,368	749	237
112	SR 1 at Seacliff Colony, Junction SR 101	66.9	488	154	49
113	SR 1 at Las Cruces, SR 101, Mobil Oil Pier	59.1	81	26	8
114	SR 23 at Grimes Canyon Road	69.9	987	312	99
115	SR 23 at Junction SR 126, Ventura Road	67.7	585	185	59
116	SR 33 at West Junction SR 150, Baldwin Road	66.7	465	147	47
117	SR 33 at Los Padres National Forest Boundary	55.5	35	11	4
118	SR 33 at Sespe Gorge Maintenance Station	51.0	13	4	1
119	SR 33 at Ventura/Santa Barbara County Line	53.9	25	8	2
120	SR 34 at Junction SR 118, Los Angeles Avenue	68.4	692	219	69
121	U.S. Highway 101 at Victoria Avenue	80.9	12,207	3,860	1221
122	U.S. Highway 101 at Ventura/Santa Barbara County Line	79.5	8,815	2,787	881

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Corridor and Segment		Noise (dBA CNEL) at 50 feet from Roadway	Noise Contour Distance in Feet		
			60 dBA	65 dBA	70 dBA
123	SR 118 at Junction SR 232 (Westbound)	75.8	3,761	1,189	376
124	SR 118 at SR 34, Somis Road (Westbound)	72.5	1,787	565	179
125	SR 118 at Grimes Canyon Road	72.8	1,919	607	192
126	SR 118 at West Junction SR 23, Moorpark Avenue	71.7	1,475	466	147
127	SR 118 at East Junction SR 23, Spring Road	72.5	1,780	563	178
128	SR 150 at Santa Barbara/Ventura County Line	49.1	8	3	1
129	SR 150 at Junction SR 33 South (South)	63.0	197	62	20
130	SR 150 at Santa Paula North City Limit	59.0	80	25	8
131	SR 232 and Junction SR 118	65.8	381	120	38

Notes: SR = State Route; dBA = a-weighted decibels;

Gray shaded cells reflect roadway segments exceeding 60 dBA CNEL at 50 feet from the roadway centerline.

All modeling assumes average pavement, level roadways (less than 1.5% grade), constant traffic flow, and does not account for shielding of any type or finite roadway adjustments. All noise levels are reported as A-weighted noise levels.

Source: Modeled by Ascent Environmental in 2019; based on traffic data provided by GHD (2019).

### HAZ-9.3 Development Along Travel Routes

The County shall evaluate discretionary development for noise generated by project-related traffic along the travel route to the nearest intersection which allows for movement of traffic in multiple directions. In all cases, the evaluation of project-related roadway noise shall be evaluated along the travel route(s) within 1,600 feet of the project site. (RDR)

### HAZ-9.4 Acoustical Analysis Required

The County shall require an acoustical analysis by a qualified acoustical engineer for discretionary development involving noise exposure or noise generation in excess of the established standards. The analysis shall provide documentation of existing and projected noise levels at on-site and off-site receptors and shall recommend noise control measures for mitigating adverse impacts. (RDR)

### HAZ-9.5 Site and Building Design



The County shall require discretionary development and County-initiated projects to comply with adopted noise standards through proper site and building design features, such as building location and orientation, setbacks, natural barriers and vegetation, and building construction. The County shall only consider sound walls if noise mitigation measures have been evaluated or integrated into the project and found infeasible. (RDR)

### HAZ-9.6 Airport Noise Compatibility



The County shall use the aircraft noise analysis prepared for local airports or the noise contours from the current NBVC-Point Mugu Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) study, as most appropriate for a project location, as an accurate mapping of the long-term noise impact of the airport's aviation activity. The County shall restrict new discretionary residential land uses to areas outside of the 60 decibel Community Noise Equivalence Level (dB CNEL) aircraft noise contour unless interior noise levels can be mitigated to meet a maximum 45 dB CNEL. (RDR)

### HAZ-9.7

#### Noise Control Priorities

The priorities for noise control for discretionary development shall be as follows:

1. Reduction of noise emissions at the source.
2. Attenuation of sound transmission along its path, using barriers, landform modification, dense plantings, building orientation and placement, and the like.
3. Rejection of noise at the reception point using noise control building construction, hearing protection or other means.

(RDR)

### HAZ-9.8

#### Implement Noise Control Measures for Traffic Noise

The County shall require noise control measures to be implemented along roadways for new discretionary development generating traffic noise if either of the following circumstances would exist:

- The discretionary development would result in traffic noise levels above a County noise compatibility standard stated in Policy HAZ 9.2 in an area where traffic noise levels, under existing conditions, do not exceed the County noise compatibility standard; or,
- The discretionary development would result in an increase in traffic noise levels of 3 dBA or greater in an area where traffic noise levels under existing conditions exceed a County noise compatibility standard stated in Policy HAZ 9.2.

Noise control measures may include increased vegetation, roadway pavement improvements and maintenance, and site and building design features. If such measures are not sufficient to reduce a new discretionary development's fair-share of traffic-generated noise at sensitive receptors, a sound wall barrier may be constructed. All feasible<sup>1</sup> noise reduction measures shall be implemented to ensure the development's fair-share of traffic-generated noise is reduced, consistent with Policy HAZ 9.2. (RDR)

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<sup>1</sup> "Feasible" means that this mitigation measure shall be applied to future discretionary projects under the 2040 General Plan when and to the extent it is "capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors" as determined by the County in the context of such future projects based on substantial evidence. This definition is consistent with the definition of "feasible" set forth in CEQA (Pub. Res. Code, § 21066.1) and the CEQA Guidelines (§ 15164). The County shall be solely responsible for making this feasibility determination in accordance with CEQA.

### 7.10 Air Quality

Air quality is the concentration of various pollutants in the atmosphere for a specific location or area. Air quality conditions at a particular location are a function of the type and amount of air pollutants emitted into the atmosphere, the size and topography of the regional air basin, and the prevailing weather conditions. Air quality is an important natural resource that influences public health and welfare, the economy, and quality of life. Air pollutants have the potential to adversely impact public health, the production and quality of agricultural crops, native vegetation, visibility, buildings, and other structures and materials.

The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD), the local lead air quality regulatory agency for Ventura County, maintains air quality conditions through comprehensive programs of planning, regulation, enforcement, technical innovation, incentive programs and promotion of the understanding of air quality issues. The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) adopted the 2016 Ventura County Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) to outline the county's strategy for attaining the 2008 Federal 8-hour ozone standard by 2020, as required by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and applicable United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) clean air regulations.



*Goals, policies, and implementations addressing reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other climate change topics are addressed in Chapter 6, Conservation and Open Space Element.*

#### HAZ-10

To promote a high level of air quality in order to protect public health, safety, and welfare, and mitigate any adverse air quality impacts to the maximum extent feasible.

##### HAZ-10.1



##### **Air Pollutant Reduction**

The County shall strive to reduce air pollutants from stationary and mobile sources to protect human health and welfare, focusing efforts on shifting patterns and practices that contribute to the areas with the highest pollution exposures and health impacts. (MPSP, RDR, SO, IGC, PI, JP)

##### HAZ-10.2

##### **Air Quality Management Plan Consistency**

The County shall prohibit discretionary development that is inconsistent with the most recent adopted Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), unless the Board of Supervisors adopts a statement of overriding considerations. (RDR)

##### HAZ-10.3

##### **Air Pollution Control District Rule and Permit Compliance**

The County shall ensure that discretionary development subject to Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) permit authority complies with all applicable APCD rules and permit requirements, including the use of Best Available Control Technology (BACT) as determined by the VCAPCD. (RDR)

##### HAZ-10.4

##### **Engagement with Air Quality Management Plan**

When the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) updates the Air Quality Management Plan, the County shall actively engage continuously and throughout the process. (IGC)

### HAZ-10.5



#### **Air Pollution Impact Mitigation Measures for Discretionary Development**

The County shall work with applicants for discretionary development projects to incorporate bike facilities, solar water heating, solar space heating, incorporation of electric appliances and equipment, and the use of zero and/or near zero emission vehicles and other measures to reduce air pollution impacts and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. (RDR)

### HAZ-10.6



#### **Transportation Control Measures Programs**

The County shall continue to work with the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to develop and implement Transportation Control Measures (TCM) programs consistent with the APCD's Air Quality Management Program (AQMP) to facilitate public transit and alternative transportation modes within the county. (IGC, FB)

### HAZ-10.7



#### **Fuel Efficient County Vehicles**

When purchasing new County vehicles, the County shall give strong preference to fuel efficient vehicles, including the use of zero emission vehicles when feasible. (SO, FB)

### HAZ-10.8



#### **Alternative Transportation Modes**

The County shall promote alternative modes of transportation that reduce single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) travel and enhance "last-mile" transportation options to improve air quality. (IGC, JP, PI)

### HAZ-10.9

#### **Mitigation of Objectionable Odors**

The County shall require that discretionary development which will create objectionable odors that could affect a substantial number of people are appropriately mitigated. The project, pursuant to state law, shall be required to operate in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD), with emphasis on Rule 51, Nuisance throughout the life of the permit. (RDR)

### HAZ-10.10



#### **Smoke-Free Environments**

The County shall continue to designate, promote, and enforce smoke-free environments to reduce toxins in the air and exposure to second-hand smoke. (PI, SO)

### HAZ-10.11

#### **Air Quality Assessment Guidelines**

In evaluating air quality impacts, the County shall consider total emissions from both stationary and mobile sources, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. The County shall evaluate discretionary development for air quality impacts using the Air Quality Assessment Guidelines as adopted by the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (APCD), except that emissions from APCD-permitted sources shall also be included in the analysis. The County shall revise the Initial Study Assessment Guides to implement this policy. (RDR)

### HAZ-10.12



#### **Conditions for Air Quality Impacts**

The County shall require that discretionary development that would have a significant adverse air quality impact shall only be approved if it is conditioned with all feasible mitigation measures to avoid, minimize or compensate (offset) for the air quality impact. The use of innovative methods and technologies to minimize air pollution impacts shall be encourage in project design. (RDR)

## 7. Hazards and Safety Element

### HAZ-10.13

EIR

#### Construction Air Pollutant Best Management Practices

Discretionary development projects that will generate construction-related air emissions shall be required by the County to incorporate best management practices (BMPs) to reduce emissions. These BMPs shall include the measures recommended by VCAPCD in its Air Quality Assessment Guidelines or otherwise to the extent applicable to the project. (RDR)

### HAZ-10.14

EIR

#### Fugitive Dust Best Management Practices

The County shall ensure that discretionary development which will generate fugitive dust emissions during construction activities will, to the extent feasible, incorporate appropriate BMPs to reduce emissions to be less than applicable thresholds. (RDR)

### HAZ-10.15

EIR

#### Health Risk Assessments for Sensitive Land Uses Near Heavily Traveled Transportation Corridors

The County shall require discretionary development for land uses that include sensitive receptors be located at least 1,000 feet from any road with traffic volumes that exceed 50,000 vehicles per day. New sensitive receptor structures can be located within 1,000 feet from a new or existing road with traffic volumes that exceed 50,000 vehicles per day only if a project applicant first prepares a qualified, site-specific health risk assessment (HRA). The HRA shall be conducted in accordance with guidance from VCAPCD and approved by VCAPCD. If the HRA determines that a nearby sensitive receptor would be exposed to an incremental increase in cancer risk greater than 10 in 1 million, then design measures shall be incorporated to reduce the level of risk exposure to less than 10 in 1 million. No further action shall be required if an HRA demonstrates that the level of cancer risk would be less than 10 in 1 million. Project design features that may be considered in the HRA may include, but are not limited to: installing air intakes furthest away from the heavily traveled transportation corridor; installing air filtration (as part of mechanical ventilation systems or stand-alone air cleaner); using air filtration devices rated MERV-13 or higher; requiring ongoing maintenance plans for building HVAC air filtration systems; limiting window openings and window heights on building sides facing the heavily traveled transportation corridor; or permanently sealing windows so they don't open on the side of the building facing the heavily traveled transportation corridor; and installing vegetative barriers, considering height and cover thickness, to create a natural buffer between sensitive receptors and the emissions source. For purposes of this policy, "sensitive receptors" means populations or uses that are more susceptible to the effects of air pollution than the general population such as long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, retirement homes, convalescent homes, residences, schools, childcare centers, and playgrounds. (RDR)



## 7.11 Increasing Temperatures

Temperature-related impacts from anthropogenic climate change are likely to affect the county in several ways. Increased average temperatures, along with more frequent extreme heat days and waves, will likely exacerbate existing high temperatures in developed areas that experience the phenomenon known as the urban heat island effect (UHIE). In built-up areas, vegetation is sparse, and roofs and pavement dominate the landscape, absorbing and retaining heat during daytime hours and releasing heat at night. Other human activities that contribute to the UHIE include combustion-engine vehicles and air conditioning. To help curb the UHIE in developed areas, the County will need to incorporate “green” and “cool” infrastructure into new and existing development. Examples of green infrastructure include trees and climate-appropriate landscaping for increased shade and reduced surface area of pavement. Ventura County will also need to incorporate cool pavement and cool roofs in new and existing development while also planting more shade trees in parking lots.

### HAZ-11

To improve resilience to increasing temperatures resulting from climate change.

#### HAZ-11.1



##### Critical Vulnerable Infrastructure

The County shall identify and protect critical infrastructure locations that are vulnerable to damage from extreme heat. (SO, FB, PSR, IGC)

#### HAZ-11.2



##### Climate Change-Related Partnerships

The County shall partner with Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), utilities, nonprofit organizations and other entities to implement future and ongoing heat-related climate change initiatives. The County’s partnership in ongoing programs and future initiatives could include helping other organizations increase participation in existing programs through education and promotion, and by using and integrating them in County programs and activities, where feasible. (JP)

#### HAZ-11.3



##### Limit Impacts of Climate Change on Designated Disadvantaged Communities

The County shall work with public, private, and nonprofit partners to limit impacts of climate change on Designated Disadvantaged Communities by focusing planning efforts and interventions on communities with the highest need and ensuring representatives of these communities have a role in the decision-making process for directing climate change response. (MPSP, SO)

#### HAZ-11.4



##### Education and Outreach on Effects of Climate Change

The County shall support efforts of agencies and organizations that provide effective education and outreach to Designated Disadvantaged Communities on the effects of climate change, including increasing temperatures, wildfires, flooding, sea level rise, poor air quality, extreme weather events, disease prevention, and other public health effects. (PI)

#### HAZ-11.5



##### Outdoor Worker Protection

The County shall work with State and County health agencies and local organizations to provide educational programs and resources targeted at reducing the impacts of exposure to sun and heat. (ICG, JP, PI)

## 7. Hazards and Safety Element

### HAZ-11.6



#### Accessible Cooling Centers

The County shall expand partnerships with local governments, non-government organizations, churches, and businesses to provide additional cooling centers, particularly in designated disadvantaged communities. (SO, IGC, JP, PI)

### HAZ-11.7



#### Green Building Design Features

The County shall encourage development to include new building designs or retrofits to improve building performance through strategic building design features, including to reduce energy usage, solar-reflective white roofs, solar panels, green roofs (vegetation on roofs), and battery storage for energy. (RDR)

### HAZ-11.8



#### Undergrounding Utilities

The County shall work with utility providers to underground overhead power lines (both existing and as part of discretionary development) to increase the resilience of the energy grid and reduce wildfire potential, especially in Existing Communities. (JP) [

### HAZ-11.9



#### Urban Greening

The County shall promote the use of urban greening techniques, such as cool pavement technology, parking lot shading, landscaping, and other methods to offset climate change impacts and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for discretionary development and County-initiated projects. (RDR, FB, SO)

### HAZ-11.10



#### Solar Photovoltaic Carports

The County shall promote the use of solar photovoltaic carports for discretionary development and County-initiated projects. (RDR)

### 7.12 Emergency Response

As demonstrated by several natural disasters in California in recent years, planning for access and evacuation is a key to protecting public health and safety and providing efficient access for first responders. In Ventura County, evacuation planning is an important aspect of preparing for a range of potential natural disasters, including wildfire, flooding, seismic, tsunami events.

In addition to policy on evacuation, this section covers the planning and placement of essential facilities. This is necessary to ensure that the first responders for the county are available and able to respond when disaster strikes.

Wildfires are fast-moving, complex and dynamic events. Evacuation decisions are complicated and directly impacted by changing conditions. Preparing static, pre-determined evacuation maps/routes are not effective as they do not take into account unforeseeable conditions such as fire rates of spread, fuel modeling, wind, topography, resource availability, viable transportation routes and the population at risk to include individuals with access and functional needs in the impacted area. Wildfire conditions change and evolve rapidly in unpredictable ways. Hence, the County utilizes a robust emergency notification system to provide timely instructional information to residents in an emergency. The VC Alert emergency notification system is a local emergency notification system that is used to send messages to landline telephones, cellular telephones, TTY/TTD devices, fax, email, and instant messaging services. VC Alert can send both text and recorded voice messages, and the text-to-speech engine is able to send notifications in multiple languages. When a wildfire poses a risk to life, property and/or the environment, the VC Alert system is used to send actionable evacuation information to residents to take action to save their lives. Every VC Alert message includes a phone number to the County Incident Information Hotline and the link to the [VCEmergency.com](http://VCEmergency.com) webpage where residents can receive real-time incident information showing an interactive map of fire perimeters, road closures, evacuation shelters, and more.

Policies and programs relating to wildfire hazard planning and response, including the location of new essential public facilities; emergency services/vehicle accessibility; collaboration between emergency service providers; adequate water supply, fire flow, access, and response times for firefighting purposes; fire station locations, facilities, public services and infrastructure availability; fire protection standards for new development; mutual training/aid agreements; and response times can be found in the Public Facilities and Services Element. Additional information about fire hazard planning can be found in the 2040 General Plan Background Report as well as the following sources, as may be amended:

- Ventura County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan;
- Ventura County Fire Protection District Unit Strategic Protection Plan;
- Ventura County Fire Protection District ordinances and fire prevention guidelines;
- Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council Community Wildfire Protection Plan;
- Santa Monica Mountains Community Wildfire Protection Plan; and
- Ventura County Fire Protection District Personal Action Plan.

Additional specific information can be found in the following sources, as may be amended:

- Historical data regarding wildfires in Ventura County can be found in Section 11.3 of the Wildfire Hazards chapter of the 2040 General Plan Background Report, and the Ventura County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan at <https://www.ReadyVenturaCounty.org/>.
- Maps of the location and extent of fire hazard severity zones and fire hazards areas by local/state/federal responsibility area can be found in Section 11.3 of the Wildfire Hazards chapter of the 2040 General Plan Background Report.
- The Ventura County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan includes an analysis of the potential level of impact of wildfire to the County's landmass, population, residential structures, and critical facilities/infrastructure in the high and very high fire severity zones. This plan can be found at <https://www.ReadyVenturaCounty.org/>.
- A description of the local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection can be found in the Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council Community Wildfire Protection Plan at <https://www.firesafeojai.org/>, and the Ventura County Unit Strategic Fire Plan. This plan is available by request from the Ventura County Fire Protection District.
- Development standards in SRAs and VHFHSZs that meet SRA Fire Safe Regulations and regulations pertaining to Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures can be found in Section 11.3 of the Wildfire Hazards chapter of the 2040 General Plan Background Report, and Ventura County Fire Protection District Ordinance 29 Fire Apparatus Access Code; Ventura County Fire Protection District Ordinance 31 Fire Code (including Section W106.1 Plans); Ventura County Fire Protection District Fire Hazard Reduction Program Standards and Guidelines, including Standard 501: Fire Apparatus Access; Standard 502: Premises Identification; Standard 515: Defensible Space and Fuel Modification Zones; and Standard 14.5.3: Fire Hydrants. Ventura County Fire Protection District ordinances, standards, and guidelines can be found on the Ventura County Fire Protection District website. The Ventura County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan on the <https://www.ReadyVenturaCounty.org/> website also includes a recommended potential mitigation action pertaining to fuel modification plans for new development (Mitigation Action Numbers OA 20 in the 2015 Plan), and for elderly, disabled, and low-income property owners (Mitigation Action Numbers OA 19 in the 2015 Plan).
- Fire protection standards regarding fire flow requirements in areas without adequate and reliable water supply systems can be found in Ventura County Fire Protection District Ordinance 31, Appendix B, which is posted on the Ventura County Fire Protection District website.
- Vegetation hazard mitigation and maintenance measures can be found in the Ventura County Unit Strategic Fire Plan. This plan is available by request from the Ventura County Fire Protection District. The Ventura County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan also includes information pertaining to vegetation hazard mitigation and maintenance measures (Mitigation Action Number OA 21 in the 2015 Plan) on the [ReadyVenturaCounty.org](https://www.ReadyVenturaCounty.org/) website.

- Standards pertaining to vegetative clearance on public roadways can be found in Ventura County Fire Protection District Ordinance 31 Fire Code (Section W105.3 Clearance of Brush or Vegetative Growth from Roadways), which is posted on the Ventura County Fire Protection District website. The Ventura County Unit Strategic Fire Plan describes annual fuel bed maintenance activities by the Fire District for fire, utility, and ranch roads. This maintenance includes assessment, repair, grading, and roadside brush removal. The Unit Plan is available by request from the Ventura County Fire Protection District.
- Information pertaining to community fire breaks can be found in the Ventura County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (Mitigation Actions Numbers OA 20 and OA 21 in the 2015 Plan) on the <https://www.ReadyVenturaCounty.org/> website.
- Information pertaining to emergency response performance standards can be found in the Ventura County Fire Protection District Regional Fire Services Standards of Cover Analysis. This analysis is available by request from the Ventura County Fire Protection District.
- Public education and outreach regarding defensible space and evacuation can be found in VCFD Ordinance 31 Fire Code and the Ventura County Fire Protection District Fire Hazard Reduction Program links on the Ventura County Fire Protection District website.



*Goals, policies, and implementation programs concerning public safety service provision can be found in Chapter 5, Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element.*

### HAZ-12

To provide for the safe and efficient evacuation of residents in times of need.  
(Source: New Goal)

#### HAZ-12.1

##### **Access Points for New Subdivisions**

The County shall require new residential subdivisions to provide not less than two means of access for emergency vehicles and resident evacuation. A deviation from this policy is only allowed if a single proposed access road conforms to the County Road Standards, Ventura County Fire Department Access Standards, and when the County Fire Chief approves the proposed deviation. (RDR)

#### HAZ-12.2

##### **Countywide Hazard Mitigation Planning**

The County shall continue to maintain and periodically update the Ventura County Emergency Operations Plan and the Ventura County Hazard Mitigation Plan covering hazards in the county. (MPSP, IGC, PI)

## 7. Hazards and Safety Element

### HAZ-12.3

#### **Siting of Essential Facilities**

The County should not site essential facilities, public safety or emergency service facilities, special occupancy structures, or hazardous materials storage facilities in areas subject to the following hazard areas, as defined in the County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services), unless the structure is designed to mitigate the hazard:

- in tsunami hazard areas, as defined in the Tsunami Operational Area Response Guide (Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services);
- geologic or seismic hazard areas;
- areas subject to liquefaction, landslide, or seiche hazards; and
- subsidence or hydroconsolidation.

(RDR)

### HAZ-12.4

#### **Emergency Water and Sanitation Education**

The County shall determine best practices for water and sanitation and other measures for coping with emergencies of multiple days' duration and shall provide guidance to the public based on the findings. (SO, PI)



### HAZ-12.5

#### **Alert and Warning Systems**

The County shall continue to maintain a comprehensive, coordinated and robust alert and warning program to communicate threats and hazards to residents before, during and after an emergency. (SO)



## 7.13 Implementation Programs

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>A Develop and Implement Educational Programs for Wildfire Resilience</b> In coordination with federal, state, and local partners (e.g., CAL FIRE), the County shall update and maintain educational programs related to such issues as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learning how to recognize the first signs of fire and take appropriate action;</li> <li>Living with the risks of fire within the wildland/urban interface; and</li> <li>Methods of improving the resilience of homes and other structures.</li> </ul> 	HAZ-1.1 HAZ-1.2 HAZ -1.6	FD	■				■
		CEO					
<b>B Wildfire Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping</b> In collaboration with the federal, state, and local partners (e.g., CAL FIRE), U.S. Forest Service, other agencies involved in wildfire response planning), the County shall update and map new locations that may be vulnerable to wildfire hazards including: damage to electrical, transportation, and communication infrastructure; increased rates of erosion, landslide, and water quality degradation; loss of residential, commercial, and industrial structures; and ecological disturbance. 	HAZ-1.6 HAZ-1.8 HAZ-12.2	RMA		■			■
		IT FD PWA					

## 7. Hazards and Safety Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>C Post-Fire Assessments</b> Directly following a wildfire disaster, the County shall conduct a post-fire assessment to identify vulnerabilities and projects that address vulnerabilities. The goal of the post-fire assessment shall be to protect public safety, enhance access and evacuation, and reestablish essential functional needs to communities and ecosystems to minimize flooding, protect water quality, reduce landslide and debris flow occurrence, and limit pollution.	HAZ-1.7	FD VCISO RMA PWA CEO GSA					■
<b>D Dam Failure Contingency Plans</b> The County Sheriff's Department, Office of Emergency Services shall review and revise the Dam Failure Contingency section of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years and continue to provide public information on dam failure preparedness and response.	HAZ-2.6 HAZ-12.2	VCISO PWA n/a					■
<b>E Update Tsunami Information</b> The County shall update planning documents, maps, and the Operational Area Tsunami Evacuation Plan, when necessary to reflect the most current tsunami information, and identify actions necessary to mitigate property damage, and maintain evacuation readiness. (MPSP, SO)	HAZ-2.7 HAZ-12.2	VCISO HCA FD					■

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>F Develop Climate Change Impact Assessment</b> The County shall work with the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), other jurisdictions, the Oxnard Harbor District (OHD), California Department of Conservation, and the Department of Defense (DOD) to develop a Climate Change Impact Assessment that addresses issues related to climate change and military installations, including sea level rise, wildfires, and stormwater runoff intensities. <div>CAP</div>	HAZ-3.1 HAZ-3.2 HAZ-11.1	PWA RMA CEO		■			
<b>G Communication Program for Property Owners at Risk from Sea Level Rise</b> The County shall seek funding to prepare and implement a communication program that periodically provides updates to the Board of Supervisors, and other stakeholders regarding impacts from sea level rise and planning decisions to address those impacts. <div>CAP</div>	HAZ-3.1 HAZ-3.3	RMA CEO	■				■
<b>H Sea Level Rise Analysis in Siting and Design of New Development</b> The County shall consider the feasibility of amending the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance and Coastal Zoning Ordinance to require technical analysis of projected sea level rise exposure for the siting and design of new discretionary development. <div>CAP</div>	HAZ-3.1	RMA n/a		■			

## 7. Hazards and Safety Element




Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>I Estuaries, Wetlands, and Groundwater Basins Resilience</b> The County shall coordinate with regional stakeholders to assess vulnerabilities from the effects of, and opportunities to enhance the resiliency to, sea level rise on estuaries, wetlands, and groundwater basins. This assessment should consider factors that influence the conditions of an estuary or wetland, including sea level rise, rainfall, surface heat budget, wind, and ocean acidification.	HAZ-3.1	RMA n/a					■
<b>J Hazardous Materials Business Plan and Hazardous Materials Response Plans</b> The County shall continue to require Hazardous Materials Business Plans and Hazardous Materials Response Plans for any business which handles hazardous material to ensure that plans for emergency response to a release or threatened release of a hazardous material and/or waste are maintained and monitored.	HAZ-5.1 HAZ-5.2 HAZ-5.3 HAZ-5.5 HAZ-5.6 HAZ-5.7 HAZ-5.8	RMA(EHD) FD	■	■	■		■
<b>K Marine Oil Spill Response Planning</b> For County facilities that could potentially be the source of a marine oil spill or onshore oil spill, the County shall develop, exercise, review, and share their prevention and response plans with regulatory and emergency agencies. The County shall also continue to participate in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Office of Spill Prevention and Response Area Contingency Plan process.	HAZ-7.1	VCSSO FD OES RMA					■

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>L Alert and Warning System Implementation</b> The VC Alert Emergency Notification System shall be used to provide timely instructional information to residents in an emergency. The County shall also continue to engage in outreach efforts to inform the public about the VC Alert System such as distributing printed informational materials at County- and city-sponsored community events and meetings. Furthermore, the County shall maintain and update an incident webpage to serve as a single, central location for residents to receive real-time emergency information during an emergency. The VCEmergency.com website provides the public with real-time incident information such as evacuation locations, road closures, human and animal evacuation shelters, fire perimeters, and more.	HAZ-12.5	VCSO (OES) <hr/> FD					■
<b>M Update Coastal Area Signage</b> The County shall update coastal and beach signage, when necessary, to identify appropriate public access locations to the beach, coastal areas, and wetlands near Point Mugu so as not to breach military security.	HAZ-8.1	PWA <hr/> n/a					■
<b>N Frequency Spectrum Areas of Concern</b> The County shall work with Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) to define criteria that can be used to determine when a discretionary project involving the use of the radio frequency spectrum that are close to military channels require review and coordination with the Navy to ensure that radio frequencies do not disrupt NBVC communications with aircraft.	HAZ-8.4	RMA <hr/> n/a					■



## 7. Hazards and Safety Element




Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>O Solar Concentration Restriction</b> The County shall modify the NCZO and CZO, if necessary, to prohibit the placement and use of facilities that use solar concentration for generation of commercial power that could generate glare and potential to disable pilots and impact flight or test operations at Naval Base Ventura County.	HAZ-8.5	RMA AIR	■				
<b>P Identify Critical Infrastructure Vulnerable to Extreme Heat</b> The County shall map locations of county-owned facilities and infrastructure that may be vulnerable to the effects of extreme heat. When necessary, the County will develop a plan to upgrade such infrastructure to be more resilient to periods of high heat, which may include the use of heat-tolerant, reflective, or other resilient types of materials.	HAZ-11.1	PWA RMA		■			
<b>Q Standards for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Carports in County Lots</b> The County shall establish feasible standards for inclusion of solar PV carports in County-owned parking lots.	HAZ-11.1	PWA RMA GSA	■				
<b>R Adaptation Grant Funding</b> The County shall apply for grant funding for climate change adaptation planning efforts from available private and public sources.	HAZ-11.2 HAZ-11.3 HAZ-11.4 HAZ-11.7 HAZ-11.8	PWA RMA GSA					■



Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>S Extreme Heat Education and Outreach</b> The County shall provide multilingual education and outreach to residents and businesses to publicize the symptoms and dangers of heat-related illness, cooling center locations, how to sign up for the Ready Ventura County VC Alert Program, worker-related protections, and practical methods for preventing heat-related illness during periods of high heat. 	HAZ-11.3 HAZ-11.4 HAZ-11.5	HSA <hr/> CEO					■
<b>T Cool Roof Ordinance</b> The County shall adopt a Cool Roof Ordinance that exceeds the prescriptive cool roof requirements of the 2019 California Building Energy Efficiency Standard for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings by 25 percent (California Energy Code). Under a Cool Roof Ordinance, the County would require new construction to replace or re-coat 2,500 square feet for nonresidential and 1,250 square feet of roof space for residential buildings, or 72.5 percent or more of roofs. 	HAZ-11.6	RMA <hr/> n/a	■				
<b>U Incentive Program for Passive Solar Home Design and Use of Green Roofs and Rooftop Gardens</b> The County shall develop incentive programs to promote passive solar home design and the use of green roofs and rooftop gardens when feasible. The program shall include but may not be limited to, permit streamlining and permit fee reductions to apply passive solar home design to future residential buildings. 	HAZ-11.6 HAZ-11.8	RMA <hr/> CEO	■				

## 7. Hazards and Safety Element


Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>V Cool Pavements Standards</b> The County shall incorporate cool pavement standards into the County's development standards for County and private development projects, in both new construction and changes to existing on-site paved surface areas (e.g., parking lots, private roadways, other hardscapes). 	HAZ-11.6 HAZ-11.7	PWA RMA GSA		■			
<b>W Incentive Programs for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Carports</b> The County shall establish incentive programs, which may include rebate programs, permit fee reductions, and tax deductions, to incentivize the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) carports in existing and future parking lots. 	HAZ-11.10	RMA n/a	■				
<b>X Countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan</b> The County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES) shall continue to maintain and update the Ventura County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years and update the Ventura County Emergency Operations Plan every three years. Updates will include including mitigation measures and preparedness, response, and recovery strategies for hazards identified in this Element. To the extent feasible, County agencies shall, and other public agencies are encouraged to, participate in joint emergency planning and response training, and cooperatively respond to emergencies when they occur.	HAZ-12.2	VCISO HCA FD PWA	■				■

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>Y Construction Air Pollutant Best Management Practices</b> Discretionary development projects that will generate construction-related air emissions shall be required to include the following types of emission reduction measures and potentially others, as recommended by VCAPCD in its Air Quality Assessment Guidelines or otherwise, to the extent applicable to the project as determined by the County: maintaining equipment per manufacturer specifications; lengthening construction duration to minimize number of vehicle and equipment operating at the same time during the summer months; use of Tier 3 at a minimum, or Tier 4 if commercially available diesel engines in all off-road construction diesel equipment; and, if feasible <sup>2</sup> using electric-powered or other alternative fueled equipment in place of diesel powered equipment.. 	HAZ-10.13	RMA					
		n/a					
<b>Z Fugitive Dust Best Management Practices</b> Discretionary development projects that will generate construction-related fugitive dust emissions shall be required by the County to include dust reduction measures recommended by VCAPCD in its Air Quality Assessment Guidelines, or otherwise, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The area disturbed by clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation</li> </ul>	HAZ-10.14	RMA					
		n/a					

<sup>2</sup> “Feasible” means that this mitigation measure shall be applied to future discretionary projects under the 2040 General Plan when and to the extent it is “capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors” as determined by the County in the context of such future projects based on substantial evidence. This definition is consistent with the definition of “feasible” set forth in CEQA (Pub. Res. Code, § 21066.1) and the CEQA Guidelines section 15164). The County shall be solely responsible for making this feasibility determination in accordance with CEQA

## 7. Hazards and Safety Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
	<p>operations shall be minimized to prevent excess amounts of dust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The area disturbed by clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation operations shall be minimized to prevent excess amounts of dust.</li> <li>■ Pre-grading/excavation activities shall include watering the area to be graded or excavated before commencement of grading or excavation operations. Application of watering (preferably reclaimed, if available) should penetrate sufficiently to minimize fugitive dust during grading activities.</li> <li>■ Fugitive dust produced during grading, excavation, and construction activities shall be controlled by the following activities:</li> <li>■ All trucks shall be required to cover their loads as required by California Vehicle Code Section 23114.</li> <li>■ All graded and excavated material, exposed soil areas, and active portions of the construction site, including unpaved on-site roadways, shall be treated to prevent fugitive dust. Treatment shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, periodic watering, application of environmentally-safe soil stabilization materials, and/or roll-compaction as appropriate. Watering shall be done as often as necessary and reclaimed water shall be used whenever possible.</li> <li>■ Graded and/or excavated inactive areas of the construction site shall be monitored by (indicate by whom) at least weekly for dust stabilization. Soil stabilization methods, such as water and roll-compaction, and</li> </ul>						

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<p>environmentally-safe dust control materials, shall be periodically applied to portions of the construction site that are inactive for over four days. If no further grading or excavation operations are planned for the area, the area should be seeded and watered until grass growth is evident, or periodically treated with environmentally-safe dust suppressants, to prevent excessive fugitive dust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Signs shall be posted on-site limiting traffic to 15 miles per hour or less.</li> <li>■ During periods of high winds (i.e., wind speed sufficient to cause fugitive dust to impact adjacent properties), all clearing, grading, earth moving, and excavation operations shall be curtailed to the degree necessary to prevent fugitive dust created by on-site activities and operations from being a nuisance or hazard, either off-site or on-site. The site superintendent/supervisor shall use his/her discretion in conjunction with VCAPCD when winds are excessive.</li> <li>■ Adjacent streets and roads shall be swept at least once per day, preferably at the end of the day, if visible soil material is carried over to adjacent streets and roads.</li> <li>■ Personnel involved in grading operations, including contractors and subcontractors, should be advised to wear respiratory protection in accordance with California Division of Occupational Safety and Health regulations.</li> </ul> <p></p>							

## 7. Hazards and Safety Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>AA Prohibit Natural Gas Infrastructure in New Residential and New Commercial Development</b> To support the proposed reach codes under COS-S, the 2040 General Plan shall include a new program in the Hazards and Safety element that prohibits the installation of new natural gas infrastructure in new residential development through amendments to the Ventura County Building Code. This program shall also be extended to new commercial development including but not limited to offices, retail buildings, and hotels. The County may exempt new commercial development from these requirements upon making findings based on substantial evidence that the use of natural gas is critical to business operations, and that it is not feasible <sup>3</sup> to replace critical appliances or equipment with electricity powered equivalents. This program shall be completed no later than 2023. <b>EIR</b>	COS-10.1, COS-10.2, COS-10.3, COS-10.4	RMA	■				
		n/a					
<b>BB Building Energy Saving Ordinance for Industrial Buildings</b> To address GHG emissions associated with electricity consumption by industrial buildings, which were not quantified in the GHG Inventory and Forecasting due to utility privacy rules, the County shall implement a program to adopt a Building Energy Saving Ordinance, no later than 2025, for industrial buildings over 25,000 square feet in size, modeled after the local benchmarking ordinances adopted in other	COS-10.1, COS-10.2, COS-10.3, COS-10.4	RMA	■				■
		n/a					

<sup>3</sup> “Feasible” means that this mitigation measure shall be applied to future discretionary projects under the 2040 General Plan when and to the extent it is “capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors” as determined by the County in the context of such future projects based on substantial evidence. This definition is consistent with the definition of “feasible” set forth in CEQA (Pub. Res. Code, § 21066.1) and the CEQA Guidelines (§ 15164). The County shall be solely responsible for making this feasibility determination in accordance with CEQA.



Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<p>local jurisdictions in California (CEC 2019). The County shall prepare reports showing the energy performance of industrial buildings relative to similar buildings in California and the United States and make these reports available to the public by request. The County, through its building department shall provide recommendations on energy efficiency retrofits and green building strategies to improve energy performance to property owners and tenants subject to the reporting requirements.</p> <p><b>EIR</b></p>							
<p><b>CC Revise the Construction Noise Threshold Criteria and Control Plan</b></p> <p>The County shall revise the Construction Noise Threshold Criteria and Control Plan within one year of 2040 General Plan adoption to consider all potential vibration-inducing activities and include various measures, setback distances, precautions, monitoring programs, and alternative methods to traditional construction activities with the potential to result in structural damage or excessive groundborne noise. Items that shall be addressed in the plan include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ground vibration-producing activities, such as pile driving and blasting, shall be limited to the daytime hours between 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays or 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays.</li> <li>If pile driving is used, pile holes shall be predrilled to the maximum feasible depth to reduce the number of blows required to seat a pile.</li> <li>All construction equipment on construction sites shall be operated as far away from vibration-sensitive sites as reasonably possible.</li> <li>Earthmoving, blasting and ground-impacting operations shall be phased</li> </ul>	HAZ-9.2	RMA	■				■
		n/a					

## 7. Hazards and Safety Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
	<p>so as not to occur simultaneously in areas close to sensitive receptors, to the extent feasible. The total vibration level produced could be significantly less when each vibration source is operated at separate times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum setback requirements for different types of ground vibration-producing activities (e.g., pile driving and blasting) for the purpose of preventing damage to nearby structures shall be established. Factors to be considered include the specific nature of the vibration producing activity (e.g., type and duration of pile driving), local soil conditions, and the fragility/resiliency of the nearby structures. Established setback requirements (i.e., 100 feet) can be breached if a project-specific, site specific analysis is conducted by a qualified geotechnical engineer or ground vibration specialist that indicates that no structural damage would occur at nearby buildings or structures.</li> <li>Minimum setback requirements for different types of ground vibration producing activities (e.g., pile driving and blasting) for the purpose of preventing negative human response shall be established based on the specific nature of the vibration producing activity (e.g., type and duration of pile driving), local soil conditions, and the type of sensitive receptor. Established setback requirements (i.e., 300 feet) can be breached only if a project-specific, site-specific, technically adequate ground vibration study indicates that the buildings would not be exposed to ground vibration levels in excess</li> </ul>						

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
			Supporting Department(s)					
	<p>of 80 VdB, and ground vibration measurements performed during the construction activity confirm that the buildings are not being exposed to levels in excess of 80 VdB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All vibration-inducing activity within the distance parameters described above shall be monitored and documented for ground vibration noise and vibration noise levels at the nearest sensitive land use and associated recorded data submitted to Ventura County so as not to exceed the recommended FTA levels.</li> <li>Alternatives to traditional pile driving (e.g., sonic pile driving, jetting, cast-in-place or auger cast piles, nondisplacement piles, pile cushioning, torque or hydraulic piles) shall be considered and implemented where feasible <sup>4</sup>to reduce vibration levels.</li> </ul>							
<b>DD</b>	<p><b>Coordinated Identification of Dwellings in a State Responsibility or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone</b></p> <p>Prior to July 1, 2021, and every five (5) years thereafter, the County Fire Protection District shall assist the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in surveying the County and preparing a list identifying all existing subdivisions over 30 dwellings located in a state responsibility area or a</p>	HAZ-1.4 HAZ-1.5	FD n/a	■				

<sup>4</sup> “Feasible” means that this mitigation measure shall be applied to future discretionary projects under the 2040 General Plan when and to the extent it is “capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors” as determined by the County in the context of such future projects based on substantial evidence. This definition is consistent with the definition of “feasible” set forth in CEQA (Pub. Res. Code, § 21066.1) and the CEQA Guidelines (§ 15164). The County shall be solely responsible for making this feasibility determination in accordance with CEQA.

## 7. Hazards and Safety Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
	very high fire hazard severity zone, identified pursuant to Section 51178 of the Government Code, without a secondary egress route and that are at significant fire risk. The County shall consult and assist the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and with the California State Fire Marshall to develop recommendations to improve fire safety in the identified subdivisions.						

*Please see the next page.*







*Please see the next page.*



# 8

## 8. Agriculture Element

Ventura County's temperate climate with warm, wet winters and hot, dry summers coupled with fertile soils, supports the cultivation of a diversity of agricultural commodities, including strawberries, celery, lemons, raspberries, avocados, nursery stock, tomatoes, peppers, cut flowers, cabbage, and kale. According to the State of California, Ventura County ranked eighth among California counties in total crop value in 2017 based on data from the County Agricultural Commissioner's Annual Crop and Livestock Report.

The areas that sustain agricultural commodity growth have a broad range of characteristics. For example, berry production requires a temperate moist climate, so most strawberry production is found close to the coast, surrounding the cities of Ventura, Oxnard, Camarillo, and Port Hueneme. The climate tends to be dryer and warmer further from the coast, favoring citrus crops. Specifically, the Highway 126 and 150 corridors are prime areas for citrus growth. The fertile soil combined with ideal temperate seasonal temperatures allow lemons, oranges, and mandarins to thrive. Some commodity types, such as avocados, can grow in a variety of climate regions, allowing them to flourish countywide.

The 2017 Crop and Livestock Report indicates that much of the county's agricultural production occurred on 95,850 acres of irrigated cropland out of a total farmed acreage of approximately 294,000 acres. Of the total farmed acreage, approximately 198,000 acres are considered rangeland.

As with other agricultural regions in California, organic farming is an expanding economic growth opportunity. In Ventura County, organic farms specialize in vegetables and herbs, fruits and nuts, field and seed crops, and cut flowers and nursery production.

Goals and policies in this element are organized under the following headings:

Section	Title	Page
8.1	Agricultural Land Preservation.....	8-2
8.2	Agricultural and Urban Area Compatibility.....	8-4
8.3	Innovative Specialty Agriculture.....	8-5
8.4	Food Security.....	8-6
8.5	Sustainable Farming and Ranching.....	8-7
8.6	Agricultural Resilience .....	8-9
8.7	Implementation Programs.....	8-10



**Farmworker and Farm Family Housing**

*A sustainable labor force is central to success of the county's agricultural sector, and access to affordable housing is a key factor. Housing is becoming even more important as the county's agriculture shifts to more labor-intensive crops and more of the farm/ranch labor in the county works year-round. Goals, policies, and implementation programs related to farmworker and farm family housing are included in Chapter 3, Housing Element.*

**Agricultural Economics**

*Goals, policies, and implementation programs related to agricultural economics are in Chapter 10, Economic Vitality Element.*

## 8.1 Agricultural Land Preservation

This section focuses on reinforcing the County's commitment to agricultural land preservation. Ventura County is a leader in effectively preserving agricultural land through land use policies, intergovernmental agreements, conservation programs, and voter initiatives. The County has taken several actions to direct growth away from agricultural and open space lands including the development of, and adherence to, the Guidelines for Orderly Development, greenbelt agreements, Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources measures, the California Land Conservation Act, and the County's Initial Study Assessment Guidelines for implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

### Guidelines for Orderly Development

Ventura County's "Guidelines for Orderly Development" (Guidelines) were originally adopted by the Board of Supervisors, all city councils within Ventura County, and the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) in 1969. The County revised and readopted the Guidelines in December 1996. The intent of the Guidelines is threefold: (1) clarify the relationship between the cities and the County with respect to urban planning; (2) facilitate a better understanding regarding development standards and fees; and (3) identify the appropriate governmental agency responsible for making determinations on land use change requests. These Guidelines represent a unique, collaborative commitment to encourage urban development within cities whenever and wherever practical; enhance the regional responsibility of County government; and facilitate orderly planning and development in Ventura County. General Plan goals, policies, and implementation programs that integrate the Guidelines are primarily contained in the Land Use and Community Character Element.

### Greenbelt Agreements

Beginning in 1967, several cities and the County began adopting greenbelt agreements. These are voluntary agreements between the County and one or more cities to limit development of agricultural and/or open space areas within the unincorporated county. Through greenbelt agreements, cities commit to not annex any property within a greenbelt while the County agrees to restrict development to uses consistent with existing agricultural or open space zoning. There are seven greenbelts in Ventura County covering approximately 164,000 acres collectively.

### California Land Conservation Act

The state adopted the California Land Conservation Act in 1965, set forth at Government Code section 51200 et seq. (LCA, also known as the Williamson Act), to provide tax incentives to encourage the protection of agricultural and open space land. In 1969, the County adopted, and has subsequently revised, its "Guidelines for Implementation of the Land Conservation Act of 1965/the Williamson Act" (LCA Guidelines). All land with an Agricultural land use designation in the General Plan is considered an Agricultural Preserve under the LCA. The

LCA is implemented through three contract types: LCA Contract, the Farmland Security Zone Area Contract (FSZA/LCA), and the Open Space Contract (OS/LCA). These contracts intend to preserve agricultural land and discourage its premature conversion to non-agricultural uses. Among other things, the LCA Guidelines establish eligibility criteria for these contracts. In exchange for the preservation of agricultural land, participating property owners receive a reduction of property taxes that are limited to the agricultural value of the property.

### Initial Study Assessment Guidelines

The County adopted the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines (ISAGs) in 1992, and comprehensively revised them in April 2011. The ISAGs are intended to inform the public, project applicants, consultants, and County staff of the threshold criteria and standard methodology used in determining whether a project could have significant effects on the environment under CEQA. Regarding impacts to agricultural soils, the ISAGs state that any project that would result in the direct and/or indirect loss of soils designated Prime, Statewide Importance, Unique, or Local Importance on the State's Important Farmland Inventory will have a significant impact. Furthermore, any project that would result in the direct or indirect loss of agricultural soils exceeding certain acreage-loss thresholds identified in the ISAGs will be considered to have a significant impact.

### Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR)

Ventura County voters first approved the countywide SOAR initiative measure in 1998. The County SOAR initiative requires countywide voter approval (i.e., approval by voters in both the unincorporated county and incorporated cities) of most changes to the General Plan involving the Agricultural, Open Space, or Rural land use designations, and most changes to a General Plan goal or policy related to those land use designations. In November 2016 by countywide vote, SOAR was renewed and extended through 2050. Goals, policies, and implementation programs from the 1988 General Plan that were referenced in the 2016 SOAR initiative are included in this General Plan, with only minor non-substantive revisions.

The policies in this section seek to continue the protection of the County's agricultural lands and capabilities.

#### AG-1

To preserve and protect agricultural lands as a nonrenewable resource to assure the continued availability of such lands to produce food, fiber, and ornamentals.

#### AG-1.1



#### Agricultural Land Protection and Preservation

The County shall continue to protect and preserve agricultural land by directing growth away from productive agricultural lands into cities, unincorporated urban areas, or existing communities and by supporting the acquisition or voluntary dedication of agriculture conservation easements. (RDR, MPSP)

#### AG-1.2

#### Agricultural Land Use Designation

The County shall ensure that discretionary development located on land designated as Agricultural on the General Plan Land Use Diagram and identified as Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance on the State's Important Farmland Inventory is planned and designed to remove as little land as possible from potential agricultural production and to minimize impacts on topsoil. (RDR, MPSP)

#### AG-1.3

#### Greenbelt Agreements

The County shall preserve agricultural land by retaining and expanding existing Greenbelt Agreements and encouraging the formation of additional Greenbelt Agreements. (MPSP, IGC)

### **AG-1.4 Land Conservation Act Contracts**

The County shall encourage Land Conservation Act (LCA) contracts on irrigated farmlands and Open Space lands. (MPSP, IGC, PI)

### **AG-1.5 Facilities and Programs to Support Local Agriculture**

The County shall encourage the continuation and development of facilities and programs that support agricultural production and enhance the marketing of county grown agricultural products.

### **AG-1.6 Support Economic Viability of Agriculture**

The County shall improve the economic viability of agriculture through policies that support agriculture as an integral business to the County.

### **AG-1.7 Encourage Purchase of Local Agricultural Products**

The County shall encourage opportunities for Ventura County residents to buy local agricultural products.

### **AG-1.8 Avoid Development on Agricultural Land**



The County shall ensure that discretionary development located on land identified as Important Farmland on the State's Important Farmland Inventory shall be conditioned to avoid direct loss of Important Farmland as much as feasibly possible. (RDR)

## **8.2 Agricultural and Urban Area Compatibility**

The County has measures in place to minimize conflicts between agricultural and urban land uses to ensure the long-term productivity of the agricultural sector, namely the Agricultural/Urban Buffer Policy and the Right-to-Farm Ordinance.

### **Agricultural/Urban Buffer Policy**

The County's Agricultural/Urban Buffer Policy provides policy direction to prevent and/or mitigate conflicts that may arise at the agricultural/urban interface. This policy is intended to protect the economic viability and long-term sustainability of the county's agricultural industry. It applies where urban structures or ongoing non-farming activities are permitted adjacent to land in crop or orchard production or classified by the California Department of Conservation Important Farmland Inventory as Prime, Statewide Importance, Unique or Local Importance farmland. These guidelines apply to projects requiring discretionary approval by the County or a city where the proposed non-farming activity is abutting or on land zoned "Agriculture Exclusive," "Open Space," or "Rural Agriculture," and the farming activity is located outside a Sphere of Influence.

### **Right-to-Farm Ordinance**

The County adopted the Right-to-Farm Ordinance in the late 1970s. It is administered by both the Planning Division through the Zoning Ordinance and by the County Agricultural Commissioner. The Right-to-Farm Ordinance is intended to support and provide a safeguard for existing agricultural and farming operations that could be threatened by encroaching residential development. This is achieved through mandatory disclosure notifications provided to property owners who will be developing residential uses adjacent or near existing agricultural operations. The disclosure informs people seeking to develop or purchase homes of the Right-to-Farm Ordinance and the potential impacts that may be generated by nearby farming operations. The Ordinance also protects farms from nuisance complaints associated with customary farming practices.

The policies in this section seek to enhance compatibility protections that will enhance the long-term viability of agricultural in Ventura County.

### AG-2

To minimize conflicts between agricultural operations and urban land uses.

#### AG-2.1

##### **Discretionary Development Adjacent to Agriculturally Designated Lands**

The County shall ensure that discretionary development adjacent to Agriculturally designated lands does not conflict with agricultural use of those lands. (RDR)

#### AG-2.2

##### **Impacts from Transportation Capital Improvements**

The County shall plan transportation and other County capital improvements so as to avoid or mitigate impacts to important farmland to the extent feasible. (SO)

#### AG-2.3

##### **Right-to-Farm Ordinance**

The County's Right-to-Farm Ordinance shall be maintained and updated as needed to protect agricultural land uses from conflicts with non-agricultural uses, as well as to help land purchasers and residents understand the potential for nuisance, (e.g., dust, noise, odors) that may occur as the natural result of living in or near agricultural areas. (RDR)

#### AG-2.4

##### **Hillside Erosion Control Ordinance**

The County shall regulate hillside agricultural grading through the Hillside Erosion Control Ordinance and its oversight by the Public Works Agency. (RDR)

## 8.3 Innovative Specialty Agriculture

Ventura County's agricultural sector is a leading economic driver. The County has an opportunity to continue to support innovation and vitality in this sector through increased production of specialty agriculture, and utilization of Integrated Pest Management Strategies.

Ventura County's Mediterranean-type climate allows for tremendous diversity of production with over 60 different crops that each generate over \$1 million in gross receipts annually. The mild climate allows for significant crop production year-round allowing farmers to grow three and four crops annually in the same field. With that diversity, county farmers primarily grow "specialty crops," defined as "fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture" by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Organic farming is a specialty agricultural sector regulated by the USDA and the Agricultural Commissioner. According to the USDA, organic operations must demonstrate that they are protecting natural resources, conserving biodiversity, and using only approved substances. In addition to increasing economic competitiveness, organic farming practices can result in fewer environmental impacts and help to maintain soil health. Organic farming emphasizes sustainable practices, including mixed-cropping patterns and crop rotation, which reduces water usage and maintains the soil structure.

Integrated Pest Management is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant crop varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed



according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and nontarget organisms, and the environment.

While Ventura County has a successful agricultural economic sector, the County's agricultural lands can also be used to grow specialty agricultural crops, especially those aimed at the growing popularity of locally grown crops and animal products.

### AG-3

To promote the expansion of agricultural activities to include new and innovative specialty agricultural practices and products.

#### AG-3.1

##### **Locally-Owned Farms and Specialty Products**

The County should encourage locally owned (Ventura County) farms and ranches, the growing of specialty products and innovative and high-value crops, and specialized animal facilities and rearing methods. (RDR, JP)

#### AG-3.2



##### **Integrated Pest Management Practices**

The County shall encourage and support the use of Integrated Pest Management practices to reduce pesticide use and human health risks. (JP, PI)

#### AG-3.3



##### **Public Education for Agricultural Products and Integrated Pest Management**

The County shall collaborate with the agricultural community to provide information on Integrated Pest Management and agricultural products and practices in Ventura County. (JP, PI)

## 8.4 Food Security

A policy framework that supports agriculture is not only beneficial to economic development but is also central to the social well-being of county residents. Food security is based on the notion that everyone has adequate and consistent access to safe and healthy foods, which is a key component to a healthy lifestyle. Lack of access to adequate food sources creates food insecurity, which has numerous social, economic, and health implications. Ventura County's prime agricultural location and robust agricultural economy have created an environment where food insecurity is on the decline compared to statewide and nationwide trends. The increase in food security for all residents is attributed to the prioritization of County programs that focus on awareness of healthy food options and access to food, as well as programs that protect food sources from invasive pests and species that have the potential to disrupt the ability to supply locally produced food. A secure food future ensures that Ventura County communities can continue to flourish, and all residents have access to healthy food options.

The policies in this section seek to protect access to local agricultural products and protection of agricultural resources.

### AG-4

To ensure equitable access to fresh, locally grown, and healthy agricultural products for residents throughout the county.

#### AG-4.1



##### Connections to Local Produce

The County shall strive to enhance access to and consumption of fresh, local produce by encouraging direct connections between local farmers/ranchers and markets, restaurants, institutions, schools, hospitals, food banks, and other businesses. (JP)

#### AG-4.2

##### Growing Food on Public Land

The County shall work with other agencies and institutions to encourage the use of available public land to allow for community gardens, including on college campuses, schools, parks, and public easements, subject to applicable regulations intended to control and manage for unintended pest and disease impacts to commercial agriculture and suitable plans for ongoing operations and maintenance. (IGC)

#### AG-4.3



##### Technological Innovation

The County shall encourage the use of technology that supports agricultural production, while enhancing environmental sustainability and natural resource conservation. (JP)

#### AG-4.4



##### Pest Management

The County shall continue to monitor leading research findings on methods and technologies for reducing harm to the agricultural sector from invasive plants, pests, and diseases and modify and expand agricultural practices when appropriate and feasible. (SO)

#### AG-4.5



##### Certified Farmers' Markets and Community Supported Agriculture

The County shall support certified farmers' markets, community supported agriculture (CSAs) operations, and other similar activities, by working with local communities, local agricultural groups, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Certified Farmers Market Program, particularly in communities that are underserved by healthy food purveyors. (IGC)

## 8.5 Sustainable Farming and Ranching

Sustainable farming and ranching practices ensure that the viability of the land for future agricultural use can continue into the future. The use of fertilizer in Ventura County accounted for approximately 60 percent of countywide agricultural greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2015. Fertilizers commonly used in commercial agriculture decompose over time in soil to produce nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) gasses, which are harmful GHGs. The addition of these GHGs contribute to the overall pollution emissions in the County.

Truly sustainable farming and ranching also requires agricultural practices and operations that are less dependent on fossil fuels, an energy source that is typically used to run most agricultural related equipment. In 2015, gasoline- and diesel-powered off-road agricultural equipment other than irrigation pumps accounted for 27 percent of countywide agricultural GHG emissions. For existing diesel equipment, renewable diesel is a cost-effective alternative fuel option. This reduces the need for equipment modifications or replacements. Although the supply of renewable diesel is currently far exceeded by that of conventional diesel, the state is already making efforts to increase the supply of renewable diesel in the short- and long-term through the Low Emission Diesel regulation and the Low Carbon Fuels Standard.

The policies in this section seek to enhance the sustainability of agriculture in the county by transitioning away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

### AG-5

To encourage sustainable and regenerative farming and ranching practices that promote resource conservation and reduce greenhouse gases.

#### AG-5.1



##### **Inorganic Nitrogen Based Fertilizers**

The County shall encourage farmers to reduce fertilizer application and transition to products that reduce or avoid nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions, such as organic composting and enhanced efficiency fertilizers. (MPSP)

#### AG-5.2



##### **Electric- or Renewable-Powered Agricultural Equipment**

The County shall encourage and support the transition to electric- or renewable-powered or lower emission agricultural equipment in place of fossil fuel-powered equipment, when feasible. (PI, JP)

#### AG-5.3



##### **Electric- or Renewable- Powered Irrigation Pumps**

The County shall encourage farmers to convert fossil fuel-powered irrigation pumps to systems powered by electric or renewable energy sources, such as solar-power, and encourage electric utilities to eliminate or reduce stand-by charges. (SO)

#### AG-5.4



##### **Alternative Irrigation Techniques**

The County shall encourage farmers to continue and enhance the water-saving irrigation techniques designed to reduce water consumption. (RDR, JP)

#### AG-5.5



##### **Carbon Farming Practices**

The County shall encourage and support the efforts of resource conservation districts, farmers, and other stakeholders to expand carbon farming practices, such as reduced tilling, cover-cropping, composting, biochar, and other activities that both reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increase carbon sequestration and storage, when feasible. (JP)

### 8.6 Agricultural Resilience

A resilient agricultural sector is key to the longevity of agricultural production in Ventura County. Recent shifts in weather patterns and surface temperatures because of climate change have created vulnerabilities that can affect the success of agricultural production. An agricultural sector that is resilient and adapts to anticipated climatic changes has a greater potential to continue to remain a primary economic driver for the County. The policies in this section seek to enhance the resilience of agriculture in Ventura County to changes in the environment.

#### AG-6

To increase the resilience of the agricultural sector.

##### AG-6.1



##### Monitor Climate Change Research

The County shall support and monitor research on the effects of a changing climate on the agricultural industry within Ventura County. (PSR)

##### AG-6.2



##### Crop Resiliency

The County shall engage the agricultural sector to understand the tolerance of current crop mixes to withstand the impacts of climate change, including increased temperatures, disease, and pests, and explore options to diversify crops. (JP)



*Additional goals and policies related to agricultural resiliency are included in:*





- Chapter 6, Conservation and Open Space Element,
- Chapter 7, Hazard and Safety Element, and
- Chapter 9, Water Resources Element.

## 8.7 Implementation Programs




Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>A Right-to-Farm Ordinance</b> The County shall periodically review and update the Right-to-Farm Ordinance when necessary to raise public awareness (including within the local real estate industry) of the Right-to-Farm provisions.	AG-2.3	AGC RMA					■
<b>B Regionally-Grown Products Sales Incentives</b> The County shall develop a program that encourages sales and distribution of regionally-grown (in Ventura County or neighboring counties of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, or Kern) produce to local retailers, restaurants, and markets, and encourage chain stores to develop local distribution centers. The program will encourage residents to select locally grown food products for freshness, local economic development benefits, and reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.	AG-3.1 AG-4.1 AG-4.2 AG-4.5	AGC CEO	■				■
<b>C County Procurement</b> The County shall develop a program to identify opportunities to continue to provide organic and locally grown foods into cafeteria services, the jail, Ventura County Medical Center, and other County-sponsored services and events that provide food service, to the extent feasible.	AG-3.1 AG-4.1	AGC GSA	■				■



## 8. Agriculture

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>D Agricultural Tourism Development Standards</b> The County shall revise the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance to include regulations and development standards for agricultural tourism while protecting both the grower and the public. Ordinance revisions may also include additional development standards for agricultural promotional uses, if necessary. 	AG-3.1 AG-4.1 AG-4.2 AG-4.5	RMA <hr/> AGC	■				
<b>E Specialty Farming Education</b> The County shall continue to collaborate with and support the UC Cooperative Extension Office on education programs that inform and assist local farmers, ranchers, and agricultural managers in diversifying and establishing expertise in specialty agricultural products. 	AG-3.3	AGC <hr/> n/a					■
<b>F Enhanced Access to Locally Grown Products</b> The County shall conduct a study to identify barriers to local farm stands and take action to remove these barriers which may include an update to the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance, as necessary. 	AG-4.1 AG-4.2 AG-4.5	CEO <hr/> RMA	■				
<b>G Farm-to-Front Door</b> The County shall study the feasibility of encouraging “Farm-to-Front Door” business model and its potential benefits to businesses and residents in Ventura County. 	AG-4.1 AG-4.2 AG-4.5	RMA <hr/> AGC	■				



Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>H Nutrient Management Plans</b> The County shall continue to collaborate with the UC Cooperative Extension Office and UC Agriculture and Natural Resources to implement Nutrient Management Plans for commonly grown local crops featuring best management practices for nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O) emission reductions. 	AG-5.1	AGC <hr/> HCA					■
<b>I Fossil Fuel-Powered Equipment Replacement</b> The County shall coordinate with the Air Pollution Control District and electric utilities to develop a program to establish a countywide fossil fuel-powered equipment conversion target, track progress on conversions to renewable energy sourced electric powered systems and provide technical assistance to users considering replacement of pumps. 	AG-5.2 AG-5.3	AGC <hr/> CEO PWA	■				■
<b>J Alternative Fuel Funding for Agricultural Operations</b> The County shall coordinate with the Air Pollution Control District to develop a program to identify funding sources or develop financial or regulatory incentives to encourage the switch to electric or alternatively fueled agricultural equipment, when feasible. 	AG-5.2 AG-5.3	AGC <hr/> CEO	■				■

## 8. Agriculture

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>K Water-Saving Irrigation Techniques Program</b> The County shall continue to collaborate with and support the UC Cooperative Extension Office on educational programs on irrigation techniques to maximize water use efficiency, when feasible. CAP	AG-5.4	AGC <hr/> PWA					■
<b>L Encourage and Facilitate Carbon Farming</b> The County shall collaborate with University of California Cooperative Extension to encourage and facilitate carbon farming projects, including development of demonstration projects and site-specific carbon farm plans, to guide implementation of carbon farming practices throughout the county, when feasible. CAP	AG-5.1 AG-5.5 AG-6.2	AGC <hr/> RMA	■				■
<b>M Research on Effects of Climate Change</b> The County shall research the potential effects of climate change on the county's existing agricultural industry as well as the resulting challenges and opportunities associated with these changes. Research partners may include the California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN), University of California Cooperative Extension, Ventura County Farm Bureau, and the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. The research shall address, but may not be limited to, loss of chill hours, increased populations of or new species of pests, higher rates of evapotranspiration, and opportunities created by warmer climate to grow crops that were previously unsuitable based on historic climate conditions. CAP	AG-6.1 AG-6.2	AGC <hr/> RMA	■				■

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>N Subsidies for Resilient Crop Production</b> The County should encourage programs and obtain grants to seek funding to subsidize efforts to breed crops that are resilient to high heat, shade crops and installation of light reflectors, and reduce rates of tilling to promote soil health and combat increased temperatures as recommended by federal, state, and local agencies.	AG-6.2	AGC CEO	■				■
CAP							
<b>O Establish an Agricultural Conservation Easement</b> Discretionary projects that would result in direct or indirect loss of Important Farmland in exceedance of the acreage loss thresholds listed in the table below shall ensure the permanent protection of offsite farmland of equal quality at a 1:1 ratio (acres preserved: acres converted) through the establishment of an offsite agricultural conservation easement. "Offsite" means an area that is outside of the project's permit boundaries if applicable, would not be disturbed by the project with respect to agricultural soils or production, and that otherwise complies with the below-stated requirements. Discretionary projects to develop and provide housing for use by farmworkers and their families are not subject to this agricultural conservation easement requirement.	AG-1.1, AG-1.8	RMA AGC					■

## 8. Agriculture

General Plan Land Use Designation	Important Farmland Inventory Classification	Acres Lost	
Agricultural	Prime/Statewide	5	
	Unique	10	
	Local	15	
Open Space/ Rural	Prime/Statewide	10	
	Unique	15	
	Local	20	
All Land Use Designations	Prime/Statewide	20	
	Unique	30	
	Local	40	

If the Planning Division, in consultation with the Agricultural Commissioner, determines that a discretionary project would result in direct or indirect loss of Important Farmland in exceedance of the acreage loss thresholds listed in the table above, the project applicant shall prepare and submit a report for the review and approval of the Planning Division in consultation with the Agricultural Commissioner which identifies a minimum of one proposed potential mitigation site suitable for ensuring the permanent protection of offsite farmland of equal quality at a 1:1 ratio (acres preserved: acres converted) through the establishment of one or more offsite agricultural conservation easements. The preservation of more than one site agricultural conservation easement may be considered in order to meet the required number of acres. The applicant shall also deposit funds with the County to contract with a qualified third-party agricultural economic consultant to review and advise the Planning Division and Agricultural Commissioner regarding the establishment and implementation of the agricultural conservation easement(s). The contents of the report shall be determined, reviewed, and approved by the Planning Division in consultation with

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<p>the Agricultural Commissioner (hereafter referred to as the “reviewing agencies”), and shall include information necessary for the reviewing agencies and a qualified entity responsible for holding the conservation easement (e.g., a land trust organization) to determine the viability of the proposed mitigation site(s) for the establishment of a permanent agricultural conservation easement.</p> <p>Among the factors necessary for approval by the reviewing agencies, the proposed mitigation site(s) shall be located in the County of Ventura unincorporated area, must not already have permanent protection, must be equivalent to or greater than the type of Important Farmland (e.g., Unique farmland) that would be converted by the project, and must be of sufficient size to be viable for long term farming use as determined by the County. Among other terms that may be required by the reviewing agencies in consultation with a qualified entity, the terms of an agricultural conservation easement shall include a requirement that it run with the land. There must also be a provision for annual monitoring by the qualified entity or its representative to ensure adherence to the terms of the conservation easement. Project applicants are responsible for all costs incurred by the County and the qualified entity to successfully implement this mitigation measure. Proof of the successful establishment of an agricultural conservation easement shall be provided to the Planning Division prior to issuance of a zoning clearance for inauguration of the project.</p>							









*Please see the next page.*

## 9. Water Resources Element

The purpose of this element is to provide a policy framework to preserve and enhance water availability and quality. It is a County priority for water resources to be effectively managed to provide for the long-term viability and availability of this precious resource. The goals of the Water Resources Element recognize that the County has an important role to play in water management. The County's land use decisions, and resulting water demand and wastewater generation, affect the quality and availability of water in the county. Details on water resources in Ventura County are provided in the Background Report prepared for the 2040 General Plan and summarized here.

The framework for water management is complex and is comprised of federal and state laws, as well as local ordinances. There are laws governing water rights, protection of water quality, protection of beneficial uses of water, laws to ensure adequate provision of water for new development, and regulations that regulate the manner of development to minimize negative impacts to water quality and quantity.

Ventura County has a wide range of water resources, including imported water, surface water, groundwater, and recycled water. Within the unincorporated area, the predominant water supply is groundwater. The heavy reliance on groundwater, which increases during drought, has led to falling groundwater levels in some groundwater basins, putting some areas at risk of subsidence, and exacerbating seawater intrusion into groundwater basins in the coastal area.

Ventura County has a wide range of water purveyors. Most urban areas receive water through larger special districts, city utilities, private companies regulated by the state Public Utilities Commission, and mutual water companies. There are a total of 162 individual water suppliers and irrigation districts in the county, not including individual users on private well systems. This means the unincorporated area depends on an extensive array of water suppliers and systems that are not necessarily coordinated with one another.

Climate change adds complexity to water resources planning by affecting water supplies and water demands. Climate change increases the frequency and intensity of precipitation and is associated with extreme weather including devastating wildfires and extended severe drought. As reported by the California Environmental Protection Agency in Indicators of Climate Change in California (EPA, 2018), "From record temperatures to proliferating wildfires and rising seas, climate change poses an immediate and escalating threat to California's environment, public health, and economic vitality."


Goals, policies, and implementation programs in this element are organized under the following headings:

Section	Title	Page
9.1	Water Supply .....	9-2
9.2	Water Quality .....	9-4
9.3	Water Conservation and Reuse.....	9-5
9.4	Groundwater .....	9-6
9.5	Watershed Management .....	9-8
9.6	Water for Agriculture .....	9-9
9.7	Water for the Environment.....	9-10
9.8	Implementation Programs.....	9-11

9.1 Water Supply

An adequate and dependable water supply is essential for residents, businesses, agriculture, and environmental resources in Ventura County. Ensuring an adequate water supply is an ongoing concern in Ventura County, particularly because of climate change and drought, the related declines in river flows and reservoir levels, historic overdraft of several local groundwater basins, new groundwater well prohibitions, and seasonal and annual differences in the amount of imported water available. The policies in this section seek to improve and protect the county’s long-term water supply. An overview of water supply characteristics in Ventura County is described in Section 10.4, “Existing Conditions,” of the Background Report.

WR-1	To effectively manage water supply by adequately planning for the development, conservation, and protection of water resources for present and future generations.
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**WR-1.1 Sustainable Water Supply**  
 The County should encourage water suppliers, groundwater management agencies, and groundwater sustainability agencies to inventory and monitor the quantity and quality of the county’s water resources, and to identify and implement measures to ensure a sustainable water supply to serve all existing and future residents, businesses, agriculture, government, and the environment. (IGC, SO)

**WR-1.2 Watershed Planning**  
The County shall consider the location of a discretionary project within a watershed to determine whether or not it could negatively impact a water source. As part of discretionary project review, the County shall also consider local watershed management plans when considering land use development. (MPSP, RDR)

**WR-1.3 Portfolio of Water Sources**  
The County shall support the use of, conveyance of, and seek to secure water from varied sources that contribute to a diverse water supply portfolio. The water supply portfolio may include, but is not limited to, imported water, surface water, groundwater, treated brackish groundwater, desalinated seawater, recycled water, and stormwater where economically feasible and protective of the environmental and public health. (IGC)

## 9. Water Resources

### WR-1.4 State Water Sources

The County shall continue to support the conveyance of, and seek to secure water from, state sources. (IGC)

### WR-1.5 Agency Collaboration

The County shall participate in regional committees to coordinate planning efforts for water and land use that is consistent with the Urban Water Management Planning Act, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the local Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, and the Countywide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (stormwater and runoff management and reuse). (IGC)

### WR-1.6 Water Supplier Cooperation

The County shall encourage the continued cooperation among water suppliers in the county, through entities such as the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County and the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, to ensure immediate and long-term water needs are met efficiently. (IGC)

### WR-1.7 Water Supply Inter-Ties

The County shall encourage the continued cooperation among water suppliers in the county, through entities such as Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County and the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, to establish and maintain emergency inter-tie projects among water suppliers. (IGC)

### WR-1.8 Water Supplier Consolidation



The County shall encourage the consolidation of water suppliers where necessary to ensure all residents are receiving water of adequate quality and quantity, to promote management efficiencies, and to encourage sharing of local resources and enhancement of managerial and technical expertise and capacity. (IGC)

### WR-1.9 Groundwater Basin Use for Water Storage

Where technically feasible, the County shall support the use of groundwater basins for water storage. (IGC)

### WR-1.10 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

The County shall continue to support and participate with the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County in implementing and regularly updating the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. (IGC)

### WR-1.11 Adequate Water for Discretionary Development



The County shall require all discretionary development to demonstrate an adequate long-term supply of water. (RDR)

### WR-1.12 Water Quality Protection for Discretionary Development



The County shall evaluate the potential for discretionary development to cause deposition and discharge of sediment, debris, waste and other pollutants into surface runoff, drainage systems, surface water bodies, and groundwater. The County shall require discretionary development to minimize potential deposition and discharge through point source controls, storm water treatment, runoff reduction measures, best management practices, and low impact development. (RDR)

### WR-1.13

#### **Water Pumping**

The County shall require that all County-owned water pumps use 100 percent renewable-sourced electricity for water pumping, when feasible, and shall encourage private entities to use 100 percent renewable-sourced electricity when feasible.

### WR-1.14

#### **Discretionary Development and Conditions of Approval – Golf Course Irrigation**

The County shall require that discretionary development for new golf courses shall be subject to conditions of approval that prohibit landscape irrigation with water from groundwater basins or inland surface waters identified as Municipal and Domestic Supply or Agricultural Supply in the California Regional Water Quality Control Board's Water Quality Control Plan unless:

1. The existing and planned water supplies for a Hydrologic Area, including interrelated Hydrologic Areas and Subareas, are shown to be adequate to meet the projected demands for existing uses as well as reasonably foreseeable probable future uses within the area; and
2. It is demonstrated that the total groundwater extraction/recharge for the golf course will be equal to or less than the historic groundwater extraction/recharge for the site as defined in the County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines.

Further, where feasible, reclaimed water shall be utilized for new golf courses. (RDR)

## 9.2 Water Quality

Water quality is affected by geology, climate, and human-caused factors, such as wastewater effluent, runoff from roads and urbanized areas, agricultural practices, and atmospheric contaminants. Poor water quality limits the beneficial use of a water source for drinking water supply, irrigation, industrial water supply, recreation, and support of habitat and the natural environment. An overview of water quality characteristics in Ventura County is described in Section 10.4, "Existing Conditions," of the Background Report.

### WR-2

To implement practices and designs that improve and protect water resources.

### WR-2.1

#### **Identify and Eliminate of Sources of Water Pollution**

The County shall cooperate with Federal, State and local agencies in identifying and eliminating or minimizing all sources of existing and potential point and non-point sources of pollution to ground and surface waters, including leaking fuel tanks, discharges from storm drains, dump sites, sanitary waste systems, parking lots, roadways, and mining operations. (IGC)

### WR-2.2





#### **Water Quality Protection for Discretionary Development**

The County shall evaluate the potential for discretionary development to cause deposition and discharge of sediment, debris, waste, and other contaminants into surface runoff, drainage systems, surface water bodies, and groundwater. In addition, the County shall evaluate the potential for discretionary development to limit or otherwise impair later reuse or reclamation of wastewater or stormwater. The County shall require discretionary development to minimize potential deposition and discharge through point source controls, storm water treatment, runoff reduction measures, best management practices, and low impact development. (RDR)

- WR-2.3**      **Discretionary Development Subject to CEQA Statement of Overriding Considerations – Water Quality and Quantity**  
 The County shall require that discretionary development not significantly impact the quality or quantity of water resources within watersheds, groundwater recharge areas or groundwater basins. (RDR)
- WR-2.4**      **Out-of-River Mining**  
 The County shall require discretionary development for out-of-river mining below the historic or predicted high groundwater level in the Del Norte/El Rio (Oxnard Forebay Basin) to demonstrate that exaction activities will not interfere with or affect water quality and quantity pursuant to the County’s Initial Study Assessment Guidelines. (RDR)

### 9.3 Water Conservation and Reuse

Existing water supply is extended by water conservation and re-use. Because it is costly and difficult to develop new water supplies, water conservation is an essential method for ensuring quality water resources while reducing net demand. Water use efficiency benefits the environment, economy, and overall community. Water can be conserved through reduction programs (e.g. drought tolerant landscaping) and supplies augmented through the re-use of agricultural wastewater, rainwater capture, and domestic graywater. Through a series of wastewater treatments and filtration techniques, recycled water can be safely used for agricultural and domestic purposes. This section focuses on conserving water resources through increased efficiency and reuse.

<b>WR-3</b>	To promote efficient use of water resources through water conservation, protection, and restoration.
<b>WR-3.1</b> 	<b>Non-Potable Water Use</b> The County shall encourage the use of non-potable water, such as tertiary treated wastewater and household graywater, for industrial, agricultural, environmental, and landscaping needs consistent with appropriate regulations. (RDR)
<b>WR-3.2</b> 	<b>Water Use Efficiency for Discretionary Development</b> The County shall require the use of water conservation techniques for discretionary development, as appropriate. Such techniques include low-flow plumbing fixtures in new construction that meet or exceed the California Plumbing Code, use of graywater or reclaimed water for landscaping, retention of stormwater runoff for direct use and/or groundwater recharge, and landscape water efficiency standards that meet or exceed the standards in the California Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance. (IGC, RDR)
<b>WR-3.3</b> 	<b>Low-Impact Development</b> The County shall require discretionary development to incorporate low impact development design features and best management practices, including integration of stormwater capture facilities, consistent with County’s Stormwater Permit. (RDR)
<b>WR-3.4</b> 	<b>Reduce Potable Water Use</b> The County shall strive for efficient use of potable water in County buildings and facilities through conservation measures, and technological advancements. (SO)



# 9.4 Groundwater


Groundwater is estimated to provide 67 percent of the local water supply. Sustaining this water source is both a local and statewide priority. In 2014, the state enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to provide a framework for sustainable management of groundwater supplies at the local level by local agencies, with the potential for state intervention if necessary. The aim of the legislation is to ensure the management of groundwater basins within their sustainable yield. SGMA empowers local agencies to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to manage basins sustainably and requires those GSAs to adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for crucial groundwater basins. As defined by SGMA, several groundwater basins in the county are in critical overdraft condition (and some are experiencing seawater intrusion), which occurs when the “continuation of present water management practices would probably result in significant adverse overdraft-related environmental, social, or economic impacts.”

In 2018, the California Department of Water Resources identified the following groundwater basins in Ventura County as being in “critical overdraft”: Cuyama Valley, Oxnard Plain, and Pleasant Valley. (It is important to note that while the Cuyama Valley basin as a whole is considered to be in overdraft, the United States Geological Survey estimates the portion in Ventura County *not* to be in overdraft.) In addition to the critically overdraft basins, seven are designated as “high-priority”: Oxnard Plain, Pleasant Valley, Las Posas, Mound, Fillmore, Piru, and Cuyama Valley; and four basins are designated as “medium-priority”: Ojai Valley, Upper Ventura River, and Lower Ventura River. Consistent with SGMA, this section focuses on groundwater recharge.

An overview of groundwater characteristics in Ventura County is described in Section 10.4, “Existing Conditions,” of the Background Report.

WR-4	To maintain and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity and quantity of groundwater resources.
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- WR-4.1

 **Groundwater Management**

The County shall work with water suppliers, water users, groundwater management agencies, and groundwater sustainability agencies to implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and manage groundwater resources within the sustainable yield of each basin to ensure that county residents, businesses, agriculture, government, and the environment have reliable, high-quality groundwater to serve existing and planned land uses during prolonged drought years. (IGC, RDR, SO)
- WR-4.2

**Important Groundwater Recharge Area Protection**

In areas identified as important recharge areas by the County or the applicable Groundwater Sustainability Agency, the County shall condition discretionary development to limit impervious surfaces where feasible and shall require mitigation in cases where there is the potential for discharge of harmful pollutants within important groundwater recharge areas. (IGC, RDR)

## 9. Water Resources

### WR-4.3 **Groundwater Recharge Projects**



The County shall support groundwater recharge and multi-benefit projects consistent with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan to ensure the long-term sustainability of groundwater. (IGC, RDR, SO)

### WR-4.4 **In-Stream and Recycled Water Use for Groundwater Recharge**



The County shall encourage the use of in-stream water flow and recycled water for groundwater recharge while balancing the needs of urban and agricultural uses, and healthy ecosystems, including in-stream waterflows needed for endangered species protection. (RDR)

### WR-4.5 **Discretionary Development Subject to CEQA Statement of Overriding Considerations – Water Quantity and Quality**

The County shall require that discretionary development shall not significantly impact the quantity or quality of water resources within watersheds, groundwater recharge areas or groundwater basins. (RDR)

### WR-4.6 **Out-of-River Mining and Groundwater**

The County shall require discretionary development for out-of-river mining below the historic or predicted high groundwater level in the Del Norte/El Rio (Oxnard Forebay Basin) to demonstrate that extraction activities will not interfere with or affect groundwater quality and quantity pursuant to the County's Initial Study Assessment Guidelines. (RDR)

### WR-4.7 **Discretionary Development and Conditions of Approval – Oil, Gas, and Water Wells**

The County shall require that discretionary development be subject to conditions of approval requiring proper drilling and construction of new oil, gas, and water wells and removal and plugging of all abandoned wells on-site. (RDR)

### WR-4.8 **New Water Wells**

The County shall require all new water wells located within Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) boundaries to be compliant with GSAs and adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). (RDR)

### WR-4.9 **New Water Wells in the Oxnard Plain Pressure Basin**

The County shall prohibit new water wells in the Oxnard Plain Pressure Basin if they would increase seawater intrusion in the Oxnard or Mugu aquifers. (RDR)

# 9.5 Watershed Management

In the past, different resources in the water system were managed separately from each other. For example, groundwater was managed as a separate resource from stormwater and recycled water. The County continues to move toward managing and regulating water resources through a watershed-based approach. This approach integrates many facets of water resources management on a regional level, including water supply, water quality, flood management, sediment management, ecosystem health, and recreation through enhanced collaboration across geographic and political boundaries and diverse stakeholder groups.

Watershed management and integrated regional water management are critical elements to ensuring sustainable water resources in the county. While there are only two policies in this section, the County intends to consider many of the policies throughout this element in a watershed context.

WR-5	To protect and, where feasible, enhance watersheds and aquifer recharge areas through integration of multiple facets of watershed-based approaches.
WR-5.1	<p><b>Integrated Watershed Management</b></p> <p>The County shall shall work with water suppliers, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), wastewater utilities, and stormwater management entities to manage and enhance the shift toward integrated management of surface and groundwater, stormwater treatment and use, recycled water and conservation, and desalination. (IGC, SO)</p>
WR-5.2	<p><b>Watershed Management Funding</b></p> <p>The County shall continue to seek funding and support coordination of watershed planning and watershed-level project implementation to protect and enhance local watersheds. (FB)</p>

### 9.6 Water for Agriculture

Agriculture, water availability, economic vitality, and natural resource conservation are inextricably linked in enhancing the quality of life in Ventura County. According to the Ventura County 2013 Water Supply and Demand Report, agricultural water use accounts for nearly 60 percent of total water demand in the county. Water is essential to agricultural production, and its availability and supply source vary by location.

In addition to the need for a sustainable water supply for agricultural uses, the County must also ensure that agriculture does not negatively impact water quality. Tillage and irrigation are likely to alter the runoff and infiltration characteristics of the land, affecting groundwater recharge, and increasing erosion that can result in sediment deposit into surface-water bodies. This in turn could affect the interaction of groundwater and surface water. The policies in this section address the County's role in balancing adequate water quality and a sufficient supply for agricultural uses in the county. An overview of water availability for agriculture in Ventura County is described in Section 10.4, "Existing Conditions," of the Background Report

#### WR-6

To sustain the agricultural sector by ensuring an adequate water supply through water efficiency and conservation.

##### WR-6.1



##### Water for Agricultural Uses

The County should support the appropriate agencies in their efforts to effectively manage and enhance water quantity and quality to ensure long-term, adequate availability of high quality and economically viable water for agricultural uses, consistent with water use efficiency programs. (IGC)

##### WR-6.2



##### Agricultural Water Efficiency

The County should support programs designed to increase agricultural water use efficiency and secure long-term water supplies for agriculture. (PI)

##### WR-6.3



##### Reclaimed Water Use

The County should encourage the use of reclaimed irrigation water and treated urban wastewater for agricultural irrigation in accordance with federal and state requirements in order to conserve untreated groundwater and potable water supplies. (IGC, RDR, SO)

# 9.7 Water for the Environment

Environmental quality and natural resource conservation are inextricably linked with the quality of life in Ventura County. A variety of upland, riparian, wetland, and coastal vegetation types exist in the county that are home to both common and sensitive species. To preserve, maintain, and improve the environment, water must be allocated and managed with the intent to improve the health of forests, upland areas, rivers, wetlands, and floodplains. The policies in this section address the County’s role in assuring adequate water supply for the environment. A summary of environmental characteristics of water in Ventura County is described in Section 10.4, “existing Conditions,” of the Background Report.




WR-7	To consider the water needs of the natural environment with other water uses in the county.
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- WR-7.1





**Water for the Environment**

The County shall encourage the appropriate agencies to effectively manage water quantity and quality to address long-term adequate availability of water for environmental purposes, including maintenance of existing groundwater-dependent habitats and in-stream flows needed for riparian habitats and species protection. (IGC)

## 9.8 Implementation Programs

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>A Monitor Water Supply and Water Demand</b> The County shall prepare Reports on the Water Supply and Demand outlook for the unincorporated portions of the county every five years. 	WR-1.1 WR-1.2 WR-1.3 WR-1.4 WR-1.5 WR-1.6 WR-1.7 WR-1.10 WR-4.1	PWA n/a	■				■
<b>B Water Supply and Use Factors Database</b> The County shall continue to coordinate with water districts and other appropriate agencies to establish a database on actual available supply, projected use factors for types of land use and development, and threshold limits for development within available water resources. 	WR-1.1 WR-1.2 WR-1.3 WR-1.4 WR-1.5 WR-1.6 WR-1.7 WR-1.10 WR-5.1	RMA PWA n/a					■
<b>C Regional Collaboration on Water Issues and Sustainability</b> The County shall continue to provide data and staff resources to support collaboration on climate change and sustainability, and for planning and implementing projects that address local and regional water issues. 	WR-1.1 WR-1.3 WR-1.4 WR-1.5 WR-1.6 WR-1.7 WR-1.10 WR-1.11 WR-4.1 WR-4.2 WR-4.3 WR-5.1 WR-5.2	WPD PWA RMA CEO					■
<b>D Invasive Weed Abatement District for Ventura County Watersheds</b> The County shall provide staff resources to explore the feasibility of establishing a weed abatement district to help control invasive plant species found within Ventura County's watersheds.	WR-1.2 WR-1.5 WR-1.9 WR-4.3 WR-4.4	CEO PWA					■



Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>E Well Guidelines Update</b> The County shall coordinate with the local groundwater management agencies and local groundwater sustainability agencies to update County of Ventura Ordinance 4468 and related guidelines on the location, construction, and abandonment of water wells, if necessary. 	WR-1.5 WR-1.12 WR-4.1 WR-4.3	PWA <hr/> n/a					
<b>F Discretionary Development Review for Adequate Water and Wastewater</b> The County shall verify that all discretionary development proposals demonstrate an adequate long-term supply of water, adequate methods for sewage disposal, provide adequate drainage to avoid flooding, prevent erosion, and prevent contamination of local water. 	WR-1.12 WR-3.3 WR-3.4 WR-3.2	RMA <hr/> PWA					
<b>G Water Conservation</b> The County shall continue to implement ongoing programs to educate County residents on incentives for water conservation features, including drought-tolerant landscaping, removal of turf, graywater, and water-saving plumbing technologies. 	WR-3.1 WR-3.2 WR-3.3	RMA <hr/> PWA					
<b>H County Water Efficiency</b> The County shall review water usage at County-owned facilities and from County operations and develop recommendations for water saving practices and facility improvements, including turf removal to conserve water. 	WR-3.4	GSA <hr/> HCA AIR HD					

## 9. Water Resources

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>I Demonstrate Adequate Water Supply during Normal, Single-Dry, and Multiple-Dry Years</b> Water-demand projects (as defined in Section 15155 of the State CEQA Guidelines) that require service from a public water system shall prepare a water supply assessment prior to project approval. If the projected water demand associated with the project was not accounted for in the most recently adopted urban water management plan, or the public water system has no urban water management plan, the water supply assessment must address the public water system's total projected water supplies available during normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry water years for a 20-year projection. The assessment shall describe if the new water service will be sufficiently met under this 20-year projection. The water supply assessment shall be prepared to the satisfaction of and approved by the governing body of the affected public water system and the County. A water-demand project that includes a new water service from a public water system shall not be approved unless adequate water supplies are demonstrated.	WR-1.1	RMA					
	WR-1.2						
	WR-1.3	n/a					
	WR-1.4						
	WR-1.5						
	WR-1.6						
	WR-1.7						
	WR-1.10						
	WR-4.1						

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10



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# 10

## 10. Economic Vitality Element

Economic vitality in Ventura County incorporates both economic advancement and quality of life, addressing both local and regional market demand, and planning for a future that reflects the needs and vision of Ventura County while enhancing social equity and economic opportunity. This includes channeling economic activity in such a way that it meets market needs while focusing urbanized development into the cities and preserving the open space and agricultural resources of the unincorporated area.

Ventura County's economy is diverse, offering specific strengths in agriculture, manufacturing, health care, retail trade, hospitality, and public administration. These industries are where Ventura County has large concentrations of employment. However, economic growth and the distribution of economic benefits have not kept pace with other areas in the Southern California region or state. County economic activity totaled over \$51.4 billion in 2017, which represents a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 1.3 percent since 2007. This is considerably slower than the state economy, which had a CAGR of 2.1 percent during this period. In part, this is because some of Ventura County's larger economic sectors, such as financial services and construction, were particularly hard hit in the most recent recession (2007 – 2009). In addition, other large county economic sectors have experienced slower long-term growth, such as agriculture and manufacturing.

The economic development challenge is to ensure that traditional employment sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, retail, and construction can remain vibrant in the face of substantial cost pressures, changing consumer demands, and global competition. At the same time, it is important to encourage new types of businesses that reflect current technological and market opportunities and that are also aligned with the skills and creative abilities of the workforce. The Economic Vitality Element includes goals, policies, and programs intended to help retain and expand existing economic sectors, to help diversify the economy by developing new kinds of businesses, and to help improve economic resiliency.

While job opportunities will derive from the local and regional economy, economic vitality also depends on ensuring that the economic foundations that support prosperity remain robust. Water is essential to maintaining the viability of agriculture in the county and the transportation system is critical to move both goods and workers. Moreover, with aggressive renewable energy mandates in California and expanded public and private investments, Ventura County will need to ensure that its land use policies accommodate those investments and requirements. In addition, business today depends on ever increasing broadband capacities and speeds. The need for broadband is pervasive and is as critical to modern health care, one of the County's largest job growth sectors, as it is to conventional technology sectors and emerging areas such as "Smart City" initiatives. These types of facilities and investments are critical foundations for economic prosperity.



The availability of affordable workforce housing is also an important foundation for economic vitality. The General Plan Housing Element addresses this need in detail, but from an economic development perspective, affordably priced workforce housing allows a full range of workers at all skill and experience levels to live and work in the community. The proximity of housing to job centers is an important consideration in reducing the costs and quality of life impacts associated with long commute times.

One of the county’s greatest assets is its workforce. Supportive housing and transportation policies help workers connect with employment opportunities. Workforce training is also a vital component for successful economic development. As technologies and skill requirements continue to evolve, both new and existing workers need access to education and training resources that can help the County remain a competitive location for business and job opportunities. In addition, investments in early childhood education can play a vital role in positioning our future workforce for success.

This Element includes references to the Economic Vitality Strategic Plan, which the County adopted in 2017. The Economic Vitality Strategic Plan provides a strategic framework for the County to achieve its long-term economic vitality goals. While the Economic Vitality Strategic Plan is likely to evolve during the lifetime of this General Plan, it is nonetheless the County’s primary implementation tool for this Element and for the County’s economic initiatives overall.

Goals, policies, and implementation programs in this element are organized under the following headings:

<b>Section</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
10.1	Business and Employment .....	10-3
10.2	Diversified Economy .....	10-5
10.3	Economic Foundations .....	10-8
10.4	Labor Force Development .....	10-9
10.5	Implementation Programs.....	10-10

## 10.1 Business and Employment

Ventura County is projected to have modest overall long-term job growth, consistent with long-term population growth. Projected growth will occur in most major industry groups, with the largest growth in health care, professional services, education, and hospitality. Economic opportunities will come from both locally generated growth and trade generated through national and global markets.

Ventura County's economy has traditionally had high concentrations of jobs and economic activity in agriculture and manufacturing, while recent trends have shown more rapid growth occurring in other sectors. The manufacturing and agriculture sectors are projected to continue growing slowly over the long-term, but as discussed above, these industries have many issues to resolve in order to retain their strength within the local economy. Policies to support retention and expansion of manufacturing industries are addressed below in Section 10.2, Goal EV-4, which supports expansion and retention of industry clusters. Other existing sectors that could be expanded include tourism and defense technologies.

- **Tourism:** Ventura County has numerous scenic destinations that draw thousands of visitors to the area. Local businesses that serve the tourism market include hospitality (accommodations and food service), agriculture, and recreation. Accommodations in Ventura County represent an underserved market, and potential opportunity for expansion in certain unincorporated areas. In addition, agri-tourism is another area of potential expansion.
- **Military:** Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) supports over 20,000 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, including active duty and reserve military, civilians, and contractors. These jobs include scientists, engineers, acquisition professionals, police and fire protection, tradespeople, airfield and port operations, and a wide variety of other fields. The base's high-level operations, technological focus, and unique geography (including the 36,000 square mile Point Mugu Sea Range) are anticipated to keep the base in the Navy's long-term plans, recognizing, however, that defense priorities can change. NBVC projects significant growth in coming years as an emerging hub for unmanned systems. Overall, NBVC generates about \$2 billion in total economic benefit to Ventura County each year.

At a local level, population growth and increasing household income levels will support additional demand for local-serving businesses. The challenge in Ventura County will center on how new businesses and commercial developments address existing and future consumer needs.

### EV-1

To foster a robust and diversified local economy that provides quality employment and attracts stable businesses in Existing Communities and unincorporated Urban Areas.

#### EV-1.1

##### Economic Vitality Strategic Plan

The County shall use the Ventura County Economic Vitality Strategic Plan, as updated, as an operational guide to implement the economic development goals, policies, and programs of the General Plan. (FB, SO, MPSP)

#### EV-1.2



##### County Investment Priorities

The County shall prioritize investment in infrastructure, services, safety net programs and other assets that are critical to future economic vitality, including public safety, healthcare, library services, water supply and quality, transportation, energy, and environmental resources. This investment shall consider equity in investment opportunities to designated disadvantaged

communities, including designated Opportunity Zones under the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. The focus of these efforts shall be to improve social equity and opportunity for all. (FB, SO)

### EV-1.3



#### **Housing Affordability**

The County shall continue to work with cities and community organizations to implement best practices, pursue funding, and implement programs that reduce the cost of housing to retain and attract employers and employees. (MPSP, IGC)

### EV-1.4

#### **Regulatory Environment**

The County shall promote business-friendliness in the regulatory and permitting environment throughout Ventura County through collaboration, exchange of ideas and best practices, improvement in clarity and efficiency in the permitting process, taking advantage of opportunities for streamlining in the development process, and promoting consistency in policy and practice among cities and the County. (RDR, IGC)

### EV-1.5

#### **Supporting Tourism**

The County shall encourage the development of sustainable and innovative visitor-serving attractions that expand on the tourism market in Ventura County and add to the quality of life for residents. This would include identifying viable locations for new or expanded accommodations in the unincorporated areas of Ventura County and support for ecotourism associated with the Santa Monica Mountains, Los Padres Forest, the Channel Islands, and other natural areas. (MPSP, JP)

### EV-1.6

#### **Economic Expansion**

The County shall work with local chambers of commerce, countywide economic development organizations, and businesses to support the appropriate expansion of the local economy and job creation, particularly in Existing Communities and unincorporated Urban Areas where zoning allows. (MPSP, JP)

### EV-1.7



#### **Supporting Industries Fitting County Needs**

The County shall strive to attract industries based on existing and projected workforce demographics, educational attainment, skills, and commute patterns, and which provide opportunities to residents living in designated disadvantaged communities. (MPSP, JP)

### EV-1.8

#### **Encourage Development Efficiency**

The County shall coordinate and work with cities in the county to enhance the efficiency of development of remaining vacant commercial and industrial sites and encourage infill and revitalization of underutilized sites. (MPSP, IGC)

### EV-1.9

#### **Range of Commercial Services**

The County shall encourage the development of a range of commercial uses in urban areas and Existing Communities, where zoning allows, that fulfill the daily needs of residents and visitors. (MPSP, JP)

### EV-1.10



#### **Grocery Stores in Underserved Communities**

The County shall strive to attract and retain high-quality, full-service grocery stores and other healthy food purveyors in Existing Communities and adjacent urban areas, particularly in underserved areas. (MPSP, JP)

### EV-2

To improve the economic viability of agriculture through policies that support agriculture as an integral business to the County.

#### EV-2.1

##### **Agricultural Diversification**

The County should encourage the growth and expansion of new, innovative agricultural-related business opportunities, including technological advancements in irrigation, crop production and pest control, new crop types, and agritourism, and “farm-to-table” programs and events. (RDR, PI)

#### EV-2.2

##### **Value-Added Agriculture**

The County shall encourage the expansion of value-added agricultural products (e.g., processing, packaging, product development) within Existing Communities, where zoning allows, and on agricultural land consistent with SOAR policies. (RDR, MPSP, JP)



*Additional policies on the agricultural economy are located in Chapter 8, Agriculture Element.*

## 10.2 Diversified Economy

Economic diversity can help create long-term stability and economic resilience. This resilience (the ability to recover from adverse changes in the economy or environment) is particularly important as the effects of climate change create economic disruptions through wildfire, drought, increasingly variable storm events, and sea level rise.

The market outlook for different industries with the potential to grow and thrive in Ventura County depends on local, national, and global factors. Projected long-term growth in sectors such as professional services, health care, arts, entertainment, and education will help to further diversify Ventura County’s economy. An important asset for the county is its education cluster, including higher education institutions. There are two universities in the county’s unincorporated areas, California State University, Channel Islands (CSUCI), and Thomas Aquinas College. CSUCI expects to expand its 2016 enrollment level by over 70 percent by 2025, which will generate growth in faculty and staff as well as supportive goods and services in the local economy. University-driven innovation can also be an important source of business diversification. In addition to education institutions, another unique asset to the county are Federally- and State-managed areas which are available for public use. The county is home to large portions of the Los Padres National Forest and the Channel Islands National Park, which bring parkland management, research, and tourism to the county.

Areas of economic diversification within Ventura County could focus on industry clusters. Industry clusters represent aggregations of interrelated industry sectors within a region. For Ventura County, the largest industry clusters (by employment) include business services, distribution, education, agriculture, information technology, biopharmaceuticals, financial services, health care services, and hospitality. According to the Ventura County Economic Vitality Strategic Plan, industry clusters in the county with the highest concentration of employment, relative to national trends, would also include agriculture and metal working technology. Projected industry cluster

growth shows the highest percentages occurring with business services, construction, financial services, oil and gas production, video production and distribution, and education.<sup>1</sup>

Other opportunities for diversification include environmental technologies (“green economy”) and the creative sector. The green economy includes business activities that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources. Ventura ranks 7th among California metro areas with green technology patents. For the foreseeable future, California laws and policies will continue to drive demand for these types of goods, services, and technologies. Demand will further increase as other states adopt similar standards that conserve natural resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigate environmental impacts.

The types of industries built around creativity encompass a diverse range of categories, such as architecture, design, entertainment, fashion, communications, digital media, publishing, and the arts. This includes film and recording industries. Creative enterprises are highly concentrated in Southern California. Ventura County has distinct elements of the creative economy but has significant room for growth in this area.

### EV-3

To facilitate the retention, expansion, and attraction of key industries and business clusters in the county.

#### EV-3.1

##### **Existing Business Retention**

The County shall proactively focus on retention of existing businesses in key industry clusters. In the unincorporated areas, this would include prioritizing Naval Base Ventura County and agricultural activities. (MPSP, JP)

#### EV-3.2

##### **Small Business Promotion**

The County should promote and expand existing small business development programs by identifying partnerships between industry and educational organizations, and identifying potential mentoring, job training, networking, and professional development opportunities between these organizations and supporting and promoting efforts of the Small Business Administration to provide technical assistance to small business owners and employees through classes and assistance in the areas of business management, marketing, and legal assistance. The County should consider allowing entrepreneurs to use government property or facilities to test new products and services that are beneficial to the public good for micro enterprises of five employees or fewer to encourage economic opportunities in low-income areas. (IGC, JP)

#### EV-3.3

##### **Facilitate Expansion of Key Economic Clusters**

The County shall work proactively to retain and facilitate the expansion of firms in key industries, particularly those at risk of downsizing or relocation. (IGC, JP)

#### EV-3.4

##### **Expansion of Naval Base Ventura County and Port of Hueneme Support Businesses**

The County shall encourage expansion and attraction of businesses that can further support existing activities at Naval Base Ventura County and the Port of Hueneme including the

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<sup>1</sup> Natelson-Dale Group. Task 3C Industry Cluster Report, Economic Vitality Plan, prepared for Ventura County. January 10, 2017. p. 5

strengthening of existing business relationships and establishing spin-off businesses that can transfer technologies used for military applications into other markets. (IGC, JP)

### EV-3.5

#### **Entrepreneurial Development and Key Industry Attraction**

The County shall support local efforts to attract firms in key industries from outside the county or support the entrepreneurial development of new firms within the county, as well as training to develop entrepreneurship and innovation in the local workforce. (IGC, JP)

### EV-4

To diversify the economic base of Ventura County through the development and expansion of environmental, creative, and technology industries, including the non-profit sector.

### EV-4.1

#### **Creative Economy**

The County shall encourage the expansion of the local creative economy, including arts businesses, creative and performing arts, and non-profit organizations, as well as professional service sectors built around the creative arts. (MPSP, JP)

### EV-4.2



#### **Green Economy**

The County shall support the development of industries and businesses that promote and enhance environmental sustainability, greenhouse gas reductions, decarbonization, climate change adaptation, resiliency, and renewable energy generation, storage, and transmission, including solar power, wind power, wave energy and other appropriate renewable sources. The County shall promote the efforts of existing businesses that meet green business criteria; job training in green building techniques and regenerative farming; and strive to build green technologies into and decarbonize existing government buildings and facilities. (MPSP, JP)

### EV-4.3



#### **Sustainable Business Development**

The County shall encourage the development and expansion of businesses that advance social equity, environmental quality, and economic sustainability, as well as capitalize on key industry strengths. Economic sustainability includes planning and preparation for disaster response and long-term resiliency of businesses and economic assets in the county. (JP)

### EV-4.4





#### **Renewable Energy Facilities**

The County shall identify appropriate locations to allow for development of renewable energy generation and storage facilities and encourage the development of innovative approaches to renewable energy deployment, including solar power, wind power, wave energy, distributed power systems and micro-grids, and other appropriate renewable sources and storage and distribution systems. (MPSP, JP)



# 10.3 Economic Foundations

Economic prosperity is dependent on critical infrastructure systems that provide adequate capacity, reliable service, and flexible functionality. Water is a critical resource for the agricultural industry, as is the freight distribution system through the county. The Port of Hueneme provides essential services not only for agricultural products and supplies but other high value industries including automobile imports. In addition, new technologies, particularly broadband capacity, need to be widely deployed through both public and private investments. Finally, adequate housing is a major foundation for economic vitality, helping to support a diverse labor force that is vital to business prosperity.

EV-5	To promote a strong local economy by improving critical infrastructure, including water, transportation, broadband, and renewable energy.
EV-5.1	<b>Transportation Infrastructure</b> The County shall monitor and seek improvements to transportation infrastructure involving roads within County jurisdiction, particularly routes used for goods movement, to minimize the cost and inconvenience of traffic congestion. (FB, SO)
EV-5.2 	<b>Energy Infrastructure</b> The County shall work to improve energy infrastructure to increase availability, reliability, sustainability, and use of renewable energy sources, with a focus on Existing Communities and equity in service to disadvantaged communities. (IGC, SO)
EV-5.3 	<b>Broadband</b> The County should encourage efforts to equitably extend broadband capacity throughout the county, including to designated disadvantaged communities, and to encourage private sector investments in state-of-the-art high speed fiberoptic infrastructure for both commercial and residential use. The County should use its franchise agreement powers, among others, whenever possible to secure improved services. (IGC, SO, JP)
EV-5.4	<b>Port of Hueneme</b> The County shall support the creation and enhancement of shipping, warehousing facilities at the Port of Hueneme as well as improvements to surface transportation connections to the supportive industries and businesses that are located outside of the Port. (IGC, SO)
EV-5.5	<b>Water Availability and Cost</b> The County shall support efforts to ensure that adequate water supplies are available for business use at reasonable cost recognizing that water is a vital resource not only for agricultural businesses but many other types of businesses in the county.



*Housing is addressed in Chapter 3, Housing Element.*  
*Water infrastructure is addresses in Chapter 9, Water Resources Element.*

### 10.4 Labor Force Development

The local labor force represents one of the most crucial competitive factors for economic vitality. Businesses depend on having a sufficient quantity of workers suited to the functions that their operations require. From a planning perspective, the skills, education levels, and other qualifications needed for local jobs should be matched to the characteristics of the local labor force. In addition, local institutions should be ready to prepare the labor force to work in the growing industries within the region.

The highest proportion of the county labor force works in retail, health care, and manufacturing industries. In addition, Ventura County has more resident workers in services industries, such as information, finance and insurance, real estate, and professional/scientific services, than it has jobs in these sectors. This would indicate that many residents commute out of Ventura County for those types of jobs. Compared to the cities, the unincorporated county area had a higher labor force representation in professional services, and saw the greatest growth in agriculture, professional services, educational services, and hospitality between 2006 and 2014.

Labor force development will remain a challenge and priority and will need to evolve alongside changes to the local and regional economies.

#### EV-6

To improve labor force preparedness by providing the local workforce with the skills needed to meet the requirements of evolving business needs.

##### EV-6.1



##### **Workforce Readiness**

The County shall collaborate with the Workforce Development Board, the P-20 Council, job and career centers, and other organizations to maximize workforce readiness by promoting job opportunity readiness among unemployed or underemployed residents and students and coordinating with local employers to identify workforce readiness issues and education and training program needs. (IGC, JP)

##### EV-6.2

##### **Workforce Development**

The County shall work with public and private universities, colleges, and technical schools in the county to support innovation and the development, retraining, and retention of a skilled workforce. (IGC, JP, PI)

##### EV-6.3

##### **Job Training in Green Construction**

The County shall work with public, private, and non-profit entities to prepare workers for jobs in green construction, including solar panel installation, decarbonizing buildings and infrastructure, and green building retrofits. (MPSP, FB, JP)

##### EV-6.4

##### **Local Graduate Retention**

The County shall actively support efforts to keep local high school and university graduates in the local workforce. (IGC, JP)

##### EV-6.5



##### **County Hiring Practices**

The County shall leverage its status as the second-largest employer in the county to pursue best practices aimed at maximizing local hiring, with a focus on designated disadvantaged communities, in coordination with education and training providers. (SO, IGC)

**EV-6.6**



**Early Childhood Education**

The County shall support efforts to enhance early childhood education opportunities in Ventura County, by coordinating with the Local Planning Council of Ventura County and other educational and economic development partners to secure additional funding to ensure that all children have access to available programs. (IGC)

**EV-6.7**

**Future Job Opportunities**


The County shall collaborate with the Workforce Development Board to assess employment changes expected over the next 20 years and evaluate opportunities for job training and education to meet new economic opportunities, particularly in green energy and in designated disadvantaged communities within the county. (IGC)

## 10.5 Implementation Programs

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>A Economic Vitality Strategic Plan</b> The County shall review and update the Economic Vitality Strategic Plan every five years.	EV-1.1	CEO	■	■	■		■
		RMA AG C IT PWA REA					
<b>B Investment in Opportunity Zones</b> The County shall work with the Economic Vitality Strategic Plan Steering Committee to explore designated Opportunity Zones identified pursuant to the Federal Tax Cuts and Job Act (December 22, 2017) to promote investments that benefits the residents living within them and minimizes potential displacement.	EV-1.2	RMA	■				
		CEO					
<b>C Promote Infill and Revitalization</b> The County shall prepare development standards, including those that provide for adequate infrastructure, for development on remaining vacant commercial and industrial sites to encourage infill and revitalization of underutilized sites.	EV-1.8	RMA	■				■
		n/a					

## 10. Economic Vitality

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>D Ventura County Office of Economic Development</b> The County shall consider the development of an Office of Economic Development to promote Ventura County as budgets allow.	EV-1.1 EV-1.5 EV-1.6 EV-3.1 EV-3.2 EV-3.3 EV-3.5	CEO <hr/> n/a					■
<b>E Business Retention and Expansion</b> The County shall coordinate with the Economic Development Collaborative - Ventura County to focus on retention and expansion of existing businesses in key industry clusters, including Naval Base Ventura County and Port of Hueneme support businesses.	EV-3.1 EV-3.2 EV-3.3 EV-3.4	CEO <hr/> n/a	■	■	■		■
<b>F Broadband Capacity Development</b> The County shall identify the necessary policies, regulations, and development standards for critical broadband infrastructure, such as fiber optics, shadow conduit, vertical assets and dig once policies. Based on this work, the County shall develop a Broadband Master Plan in cooperation with service providers to identify how high-speed broadband infrastructure and services will be funded, developed and deployed. <b>EJ</b>	EV-5.3	CEO/ITSD <hr/> RMA GSA PWA	■				■
<b>G Workforce Development</b> The County shall provide data and staff resources to support the Ventura County Workforce Development Board in the implementation of the Ventura County Regional Workforce Development Plan to address workforce readiness and development, and local graduate retention. <b>EJ</b>	EV-6.1 EV-6.2 EV-6.3 EV-6.4	CEO <hr/> n/a					■

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)					
<b>H Evaluate County Hiring Practices</b> The County shall conduct an evaluation of its hiring practices, in coordination with education and training providers, to determine how the County can maximize local hiring. 	EV-6.5	HR <hr/> CEO	■				■