

County of Ventura  
Planning Commission Hearing  
Case No. PL23-0033  
Exhibit 8 - Public Comments Received During Public Engagement

ID	Comment Method	Date	Study Area	Commenter Name	Question/Comment	Response
1	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Christine Vaughan	How long has Cal Enviro Screen been used by EPA? Where can baseline data be found?	Staff stated that CalEnviroScreen was first developed by CalEPA in 2013 and referred the commenter to the CalEnviroScreen website to access the baseline data.
2	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Bryce Browne	What are we doing to clean up the water? The amount of added chemicals is insane compared to local city like Ojai.	Staff stated that there are over 150 water purveyors including in cities and companies, and that water quality is dependent on the household's water supplier. Staff stated that the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) addresses questions related to water and that water quality information can be found in consumer confidence reports, and referred the commenter to links provided in the FAQs to view consumer confidence reports.
3	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Bryce Browne	What are we doing about the 5G towers? They have been consistently shown to cause issues.	Staff asked the commenter to follow up via email about the location of the 5G towers. <i>(To date, no further comments were received regarding 5G towers. For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.)</i>
4	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Jeff Wilby	Will a DDC designation impact property values for these communities?	Staff stated that the FAQs addresses this question. Staff stated that the designation will not appear on property records, and that no disclosures are anticipated to be required after speaking with the County Assessor. Staff does not anticipate assessed property values or taxes to be impacted by the designation.
5	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Francine Smith	Is the Petrochem site a part of this?	Staff stated that the designation options will cover the Petrochem site. <i>(Option 3 was developed after public engagement was conducted. Option 3 does not include the Petrochem site as a potential disadvantaged community.)</i>
6	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Anonymous	Please explain how you informed the public about these meetings?	Staff stated that postcards were sent to the properties that may be affected by the designation and included properties in cities that are within 300 feet of the census tracts affected by those designations. Staff stated that notices were emailed to stakeholders as well as to the cities, and staff have coordinated with CAUSE. The public meetings were also announced at the Westside Community Council meeting in March. <i>(CAUSE stands for Central Coast Alliance United for A Sustainable Economy. )</i>
7	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Francine Smith	And oil sites? Have cancer studies been done in our area like Santa Susannah site?	Staff stated that staff is not aware of cancer studies conducted specifically for the Santa Susana site, which staff believes is partially within the city of Simi Valley. Staff stated that the particular census tract containing the Santa Susana site was not identified as part of the research. <i>(correction: the site is within unincorporated Ventura County. )</i>
n/a	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Francine Smith	Thank you!	N/A
8	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Anonymous	This is a comment for the last person who just asked about how you informed the public.... I literally just went to my mailbox 20 minutes ago to see this letter. Very late to inform. Not okay.	Staff stated that postcards were mailed on February 24 and March 3, and apologized for the delayed receipt of the postcards experienced by community members.
9	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Anonymous	Nice job with the Public outreach!!! Sounds like a lot of work went into that effort. Thank you	N/A
10	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Dina Ontiveras	Hello! (especially Selfa!) I did not see Nyeland Acres on the map. Why does the County spray so much herbicides on the roadways? I have witnessed them spraying a lot on Santa Clara Avenue across the street from the residential areas in the water canal - going straight to the ocean. Has the county not thought about making a bridle path on Santa Clara Avenue just like in Camarillo, Thousand Oaks & Ojai. We have quite a few horse riders here. These are the charros. I think they deserve the same type of infrastruture.	Planning staff stated that Nyeland Acres is part of the El Rio/Del Norte unincorporated area, which has been identified as a DDC. Leveraging grant funding with the DDC status may help raise a project's priority level. For pesticide questions, staff referred the commenter to the FAQs for responses to pesticide questions. Agriculture Department staff stated that canals are sprayed because the canals have weeds that can negatively impact the adjacent crops. <i>(For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.)</i>
11	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Anonymous	Would like to know if the Port of Hueneme and the City of Port Huenme are part of the study.	Staff stated that the City of Port Hueneme is not a part of the Study and that the Study only examines unincorporated areas, specifically near the cities of Santa Paula, Ventura, and Oxnard.

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12	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Anonymous	Please send notices about future meetings to your local media — the Star, Acorn, Santa Paula Times, Ojai Valley News, etc. You have a public information officer who should be able to handle that. Can you please coordinate that for your future meetings? The media can get that information out quickly and efficiently online and in print.	Staff stated that this comment will be taken into consideration for future meetings. Staff stated that the County published a press release announcing the meetings, and that there will be two more meetings, focusing on Ventura specifically on March 10 and Santa Paula on March 13.
13	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Dina Ontiveras	If the vehicles will not slow down for the pedestrians, maybe they will slow down for the horses?	Staff stated that grants that focus on DDCs may be able to help support infrastructure for traffic handling, as with existing Saticoy DDC, but it can be a slow process.
14	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	Oxnard	Anonymous	Is Ventura going to do anything to work towards healing the lands? The monocropping in Oxnard is destroying our soil and we need to be doing regenerative farming if we want to have a sustainable future for the community. This is why they have to spray so many chemicals. Biodynamic farming is the only way to avoid this and heal the land	Planning staff stated that a sustainable future for the County and community is important and directed comment to Agricultural Department staff, who stated that the Department of Pesticide Regulation has published a sustainable roadmap, which the County is looking at and considering whether it is a good fit for the county. The roadmap includes regenerative farming, biodiversity, and soil practices.
15	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	Santa Paula	Mary Ann Krause	Option 1 for Santa Paula is clearly a better option because so many low-income farmworker families live in the outlying areas around Santa Paula	Staff stated that this comment will be taken into consideration.
16	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Caitlin Brooks	Was a review of SCAG's environmental justice areas part of your analysis for new DACs?	Staff stated that the County reviewed SCAG's Environmental Justice areas as well as other similar tools such as Healthy Places Index and the Local Agency Formation Commission's map of disadvantaged unincorporated communities. ( <i>SCAG stands for Southern California Association of Governments.</i> )
17	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Dina Ontiveras	Does the area include the Tijuanitas? this is on the other side of the 10th street bridge. The Spanish-speaking calls it this name because it is on the other side of the river.	Staff asked the commenter to follow up as staff is unsure of the location. ( <i>To date, no further comments were received regarding the location of the Tijuanitas.</i> )
18	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	Santa Paula	Anonymous	Santa Paula is at grave risk from the Santa Clara Waste Water site just west of Santa Paula city limits that catastrophically exploded on Nov. 18, 2014. There is an application to reopen the site that was designated a Superfund site; the site regularly floods into the Santa Clara River. Can you do more investigation including a Geiger counter test for radiation since Oxnard shut down the pipeline due to excessive radiation?	Staff stated that the project referenced by the commenter is the RI-NU Project. The applicant for this project was in communication with County staff in January. They are evaluating and making changes before resubmission. There is a webpage on this project that is updated with new information. County staff offered to provide the commenter with a link to that webpage, help get the commenter on an email distribution list, or can provide more information through contact with the case processing team, which is not present at the meeting. ( <i>The applicant withdrew the application for the RI-NU project in July 2023. The RI-NU project website is available at <a href="http://vcrma.org/en/ri-nu-wastewater-treatment-facility">vcrma.org/en/ri-nu-wastewater-treatment-facility</a>. For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.</i> )
19	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	Santa Paula	Anonymous	The CUP for that site should be nullified, according to all Planning rules due to the criminal activity that occurred on that site. The neighboring site is absolutely a DDC.	See response to comment ID #18.
20	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	Santa Paula	Anonymous	In evaluating the pollution at the Santa Clara Waste Water site, have you used a Geiger counter to test for radiation since it was verified at that site at high, illegal levels?	Staff stated that the relevant team is not present at the meeting, but told the commenter that they can follow up. ( <i>See response to comment ID #18.</i> )
21	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	Oxnard	Anonymous	Is the Anterra site in an unincorporated area?	Staff apologized for not being familiar with these particular sites and offered to follow up and confirm. Staff also reiterated that there is a tool on the DDC website that can be used to look up specific addresses. ( <i>For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.</i> )
21a	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	Oxnard	Jasmin Kim	Yes, I believe that site is in an unincorporated area.	See response to comment ID #21.

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22	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Dina Ontiveras	I heard you mention that you used the Consumer Confidence report for water quality, but I am curious about the poor water quality. Where, specifically, is the water of poor quality? I know that my water company passes the CCCR criteria.	Staff stated that CalEnviroScreen's highest indicators related to water resources were locations of impaired water bodies and water threats, drinking water contaminants, and groundwater. Impaired water bodies are those that meet a federal level designation that does not pass water quality inspections and can refer to streams or other types water bodies. The groundwater indicator is determined by the location and status of underground storage tanks, based on state level information. Staff stated that staff will have to look back at the DDC project files to determine the data source for the drinking water contaminants indicator. Staff also stated that interested individuals can take a look at CalEnviroScreen, which has a mapping tool that shows data on individual indicators for individual census tracts, including how it uses data and where it gets the data from.
23	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	Oxnard	Anonymous	Anterra has been a waste disposal site for years beneath a strawberry field and had to be shut down. It is on Wooley Road in Oxnard.	See response to comment ID #21. <i>(For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study. )</i>
24	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	Santa Paula	Ana Rosa Rizo-Centino	There is nothing Ri-Nu can do to make their facility acceptable to the community. The risk is far too high for the health of the people who live and work in the area!	Staff stated that the input is noted and will be taken into consideration. <i>(See response to comment ID #18. )</i>
25	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	Oxnard	Jasmin Kim	I believe that site is on Rose Ave. and E Wooley Road - if that is true, the site is in an unincorporated area.	Staff confirmed that the site is in an unincorporated area. <i>(For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study. )</i>
25a	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	Oxnard	Anonymous	1933 E. Wooley Road Oxnard is location of Anterra.	Acknowledged. <i>(For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study. )</i>
25b	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	Oxnard	Jasmin Kim	1933 E. Wooley Road Oxnard, is outside the City Boundary.	Acknowledged. <i>(For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study. )</i>
26	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Anonymous	How is the county team made aware of potential polluting sites? Is the county only aware of them through complaints by the public?	Staff stated that the CalEnviroScreen tool compiles data from hazardous facilities and facilities that may potentially emit toxic releases. Based on this documented data in CalEnviroScreen from local, state, and federal agencies, scores are assigned based on how close these facilities are to residential areas. These scores were taken into consideration for the Study in addition to other types of data. For example, Planning staff coordinated with Pesticide Use Enforcement staff to examine complaints and violations related to pesticide use under that program. Additionally, Planning staff coordinated with the Environmental Health Division, which documents and investigates violations over which the County has regulatory or permitting authority. In summary, staff tried to look at a variety of data that includes a number of complaints, reports, inspections, and investigations that are available to the County.
27	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	Oxnard	Anonymous	If Anterra is in an unincorporated area, it should definitely be evaluated for safety due to the massive amounts of oil waste disposed for years at the site and we wonder if you independently test for potential hazards. Please advise. Thank you.	Staff stated that the site appears to be in the unincorporated area. Staff thanked the commenter for the input and that staff will take a closer look. <i>(For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study. )</i>
28	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	Oxnard	Jasmin Kim	Please be advised that this is the City of Oxnard's Jurisdictional Boundary: <a href="https://www.oxnard.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2030-Jursidictional-30x40V4.pdf">https://www.oxnard.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2030-Jursidictional-30x40V4.pdf</a>	Acknowledged.
29	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Anonymous	Do complaints at the county level make it up to the state level to be registered and noted by Calenviroscreen?	Staff stated that although CalEnviroScreen's data is quite comprehensive, it does not appear to include data on local level complaints. Staff did not think that potential complaints or violations for pesticide use are registered in CalEnviroScreen. The tool uses data that can be aggregated at the census tracts level. In other words, it divides up the information so it can extrapolated and aggregated by census tract. The data must be publicly available so that all census tracts in California can be compared with one another.
30	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Jasmin Kim	Please be advised that environmental complaint forms can be filed with CalEPA: <a href="https://calepa.my.salesforce-sites.com/complaints/">https://calepa.my.salesforce-sites.com/complaints/</a>	Acknowledged.

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n/a	Virtual Meeting	3/8/2023	N/A	Jasmin Kim	Thank you.	Acknowledged.
31	In Person	3/10/2023	N/A	Marianne Parra	Commenter asked why this meeting is not being held at the community center in Saticoy, as a lot of the community is there. A lot of people don't have WiFi, don't understand QR codes, and are left out completely. People will show up, but not if they don't have somewhere closer to have the meeting. Many don't have public transportation.	Staff stated that Saticoy has been designated as a disadvantaged community, and this project is focused around the Study Areas. As part of the County's General Plan update project, Saticoy, El Rio, and Piru were designated, and the County held meetings in those communities at that time. Staff stated that if there are issues related to Saticoy, the Saticoy Municipal Advisory Council is a great place to bring issues to the County's attention.
32	In Person	3/10/2023	N/A	Jan Dietrick	Commenter was pleased that the meeting included a booth about sea level rise. Commenter stated that she thinks a lot about flooding as well. The County needs a stronger ordinance to avoid developing in flood prone areas. That seems like a big risk, living where there is flooding.	Staff directed the commenter to the appropriate staff members present at the meeting who could answer questions about sea level rise. <i>(For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study. )</i>
33	In Person	3/10/2023	Ventura	Ron	Commenter stated that there is an area along the Ventura oil fields that travels along the river. The pollution is spread around, diluted as the mountains heat up in the morning and draws air up the river, and as it cools down it slides back down toward the ocean. Commenter raised two questions: the significance of the oil fields negatively impacting the people in the North Avenue Area, as well as the Petrochem Plant. Commenter wondered about how the pollution from the oil wells is considered as it relates to hazards.	Staff stated that CalEnviroScreen looks at impaired water bodies and hazardous sites, and these indicators are taken into consideration when identifying potential DDCs in the North Ventura Avenue area. County staff stated that the Petrochem site is included, but was unsure if all oil wells are included. The intent behind identification of DDCs is to provide more protective policies specifically for residential communities. However, if an applicant wants to drill new oil wells, the applicant may potentially face more scrutiny regarding regulations and policies. There are programs and policies that would provide more protection to the community and its residents going forward within a DDC. <i>(For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study. )</i>
34	In Person	3/10/2023	Ventura	Jan Dietrick	Commenter stated that there are at least 12 oil wells within 1500 feet of where commenter lives. Commenter stated that an oil well is operation on a permit from 1945. So the operator could just keep doing what they are doing and have permission to redrill. We need to be designated as a DDC. In North Ventura, the water supply is city water. We want to be safe. There is a very substantial aquifer right underneath and comes all the way around here. It hasn't even been tested for anything. I think a report of a well testing from 1978 suggested it's brackish. But when I talk to experienced hydrologists, it cannot be saltwater from the ocean. The implication is that it is from the injection wells. Commenter stated that really bothers her, spending millions bringing water from here and there, drilling wells, but we cannot even figure out the safety of the aquifer right there.	Staff stated that CalEnviroScreen takes water resources into consideration. Staff offered to follow up with the commenter about this and explained that there are annual consumer confidence reports available that indicate whether there are contaminants within the water supply, if any, depending on the resident's water supplier. <i>(For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study. )</i>



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35	In Person	3/10/2023	Ventura	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter stated that commenter is confused looking at the options. What are the projects? Is this only for the builders to build housing? Companies? What projects will help the individual? We are listed high for pesticides. Commenter stated that there may be one little lemon grove that has been cut down, and potentially avocado trees in the area. Are the pesticides from lemons and avocados? The big contaminants are petrochem. We have pictures of the whole Santa Barbara channel covered in oil. Commenter stated there is no mention of fracking. Commenter is not clear what the options are and how this will help individuals or farmers. Will it help remove popcorn ceilings, lead contaminants? What are some examples? Commenter mentioned fire issues, such as experiencing asthma problems. LA Fire came to the rescue during the fire. Along the Avenue, there were people that couldn't get out. Is there anything that helps people get out, that increases fire safety? Commenter reiterated that commenter does not understand the options and what the examples are of what the County is going to do.	Staff stated that the objective of this project is to determine whether any areas within the Ventura Study Area should be identified as a DDC. The County is not proposing any specific projects under this Study. It is an initial step in identifying some of the concerns that community members may have. The County has conducted this outreach meeting to get the community's input. Designation could bring in more grant funding to help improve the community in terms of providing better public services and infrastructure. For example, there have been projects in existing DDCs to improve sidewalks. Grant funding is dependent on availability of the funding source. These grant opportunities are open to the government and community based organizations. Staff stated that the County will take a closer look at the oil fields. CalEnviroScreen takes into account hazardous facilities and toxic releases at the census tract level, which includes some of these oil fields. The scores may be affected by some hazardous facilities and toxic releases from other areas. Staff pointed out that the census tracts being studied are vast and that this is a limitation of CalEnviroScreen. Staff also stated that fire safety improvements are not addressed as part of the project. It is being looked at by the board of supervisors, depending on location and high fire zones. The County fire department is working on new regulations coming from the state, including expanding high fire zones. There have been new requirements on the clearance of vegetation. For example, within 5 feet of structures, there is to be no vegetation. Staff reiterated that while fire events aren't going away and we need to harden infrastructure, it is not part of the DDC project. However, it is being addressed elsewhere. <i>(For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study. )</i>
35a	In Person	3/10/2023	Ventura	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter stated concern for people being lined up and not being able to get out, and the importance of improving infrastructure for getting out.	See response to comment ID #35.
36	In Person	3/10/2023	Ventura	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter stated that this is ancestral fire zones. There is a lot of grazing happening, bringing sheep and goats in. There is a continual cycle so that when fire season does come around, we will have taken down this landscaping, and introduce native plants. With all the rain, the potential is going to be huge. They have been working on it since December, just a lot of manpower that has to be done.	Acknowledged. See response to comment ID #35.
37	In Person	3/10/2023	Ventura	Jan Dietrick	Commenter stated that Option 2 might not include areas with pesticides. Commenter inquired about Taylor Ranch.	Staff stated that this location is on the west side, which is not within the Study Area.
38	In Person	3/10/2023	Ventura	Ron	Commenter stated that spraying occurs, that pollution is travelling on the river and on the river valley. Seems like it should be considered.	Acknowledged. <i>(For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study. )</i>
39	In Person	3/10/2023	Ventura	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter stated that commenter lives at the Valley Vista tract. There is a field that has been torn up. Commenter asked whether the County is thinking about relocating whatever is being proposed for construction in the Valley Vista tract.	Staff stated that the project is not proposing to build anything.
40	In Person	3/10/2023	N/A	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter asked what the drawbacks of being a DDC are.	Staff stated that community members may not feel the effects right away, as grant funding may be hard to come by. Staff also stated that another concern is gentrification. However, it may be too early to know whether gentrification will occur as a result of the project. Finally, staff stated that designation may also be more costly for developers, with more public outreach and more evaluation requirements for projects that are proposed in the area.
40a	In Person	3/10/2023	N/A	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter clarified that for developers, DDC identification may be a disadvantage, but it will not be a disadvantage to current residents.	Staff expressed agreement.

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41	In Person	3/10/2023	N/A	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter asked what option 1 and 2 are, who gets to decide the options, and why.	Staff stated that the difference between the two options is the type of land use boundaries being used in each option. Staff pointed out an area of agricultural and open space land use would be included in Option 1 that would not be included in Option 2. This is because Option 2 relies on Existing Community boundaries that are established in the General Plan and focuses on urban and residential communities. Staff stated that while the two options are similar in Ventura, the same approach results in very different designations for Oxnard and Santa Paula.
42	In Person	3/10/2023	Ventura	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter asked if options include industrial uses.	Staff pointed out industrial areas on the map and industrial areas that would be included in both options.
42a	In Person	3/10/2023	Ventura	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter asked if options include oil fields.	Staff pointed out oil field areas on the map that are not included in either option.
42b	In Person	3/10/2023	Ventura	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter asked if North Ventura Avenue is included.	Staff confirmed that areas adjacent along North Ventura Avenue would be included within the options.
43	In Person	3/13/2023	Santa Paula	Connie Tushwell	Commenter asked how Option 1 and Option 2 will affect agricultural lands and industrial land uses.	Staff explained and clarified both options using the presentation slides and provided examples of policies that could be imposed.
44	In Person	3/13/2023	Santa Paula	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter asked for clarification of notable roads or landmarks to mark the boundaries, such as highway off-ramps.	Staff pointed out general geographical areas on the map and noted the location of certain off-ramps as examples.
45	In Person	3/13/2023	Santa Paula	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter asked how much agricultural land is included in Option 1 and Option 2.	Staff stated that the overall percentage of agricultural and open space lands are noted on the posters. The percentages of agricultural and open space lands for each option has not been calculated.
46	In Person	3/13/2023	Santa Paula	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter thanked staff for helping the community care about the Mission Rock Road area. Commenter asked who would lead grants? Who would do application? Will City of Santa Paula be involved?	Staff explained the variety of grants available and that each grant has its own set of requirements and eligible types of applicants that may apply for the grant.
47	In Person	3/13/2023	Santa Paula	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter stated that the city is short staffed and it would be nice for the County to initiate the grants, if the grant is available. Commenter pointed out that staff mentioned a higher level of scrutiny on applications. Would that scrutiny also be imposed on pending applications? Commenter has the RI-NU project in mind.	Staff stated that additional scrutiny is currently not applicable to the RI-NU project as that site is currently not in a DDC. This may be revisited if the area in which the RI-NU project is located is officially designated as a disadvantaged community. ( <i>The applicant withdrew the application for the RI-NU project in July 2023. The RI-NU project website is available at <a href="http://vcrma.org/en/ri-nu-wastewater-treatment-facility">vcrma.org/en/ri-nu-wastewater-treatment-facility</a>. For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.</i> )
48	In Person	3/13/2023	N/A	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter asked whether a designation option will be picked and when this project will come before the Board of Supervisors.	Staff stated that the Board of Supervisors will make a determination regarding designations later in the year.
49	In Person	3/13/2023	N/A	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter asked how long the DDC status lasts once designated.	Staff stated that the General Plan requires review of DDCs every 5 years. Staff also stated that CalEnviroScreen also conducts periodic reviews of the communities it has identified as disadvantaged.

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50	In Person	3/13/2023	Santa Paula	Mary Ann Krause	Commenter supports Option 1 because it is the most inclusive, largest, and includes the most farmworkers. The housing that Limonera owns/operates located in the western/northwestern part of the census tract is not low-income according to CalEnviroScreen, but the area does have pockets that seemingly should be low-income. Commenter noted that the housing on Pine Road and mobile home park on Wheeer Canyon are both low-income. Option 1 includes ranches where farmers live. Commenter noted that where farmers live may not be heavy on pesticides, but Santa Paula has a lot of low-income workers who work in the Oxnard plain with row crops that are impacted both at work and at home. In addition, Option 1 includes four schools: Mupu School off Highway 150, Santa Clara School off Highway 126; Briggs, which had to be evacuated when the incident at the RI-NU site occurred; and a 4 <sup>th</sup> school, Oliveland. All schools serve some low-income students, even though higher income students are also there, and the students are impacted. Commenter stated that the CalEnviroScreen scores are low for the census tract. Commenter asked the audience to raise hands in support of Option 1. More than 10 people raised their hands.	Acknowledged. <i>(For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.)</i>
51	In Person	3/13/2023	Santa Paula	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter spoke as a ranch owner on the river and agreed that Option 1 is better as it is inclusive of land and that the river, which is environmentally important, is not included in Option 2. Commenter noted that commenter is the only person notified in the neighborhood. Commenter is concerned about environmental pollutants in the river. Commenter needed more clarifications on project goals.	Staff acknowledged commenter's input and offered to show commenter a table of General Plan policies and programs that focus on DDCs. Staff also provided background information on Senate Bill 1000 for additional context.
52	In Person	3/13/2023	Santa Paula	Mary Ann Krause	Commenter referenced a 2021 environmental study where County staff stated the community was not a DDC at that time. Commenter expressed that had the community been designated at that time, community members would have been given more of the County's time to talk about the study but since they were not, the County turned community members away.	Staff acknowledged the commenter's input and provided the example of Saticoy's sewage trunk line updates. Because of Saticoy's status as a DDC, Saticoy was able to take advantage of a grant opportunity that allowed for those updates.
53	In Person	3/13/2023	N/A	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter asked how the designation boundary options had been set.	Staff stated that census tracts with CalEnviroScreen scores of 75 and above, and those that meet the income threshold, along with boundaries based on Area Plans and Existing Communities with residential land uses within a one-mile radius of those census tracts were used to determine boundary options.
54	In Person	3/13/2023	N/A	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter asked whether all 21 indicators have detailed data.	Staff stated that CalEnviroScreen has a detailed report that explains each indicator.
55	In Person	3/13/2023	Santa Paula	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter asked whether Highway 126 and traffic are included as an indicator.	Staff stated that traffic is an indicator, including air pollutants.
56	In Person	3/13/2023	N/A	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter asked about any recent discussion with the Board of Supervisors and whether staff has a sense of direction.	Staff stated that the project, including the research findings and public input, will first be presented to the Planning Commission and then the Board of Supervisors. The Board will make the final determinations regarding designations.
57	In Person	3/13/2023	N/A	Paula	Commenter felt like commenter was playing catch up. Commenter found out about the project and meeting on the internet by accident. Commenter recommends better communication with the community and using newspaper notices. Regarding grant money, once allocated, who receives funds, who measures outcomes? If insufficient funds are received, what would happen?	Staff stated that these factors are dependent on the grant. Different grants have different requirements on how much would be awarded, who the recipient would be, and the tracking/reporting measures that would be required. Staff also summarized the outreach approach and stated who was contacted about these outreach meetings. <i>(For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.)</i>

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58	In Person	3/13/2023	Santa Paula	Name was not stated for the record.	Commenter did not know about this meeting. Commenter suggested that noticing take place sooner. What are the benefits of project? Commenter provided the example of the Pajaro Levee failure in which the low-income community was not protected. This cannot happen here, so we need this designation.	Acknowledged. <i>(For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.)</i>
59	In Person	3/13/2023	Santa Paula	Laura	Commenter stated that years ago the community sought to get designation for low-income communities. Commenter is a representative of the community's Latino community members. Many of these areas are low-income with lots of agriculture, and with agriculture comes farmworkers. Commenter expressed regret for not being notified sooner in order to be prepared, as it takes time to schedule, understand the project, and come prepared with questions, etc. Commenter stated that the population is nearly 30% children under the age of 18. According to the state's criteria and brief review of CalEnviroScreen, sometimes we find ourselves politically left out due to the low stats on CalEnviroScreen. We don't feel powerful in this community to make these decisions. Commenter noted that all of the items listed sound great the negatives are not listed. There are 240,000 Medi-Cal recipients, the majority of which reside in Santa Paula and Oxnard. Santa Paula sits less than two miles from the RI-NU site. Even though the County has great intentions, outreach may not be reaching workers on private property in a timely manner. Commenter suggested that one way of eliminating health disparities is to designate.	Staff acknowledged the commenter's input and stated some drawbacks of being a DDC, including slow progress, gentrification, and increased costs to implementing new projects. <i>(For more information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.)</i>
59a	In Person	3/13/2023	Santa Paula	Laura	Commenter provided a written copy of comment ID #59. A copy of the letter is attached.	Staff sent an electronic notification to the general email address of Santa Paula Latino Town Hall and its President as identified on its website, Cynthia Salas, on February 24, 2023. For additional information on how the public meetings were publicized and promoted, refer to Chapter 5 of the Study. Staff spoke directly with the commenter at the public meeting in Santa Paula and obtained an additional email address to send future notices. The commenter's statements on Santa Paula's socioeconomic characteristics and related health and quality-of-life impacts, and Medi-Cal enrollment statistics are acknowledged. The census tracts evaluated within the Santa Paula Study Area scored moderately among CalEnviroScreen's indicators of population characteristics, including those identified by the commenter. The educational attainment indicator scored highest at 83.80; no other indicators scored above 75. The commenter's statements regarding the 2014 incident at the Santa Clara wastewater treatment facility are acknowledged. For additional information regarding this facility, refer to Chapter 5 of the Study.
60	Form	3/7/2023	Ventura	JP	5. I have not been impacted at all, none, zilch, nada 6. I see no pollution burdens or socioeconomic burdens at all 7. Don't bring any of your business up here Specific Location: Unincorporated Ventura Avenue around Cañada lard	Acknowledged. Although commenter states that commenter does not experience or observe any pollution burdens or socioeconomic burdens, it is also acknowledged that other public comments received regarding the Ventura Study Area indicate otherwise. For additional information regarding the public comments received, refer to Chapter 5 of the Study.
61	Form	3/8/2023	Oxnard	Dina Ontiveras	5. "Pesticides Large tractor trailer traffic Freeway smog pollution Herbicides on Santa Clara Avenue Nuisance at night - noise at night due to recording of trespassing announcement"	Acknowledged. For more information, see overall responses in Chapter 5 of the Study.
62	Form	3/10/2023	Santa Paula	Nathaniel Pidduck	5. Hazardous Waste, Impaired Water Bodies 7. I strongly support Option 1. Specific Location: Mission Rock Rd.	Acknowledged. For more information, see overall responses in Chapter 5 of the Study.



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63	Form	3/10/2023	Ventura	Zeke perez	<p>5. "(Ventura Avenue from Shell Road to Cañada Larga) I do not believe that where I live is a disadvantaged community. Why did you designate as such? All my neighbors and my family love living here Unincorporated. We are not disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution. What the heck are you thinking? We do not want county policies and programs medeling,In our lives. Is this just your way and excuse for raising our taxes. You are making a mess down the avenue and downtown with all the multi story buildings you're putting up. Please leave this area alone Thank you for allowing us to participate in public meetings, and I hope you will take into consideration what I have communicated"</p> <p>6. "I do not believe that where I live is a disadvantaged community. Why did you designate as such? All my neighbors and my family love living here Unincorporated. We are not disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution. What the heck are you thinking? We do not want county policies and programs medeling,In our lives. Is this just your way and excuse for raising our taxes. You are making a mess down the avenue and downtown with all the multi story buildings you're putting up. Please leave this area alone Thank you for allowing us to participate in public meetings, and I hope you will take into consideration what I have communicated"</p> <p>7. We need a dog park in this area ! Specific Location: Ventura Avenue from Shell Road to Cañada Larga</p>	The commenter's input is acknowledged. It is also acknowledged that other public comments received regarding the Ventura Study Area indicate experiences of environmental pollution burden. Assessed property values are not anticipated to increase as a result of disadvantaged community designation. The County does not have jurisdiction of development projects within cities. For additional information regarding the public comments received, refer to Chapter 5 of the Study.
64	Form	3/15/2023	Santa Paula	Heather Merenda	<p>5. Fillmore has some of the highest burdens in Ventura County on this scale, so it's unclear why Fillmore has been eliminated from the study area when Fillmore needs significantly more resources per capita.</p> <p>6. The City of Fillmore has the highest sewer and water costs for any area in Ventura County. Fillmore is surrounded by pesticide, crop burning, gravel mining, and oil and gas extraction</p> <p>7. I respectfully request you add Fillmore to the study area</p>	The County is studying potential disadvantaged communitites in unincorporated areas of Ventura County and does not have regulatory authority to designate disadvantaged communities within cities. Each city is responsible for identifying disadvantaged communities within its own jurisdictional boundaries pursuant to Senate Bill 1000. Please contact the City of Fillmore regarding disadvantaged communities within its jurisdiction.
65	Form	3/15/2023	Santa Paula	Anonymous	<p>5. Homeless living in barranca and setting up camp by public buildings next to residences most likely defecating as there are no restrooms this is toxic also cross walk does not align with railroad crossing this folks use walking path placing all in danger when making left and right turns there is no four way stops!</p> <p>6. Homeless and horrible streets pavement Specific Location: Dean and Main Street by railroad tracks</p>	The commenter's input is acknowledged. For additional information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.
66	Form	3/20/2023	Ventura	Anonymous	<p>5. Providing input for: Saticoy - near Ventura and Santa Paula Why isn't the reports or studies conducted on the impacts of constant flying of planes + pesticide use carrying these through Ventura and Santa Paula</p>	CalEnviroScreen 4.0 incorporates data on pesticide use. Although CalEnviroScreen does not specifically incorporate data on the use of planes to apply pesticides, air quality data is incorporated for fine particle (PM2.5) pollution and ozone pollution. For additional information on pesticide use in the Ventura and Santa Paula Study Areas, please refer to the "Pesticide Use" section in Chapter 3 of the Study and overall responses in Chapter 5 of the Study.

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67	Form	3/20/2023	Santa Paula	Anonymous	5. Providing input for: Saticoy - near Ventura and Santa Paula Why isn't the reports or studies conducted on the impacts of constant flying of planes + pesticide use carrying these through Ventura and Santa Paula	CalEnviroScreen incorporates data on pesticide use, and the Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner enforces proper use of pesticides at the County level. For additional information on pesticide use in the Ventura and Santa Paula Study Areas, please visit the "Pesticide Use" section in Chapter 3 of the Study. CalEnviroScreen does not specifically incorporate data on the use of planes to apply pesticides, but CalEnviroScreen incorporates air quality data through two measurements: fine particle (PM 2.5) pollution and ozone pollution. In addition, the unincorporated area of Saticoy has been designated as a disadvantaged community. General Plan policies and programs that address environmental pollution burdens in DDCs would be applicable to the unincorporated area of Saticoy.
68	Form	3/20/2023	Santa Paula	Anonymous	5. Pesticides in the farming fields. 6. Santa Paula Airport. Planes constantly flying over neighborhoods close to the houses. The planes flying over our neighborhoods is not good for our health. Inhaling toxic gasses everyday is not good for our overall health.	The commenter's input is acknowledged. The County does not have jurisdictional oversight of the Santa Paula Airport as the airport is located within the city of Santa Paula. For additional information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.
69	Form	3/20/2023	Ventura	Ron Whitehurst from Rincon Vitova	5. Volatiles from oil wells, BTEX etc. Herbicide laden dust when windy - oil companies use herbicide to control weeds for fire safety 6. Taylor Ranch uses toxic pesticides, drift affects Ventura Ave area, carried up the narrow river valley with diurnal breezes Specific Location: 108 Orchard Drive, Ventura	The commenter's input is acknowledged. Please refer to the overall responses in Chapter 5 of the Study.
70	Form	3/20/2023	Santa Paula	Anonymous	5. Santa Paula housing stock is majority over 50 yrs old so a lot of lead paint exposure to children. 7. Thank you!	Acknowledged. CalEnviroScreen evaluates children's lead risk from housing based on the age of housing, (which indicates the potential presence of lead-based paint), the percentage of households deemed low-income, and the presence of children under six years old. A census tract evaluated in Santa Paula scored above 75 for this indicator. For additional information regarding this indicator, please refer to Chapter 3 of the Study.
71	Form	3/20/2023	Santa Paula	Paula McLay, Private Citizen	5. n/a 7. I understand that there was a "gap" getting info re: this meeting. We are unique community & need to have specific outreach Ex: SP Times, community center Please no political people to do outreach Specific Location: I have concerns re: vacant land on Peck Rd & Foothill Rd. Is this impacted by DDC.	Acknowledged. For additional information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.
72	Form	3/20/2023	Santa Paula	Anonymous	5. Ag & Oil threats of pollution to River through Ag & Oil - homeless in River exposed to toxic residues from runoff. 6. Agriculture/migrant workers Water Pollution. 7. Please contact me w/possible next step fredericka_klairice@gmx.de	The commenter's input is acknowledged. Commenter has been included for future notifications regarding this project. For additional information, see overall responses in Chapter 5 of the Study.

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73	Email	3/7/2023	Ventura	Julie Perez	<p>I do not believe that where I live is a disadvantaged community. It is not. Why did you designate as such? All my neighbors and my family love living here Unincorporated.</p> <p>We are not disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution. What the heck are you thinking? We do not want county policies and programs medeling,In our lives. Is this just your way and excuse for raising our taxes.</p> <p>You are making a mess down the avenue and downtown with all the multi story buildings you're putting up. Please leave this area alone</p> <p>Thank you for allowing us to participate in public meetings, and I hope you will take into consideration what I have communicated</p> <p>Specific Location: 5092 Floral Dr. in the Valley Vista tract</p>	See response to comment ID #63.
74	Email	3/9/2023	Santa Paula	Mary Ann	<p>I was at the online presentation last night and have looked around the DDC website. My understanding of option 1 from the written description is that it includes the entire Area of Interest, but that is not what the map is showing, so I am confused. If option 1 includes the area of interest, then it picks up the farmworkers that live on Limoneira headquarters property, at Olivelihoods, and at the Limoneira's Aliso Canyon housing and mobile home park. Those are very important properties to include. It is also important to include Olivelihoods School on Foothill, and also Briggs School at Telegraph and Briggs because Briggs school is within a mile of the Mission Rock Road area and had to be evacuated during the explosion at Santa Clara Waste Water in 2014. Can you provide clarification so that I can inform people before Monday night's meeting?</p>	<p>Thank you for looking at the DDC website. Option 1 uses the Area Plan boundary to identify potential DDCs, but if there are no Area Plans in the Study Area, then Option 1 will use the Area of Interest boundary, which is also the same boundary as the Study Area for this project.</p> <p>For Option 1: The Ventura Study Area has an applicable Area Plan, so the Area Plan boundary was used to identify DDCs in the Ventura Study Area. The County does not have an Area Plan in unincorporated Santa Paula, so the Area of Interest/Study Area boundary was used to identify DDCs for the Santa Paula Study Area.</p> <p>It would be helpful for me if you could provide the address for the locations that you have identified so I can help confirm whether these locations are included in Option 1 in Santa Paula. So far, I can confirm the following locations – but please make sure these addresses are the correct addresses you are referring to:</p> <p>Limoneira Headquarters: 1141 Cummings Road – included in Option 1 Olivelihoods School: 12465 Foothill Road – included in Option 1 Briggs School: 14438 W. Telegraph Road – included in Option 1 Limoneira's Aliso Canyon housing and mobile home park – please provide an address</p> <p>Please feel free to let me know if you have any more questions.</p>

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74a	Email	3/9/2023	Santa Paula	Mary Ann	<p>The addresses you provided are correct. What I call the Aliso Canyon housing is actually all the housing on Pine Road on the north side of Foothill just east of Aliso Canyon (easily visible on Google maps). And I forgot where Limoneira's mobile home park is, it is on the west side of Wheeler Canyon Road (NOT Aliso Canyon Rd.) about a quarter of a mile north of Foothill (also very visible on Google maps). I do not have an address for the MHP that I am sure of. Google maps says it is 12585 Foothill Rd. If you need an exact address you can call Limoneira headquarters and ask for Rosie Castillo, who manages their residential properties.</p> <p>Can you tell me the barrancas or other boundaries for Santa Paula's Area of Interest? Or do you have it overlayed on Google maps? I spent half an hour this morning searching the LAFCo website looking for an Area of interest map, and when I found it I realized the actual boundaries are not apparent; community members will ask me about the boundaries when I email them again about Monday's meeting.</p>	<p>Thank you for the additional information on the locations of the housing on Aliso Canyon and the mobile home park. Below are screenshots from Google to confirm with you that these are the areas you are referring to. If these are the correct areas, they are both included in Option 1 for the Santa Paula Study Area.</p> <p>As for the Area of Interest boundaries, we have a map of it in the County General Plan's Background Report, linked below. Please refer to PDF page 11 (or page 3-9 of the document) and PDF page 12 (or page 3-10 of the document) for a description and map of the Areas of Interest. This document also contains various other types of land use boundaries if you are interested in learning more about them.</p> <p>Link to the County General Plan's Background Report: <a href="https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/planning/plans/VCGPU_03_Adopted_Land_Use_September_2020.pdf">https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/planning/plans/VCGPU_03_Adopted_Land_Use_September_2020.pdf</a></p> <p>Aliso Canyon housing: [Image was provided]</p> <p>Mobile home park: [Image was provided]</p>
74b	Email	3/9/2023	Santa Paula	Mary Ann	<p>Yes, those are the Limoneira housing on Pine Rd and the Limoneira MHP I Wheeler Canyon.</p> <p>Thanks for the GP Background Report, as well.</p>	Acknowledged.
75	Email	3/10/2023	N/A	Wes Woods II, West County reporter for Ventura County Star	<p>For now, I just have a couple of questions. The first is when will this move to the Planning Commission (and then the Board of Supervisors) for discussion? Is there a timeline for that part of the process or are there more community meetings planned? Also, when the meetings are finished can residents still contribute comments via website or email or phone number.</p> <p>Lastly, at least for now, how did this study/process come about? Was there a Board of Supervisors directive or a grant or something else?</p> <p>I'll definitely be at the meeting tonight so if I have more questions from the presentation, I can ask them there.</p>	<p>Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors hearings are tentatively anticipated in summer 2023. Residents can still contribute comments via website, email, phone, or mail until March 27, 2023 to allow staff time to review the comments prior to taking the project to a hearing, but comments are still welcomed after March 27. In addition, community members will have opportunities to send in comments or make public comments at future Planning Commission and Board hearings.</p> <p>This study is a product of Implementation Program LU-Q in the County General Plan's Land Use element. The details of Implement Program LU-Q can be found online through the e-General Plan or in the General Plan itself.</p> <p>e-General Plan: <a href="https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/planning/plans/Final_2040_General_Plan_docs/VCGPU_02_Land_Use_Element_2020_09_15_web.pdf">https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/planning/plans/Final_2040_General_Plan_docs/VCGPU_02_Land_Use_Element_2020_09_15_web.pdf</a></p> <p>General Plan Land Use Element (see PDF page 66, or page 2-64 of the document): <a href="https://egeneralplan.vcrma.org/implementation-program/identify-designated-disadvantaged-communities-in-oxnard-and-ventura-planning-areas/">https://egeneralplan.vcrma.org/implementation-program/identify-designated-disadvantaged-communities-in-oxnard-and-ventura-planning-areas/</a></p>



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76	Email	3/16/2023	N/A	Louise Lampara, Executive Director of the Ventura County Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business	<p>Thank you for hosting the public meetings on the County's efforts to identify additional DDCs. I have been reviewing the information provided on the website, in the FAQs, and during the virtual public meeting and have a few follow-up questions that I'm hoping you can help with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•While SB535 relies on CalEnviroScreen ranking to establish DDCs, it was my understanding from the virtual meeting, the DDC Study website, and the FAQs that the County is using multiple data sources in its evaluation and analysis. Specifically, at least three data sources: CalEnviroScreen 4.0, data on annual income, and what (for lack of a better term, so please clarify I am using incorrect terminology) may be considered "community feedback and concerns."</li> </ul> <p>ols this correct?</p> <p>oWhat, if any, other data sources are the County considering in its evaluation and analysis?</p> <p>oWould you please share the County's decision-making process so that the public can better understand how the County is using each data source in its analysis and evaluation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Under AB617, VCAPCD has conducted its own extensive analysis and evaluation (using, in part, CalEnviroScreen 3.0, local traffic data, local pesticide use data, and local records on health factors) to identify communities at risk. To date, the state has not designated any communities in Ventura County as "at risk" under AB617 and the Ventura Avenue Area did not even rank as an area of concern under VCAPCD's analysis.</li> </ul> <p>oWhat role is VCAPCD playing in the County's DDC study process?</p> <p>oWill the County incorporate, evaluate and address VCAPCD's report and conclusions regarding communities at risk as part of the DDC study decision-making process?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•What is the County's anticipated timeline to complete the DDC study and bring the item to the BOS for consideration?</li> </ul> <p>Thank you again for the information provided in the virtual meeting and on the website.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments on the Study of Potential Disadvantaged Community Designations.</p> <p>The Study is evaluating CalEnviroScreen 4.0 data, median household income per census tract as compiled by the United States Census Bureau, and public input received on the Study. The information researched by staff and public input are intended to help evaluate the Study's options for potential designation boundaries of disadvantaged communities. Staff is currently preparing a draft report of the Study's findings, which will include a bibliography of all information reviewed as part of the Study. The report will be presented to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors later this year, along with all public input received. The Planning Commission may recommend designations of disadvantaged communities to the Board, based on the Study and public input received, and the Board will make the final determination regarding the designation of disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>Thank you for your comments and questions regarding AB 617 and VCAPCD's (<i>Ventura County Air Pollution Control District</i>) analysis. Staff will look into this matter and address your comments as part of staff's presentation to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.</p> <p>We appreciate your time and participation in the Study. Please feel free to let us know if you have any additional comments.</p> <p><i>(For additional information regarding AB 617 and APCD's analysis, please refer to the overall response regarding air quality in Chapter 5 of the Study. )</i></p>
77	Email	3/22/2023	N/A	Jake Rolls	<p>...What would these designations mean for people/ properties within the newly designated areas?</p>	<p>Posters that were used at the recent community meetings are now available online at the following link: <a href="https://vcrma.org/docs/images/pdf/planning/ddcstudy/Posters.pdf">https://vcrma.org/docs/images/pdf/planning/ddcstudy/Posters.pdf</a></p> <p>Poster Board No. 3 (page 4 in the link above) outlines what the designation could mean for people and communities within designated areas.</p> <p><i>(For additional information, please refer to Chapter 5 of the Study.)</i></p>
78	Instagram	approx. 3/8/2023	N/A	"@jesus_bautista18"	<p>Don't get rid of the farmers they own those lands without them there's no life</p>	<p>Acknowledged. For additional information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.</p>
79	Instagram	approx. 3/8/2023	N/A	"@farrondozi er"	<p>The number 11th Best City in California definitely needs to address these issues. @orcasaba is coming to bring some skillsets too.. you can't just talk about it.. mindset shift has to be included too. exclusion is a silent emotional wound. The experience of being left out doesn't just go away on its own</p>	<p>Acknowledged.</p>

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80	Facebook	3/4/2023	N/A	Martha Ellen Zordich Trulock	A bunch of gobble de goop political speech that no one understands. Does Disadvantaged also include adverse fallout from Gangs and Drugs?	The commenter's input is acknowledged. The goal of the project is to identify potential disadvantaged communities and present the project's findings to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. If the Board designates any communities identified in the project as a disadvantaged community, staff will incorporate the designated disadvantaged communities into the County General Plan. Disadvantaged communities are low-income areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. Although gang activity and drugs are not evaluated in the Study, other socioeconomic factors are considered, such as educational attainment, poverty and income, linguistic isolation, and housing burdens on low-income households. For additional information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.
81	Facebook	3/3/2023	N/A	Tara Bella Perez Provencher	Why so you can target them for removal and redevelopment	Acknowledged. For additional information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.
n/a	Facebook	3/3/2023	N/A	Anthony Gaeta	LoL	N/A
81a	Facebook	3/3/2023	N/A	Jennifer LaPlant Freitas	Tara Bella Perez Provencher more likely the option for additional allotment of funds, grants, and growth opportunities/support	Acknowledged. For additional information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.
82	Facebook	3/3/2023	N/A	Tara Bella Perez Provenche	So gentrification	Acknowledged. For additional information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.
82a	Facebook	3/3/2023	N/A	Tara Bella Perez Provenche	Gentrification	See response to comment ID #82a.
82b	Facebook	3/4/2023	N/A	KC Rodriguez	Tara Bella Perez Provencher YES!!!! ABSOLUTELY!!	See response to comment ID #82a.
83	Facebook	3/3/2023	N/A	Tara Bella Perez Provencher	Aka: rich people want to move in... so we gotta clean this up	Acknowledged. For additional information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.
83a	Facebook	3/4/2023	N/A	KC Rodriguez	Tara Bella Perez Provencher right!!!	See response to comment ID #83.
84	Facebook	3/4/2023	N/A	Krystal Villasenor	Sounds like they want to build a 15min city and this is step 1	Acknowledged. For additional information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.
n/a	Facebook	3/4/2023	N/A	Candy Jane Moulton Elder	Leslee Owens	N/A
85	Facebook	3/3/2023	N/A	Susie Que	I wish they would do something to clean up the The toxic mess... .....Simi Valley □	Acknowledged. Census tracts in the unincorporated areas near the city of Simi Valley were not identified as disadvantaged communities in the Study. For additional information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.
86	Facebook	3/4/2023	Ventura	KC Rodriguez	Also would be great if the Socal Gas compressor can get shut down on the avenue of Ventura. These families and those who work in the area are already suffering life health issues because of it, children who live in this area are physically suffering from hypoxia, asthma, headaches and nosebleeds, circulatory inability to produce strong bones, inability to absorb nutrients. Adults are suffering from cancers, heart and blood illnesses, brain fog, tremors, and other issues.	The commenter's input is acknowledged. The County does not have jurisdictional oversight of the SoCal Gas Compressor as the compressor station is located within the city of Ventura. For additional information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.

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87	Facebook	3/3/2023	N/A	Pamela Adams	What does disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution mean?!	Communities that are "disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution" are those within census tracts that exhibit environmental pollution and its adverse effects more than other communities throughout California, as indicated by a score of 75 or above in a statewide screening tool known as CalEnviroScreen.
87a	Facebook	3/3/2023	N/A	Doug Edson	Pamela Adams likely means federal tax dollars.	See response to comment ID #87.
88	Facebook	3/4/2023	N/A	Paul Sandoval	Get off my lawn!!! 🤖 [animated image of Simpson's character shaking fist]	N/A
n/a	Facebook	3/4/2023	N/A	Haas Er	<a href="https://vcrma.org/r/DDCStudy/">https://vcrma.org/r/DDCStudy/</a>	N/A
89	Facebook	3/4/2023	Oxnard	KC Rodriguez	Would have been great if this board would have voted for the health of the Lemonwood families and those who work in the area.	Acknowledged. The Lemonwood neighborhood is within the jurisdictional authority of the City of Oxnard.
89a	Facebook	3/6/2023	N/A	Marisa Lopez	KC Rodriguez So true. Hopefully something will come of getting this designation for these communities.	Acknowledged. For additional information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.
90	Facebook	3/6/2023	N/A	KC Rodriguez	Marisa Lopez I feel it's a step that will lead to more gentrification but I surely can be wrong...	Acknowledged. For additional information, see overall response in Chapter 5 of the Study.
91	Facebook	3/3/2023	N/A	Cliff Bruins	The link doesn't work. <a href="http://www.vcrma.org/ddcstudy-zoom">www.vcrma.org/ddcstudy-zoom</a>	The link was repaired on March 4 when staff was made aware of this comment.
92	Form	3/26/2023	Santa Paula	Anonymous	<p>5. Option 1 of the Santa Paula study area is where most of the farm working community resides. These are one of the most vulnerable workers since they spend their days outside with low wages and not the best working conditions. The Limoneira packing house is located in Option 1. Most farmworkers only speak Spanish or an indigenous language. Poverty, linguistic isolation, and educational attainment is all seen in the residents in this area. I regularly go running on Santa Paula street towards Cummings Road. I have noticed that some days my asthma flares out more when I'm running in that area. What I imagine are the times pesticide is being applied. I had cousins attending Briggs Elementary school when the 2014 Santa Clara waste water explosion occurred. Children at Briggs Elementary and at Olive Lands had to close down for a day to avoid kids being exposed to the toxic chemicals from the hazardous waste.</p> <p>6. Santa Paula has been experiencing rising housing costs, and so I would say Santa Paula has a housing burden. The study area is where a lot of farm workers and renters reside. In Santa Paula, some renters have been faced with their rent being increased without warning or being told that they have to move out of their complex for renovations only for their place to be put up for sale. I would not be surprised if similar stories have occurred in the study area in Santa Paula. Similar to this reason, since a lot of farm workers work in the study area I would say that there is a linguistic isolation and poverty. In 2014, the Santa Clara waste water on Mission Rock Road exploded. The truck that exploded had illegal chemicals that was expose to the air. For that, I would say the study area in Santa Paula also faces toxic release.</p>	The commenter's input is acknowledged. Although the Study does not directly address issues regarding living and working conditions of farmworkers, rental challenges, and impacts on schools, it is acknowledged that these issues are related to the environmental pollution and socioeconomic indicators considered in the Study. CalEnviroScreen indicators of poverty, linguistic isolation, educational attainment, pesticide use, hazardous waste, and housing burden, are among some of the highest scoring indicators within the census tracts evaluated in the Santa Paula Study Area. For additional information regarding these indicators, refer to Chapter 3 of the Study. For additional information on the issues raised by the commenter and overall repsonses to them, refer to Chapter 5 of the Study.

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Exhibit 8 - Public Comments Received During Public Engagement

ID	Comment Method	Date	Study Area	Commenter Name	Question/Comment	Response
93	Email	3/27/2023	Santa Paula	Arlene Pinkerton	<p>A copy of the commenter's letter is attached. Summary of comments raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Concerns about the Santa Clara Wastewater Facility</li><li>- Concerns about road safety, clean air and water, dust, trespassers, theft, vandalism</li><li>- Concerns about hazardous materials, hazardous waste being transported to and stored within Mission Rock area</li><li>- Supportive of designation in the Mission Rock community area, specifically Option 1; community was historically agricultural prior to existing industrial uses in Mission Rock area</li><li>- Industrial uses, specifically hazardous waste, are an injustice in the Santa Paula area that is intended to be addressed by the disadvantaged community designation</li><li>- Concerns about climate change, flooding, and impacts on children</li><li>- Doesn't have a clear understanding of CalEnviroScreen scores</li></ul> <p>Specific Location: specifically four parcels located at 14230 and 14230 Pinkerton Road, Santa Paula CA; near Santa Clara Waste Water Facility</p>	<p>While the Santa Clara wastewater treatment facility is not part of the Study, the topic of hazardous waste is considered as a CalEnviroScreen environmental pollution indicator, which has a score of 75 or above within the Santa Paula Study Area. CalEnviroScreen air quality and water quality indicators are also considered in the Study. Air quality scores were below 75 within the Santa Paula Study Area, while the Impaired Water Bodies indicator, which evaluates contaminated water bodies, has a score above 75 for two of the census tracts evaluated within the Study Area. For additional information on CalEnviroScreen indicators and its scoring methodology, please refer to Chapter 3 of the Study. The commenter's input regarding the Santa Clara wastewater treatment facility, road safety, schools, and climate change are further addressed in the overall responses in Chapter 5 of the Study. All other comments and concerns raised by the commenter are acknowledged.</p>





March 13, 2023

### **City of Santa Paula Designation of Disadvantaged Community**

On behalf of Santa Paula Latino Town Hall we thank the County of Ventura for providing opportunity for public comment on the proposed designation of disadvantaged community. We regret that advance notice was so limited that it prevented grass root organizations such as social justice and civil rights advocates to research criteria, prepare written comment and plan for turn out for this important meeting.

Santa Paula's population is nearly 30% children under age 18 years. According to the state's criteria and brief review of the Calenviroscreen, Santa Paula meets all of social determinants of health impacts, including poverty rates, linguistic isolation, high cost and lack of availability of housing, high unemployment, low educational attainment, high rates of asthma and cardiovascular disease and diabetes and obesity rates. ***In addition, according to the California Department of Public Health data identified in Ventura County's PH Needs Assessment document, there are structural inequities, socio-economic, and political drivers are part of the framework that endangers our resident's health, life expectancy and quantify the factors that shape health.***

According to the Gold Coast Health Plan the County's managed care system for all Medi-Cal recipients, there are approximately 240,000 low income recipients. The majority reside in Oxnard and Santa Paula.

Comment 59a

Exhibit 8 - Public Comments Received During Public Engagement

You know our history that this current community center site sits about 2 miles from the 2014 chemical explosion that resulted in permanent injury and widespread adverse environmental exposure to our city.

Poverty, low educational attainment, linguistic isolation, health needs, and unemployment, cost and lack of adequate housing create stress, concerns of ability to access health care information, public services, and regulatory processes like this one. Lack of English proficiency often results in racial discrimination, and reduced quality of life. Public health and social service departments are hampered with the ability to conduct necessary studies that would help reduce racial and ethnic disparities due to language barriers and inability to outreach on private ranch properties where the farm worker community work.

In the event of accidental chemical release of a spill such as happened in 2014 less than 2 miles from this community center, linguistically isolated persons may not receive timely info.

The health and wellbeing of all people and communities is essential to a thriving, equitable society. Investing to achieve the full potential for health and well-being for all provides valuable benefits to society.

**One way of eliminating health disparities is to designate the proposed areas as Designated Disadvantaged Community.**

Laura Espinosa 

**Immediate Past President**

**Santa Paula Latino Town Hall**

**[Votelaura1@gmail.com](mailto:Votelaura1@gmail.com)**

**(805) 407-1608**

Comment 93

Exhibit 8 - Public Comments Received During Public Engagement

**Nguyen, Jessica**

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**From:** Valerie Lopez <valerie@teo-law.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2023 11:29 AM  
**To:** Study of Potential Disadvantaged Community Designations  
**Cc:** Thomas E Olson; Arlene Pinkerton  
**Subject:** Study of Potential Disadvantaged Community Designations  
**Attachments:** County Input.pdf

**WARNING:** If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to [Email.Security@ventura.org](mailto:Email.Security@ventura.org).

Good morning County of Ventura,

On behalf of Arlene Pinkerton, this office is submitting the attached Provide Your Input sheet.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email.

Sincerely,

Valerie Lopez, Legal Assistant & Notary Public  
THOMAS E. OLSON, A Professional Law Corporation  
2590 E. Main Street, Suite 106  
Ventura, CA 93003  
Phone: (805) 628-9256  
Fax: (805) 628-9153  
Email: [valerie@teo-law.com](mailto:valerie@teo-law.com)  
Website: <https://teo-law.com/>

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# PROVIDE YOUR INPUT

Fill out the information below to provide your input related to the Study of Potential Disadvantaged Community Designations. Alternatively, you may also fill out this form online, email your input to [DDC@ventura.org](mailto:DDC@ventura.org) or mail in your input at County of Ventura, Planning Division, Attn: Jessica Nguyen, 800 S. Victoria Avenue L#1740, Ventura, CA 93009. Input will be accepted through March 27, 2023.

Name (optional): Arlene Pinkerton

Affiliation/Agency (optional):

Please select the Study Area you are providing input for (please select one):

☐ Ventura

☒ Santa Paula

☐ Oxnard

If you would like to provide input on a specific location within the Study Area you selected, please describe that location (Examples: major cross street intersection, street name, neighborhood name, common landmark, etc.).

See attached.

Please describe how you have been impacted by one or more of the pollution burdens and population characteristics identified in the Study Area you are providing input for.

See attached.

Please describe the pollution burdens or socioeconomic burdens that you believe have a disproportionate impact on the Study Area but were not identified in the Study.

See attached.

Additional comments:

Comment 93

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Project Website  
[vcрма.org/ddcstudy](http://vcрма.org/ddcstudy)



Frequently Asked  
Questions  
[vcрма.org/ddcstudy-faq](http://vcрма.org/ddcstudy-faq)



Provide Your Input  
[vcрма.org/ddcstudy-input](http://vcрма.org/ddcstudy-input)



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Study of Potential Disadvantaged Community Designations

PROVIDE YOUR INPUT

Attachment from  
Arlene Pinkerton  
c/o Thomas E. Olson  
Thomas E. Olson, A Professional Law Corporation  
2590 East Main Street  
Suite 106  
Ventura, CA 93003  
tom@teo-law.com

March 27, 2023

**Study Area** - Santa Paula

**Specific Location within the Study Area:**

I own land immediately to the east of the Mission Rock Road area. Specifically:

Agricultural land, consisting of *four parcels*, located at 14230 and 14230 Pinkerton Road, Santa Paula, California, 93060:

**APN 099-0-060-445** - Consisting of approximately 23.01 acres with personal residence, address 14230 Pinkerton Road, Santa Paula.

**APN 099-0-060-455** - Consisting of approximately 9,435 square feet, adjacent to 14230 Pinkerton Road.

**APN 099-0-060-465** - Consisting of approximately 7.94 acres, 14230 Pinkerton Road.

**APN 099-0-060-475** - Consisting of approximately 1,029 square feet, adjacent to 14230 Pinkerton Road

I also own a Well Site in the same area just north of Pinkerton Road.

**APN 099-0-060-205** Consisting of a parcel of land of approximately 625 square feet, adjacent to 14235 Pinkerton Road

All of this land is within a mile of the old Santa Clara Waste Water Facility.

**Please describe how you have been impacted by one or more of the pollution burdens and population characteristics identified in the Study Area you are providing input for:**

I am very familiar with that agricultural area at the south end of Briggs Road which runs southeast and southwest of the 126 Freeway. My parents, Wesley and Betty Pinkerton, lived and farmed there. My parents built a house which still stands to raise their three children. I am one of their daughters. I now own the family property that lies to the east of Mission Rock Road as

noted above.

I can remember when the Mission Rock Company was first given permission to begin mining the river bottom. My parents objected because it would interfere with their farming business and family life. Mission Rock's big yellow cement trucks began hauling out gravel on the narrow road there at the same time I was beginning elementary school. Mission Rock quarrying activities went on for 30 years. Ultimately they were stopped because they mined below the red line and lowered the water table. This then contributed to the sea water intrusion issues which necessitated the creation of the Freeman Diversion Project. There are many industrial businesses operating in what is now referred to as the Mission Rock Community.

I can remember how infuriated my father was when he learned that the County had given out more CUPs to other people in the riverbed including the one for the Santa Clara Waste Water Facility site in 1959. The type and quantity of vehicles using the road has greatly influenced that area and changed its character.

After Wesley Pinkerton's death in 1989, his wife, my mother, Betty Pinkerton, attempted to bargain with the Mission Rock Community. She had an attorney draw up an agreement where Mission Rock businesses would agree to provide things like fencing and city water in exchange for her permission to pass over her private road. After the agreement was signed by everyone, the Mission Rock people said they could not pay for the conditions. This was very discouraging for my mother who had attempted to make a settlement reasonable for everyone. It is just indicative of the problems we have had over the years. Betty Pinkerton continued farming the area until she died in 1995. At that time, her son, my brother, Murray Pinkerton, took over caring for the property which was planted in citrus trees. He dealt with the issues since he lived there on the same property. In 2014 there was an explosion at the Santa Clara Waste Water Facility. Murray experienced the noise and the jolt of the explosion at his house at 3:30 am in the morning, and then the ensuing confusion, and disbelief in the aftermath of the explosion. Murray Pinkerton continued to farm the citrus until he died in 2017. I am now responsible for the farm and am grateful that I have found responsible and competent lessees.

The original CUP for the Santa Clara Waste Water Facility was issued in 1959. That was before enactment of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The waste water facility has been closed since the explosion 9 years ago. Now the County is being asked to consider a new application, with a full Environmental Impact Report. The meetings in 2022 showed that the community does not want this facility, and feels that Santa Paula is being made a dumping ground for other communities who, being more affluent, do not want to deal with such a facility in their own back yard. This injustice deals directly with the issues intended to be addressed by the Disadvantaged Community Designation legislation.

When the Ventura County Jail was allowed into the greenbelt, it was agreed that Shell Road would be closed to its traffic and the jail would not be allowed to use the Briggs Road off ramp. The RI-NU CUP proposal presented in the past would seek to permit 150 truck trips A DAY off Briggs Road.

My family has borne the burden of encroachment of industry into what had been historically a farming area. There was oil there but my parents did not own the oil rights. Road safety issues, concerns about clean air and water, increasing dust, trespassers, theft, vandalism were issues that my parents dealt with, my brother dealt with, and now I am dealing with. These concerns have fallen upon deaf ears. At least in 2022 the County at least required the creation of a full EIR before consideration of reopening of the RI-NU facility. But that took a major uprising of opposition in the community. Inclusion of this area in a Disadvantaged Community Designation will force the county to take into consideration the adverse impacts that have been created by the industrialization of the area which was originally agricultural only, and the impact on the lives, health and well-being of the residents of Santa Paula.

Just as an example, RI-NU applications made much of the claim that the waste stream coming onto the property is not “hazardous” in accordance with official governmental determinations of such things. The prior operator certainly sent some radioactive waste down the pipeline, so where did that come from? It must have been in the waste taken to the site. It appears that the new operator will be seeking to process from the same places that used it before. In addition, *hazardous materials are an intrinsic part of the treatment of the waste stream.* It was hazardous chemicals on the premises for treatment of waste stream that caused the explosion. So this will be a delivery point and storage facility for hazardous materials, which will be actively used in the treatment of the waste stream. The Disadvantaged Community Designation for this area presented in Option 1 will force the County to take all of this into consideration when permitting further uses in this area. Santa Paula needs the protection of the designation so that it is not subjected to the depredations of business interests looking to find some “out of the way” place to deal with treatment of other communities’ waste.

My father remembered the St. Francis Dam disaster of 1928 along this same Santa Clara River. While there is no St. Francis Dam any longer, there are other dams upstream. There is the question of climate change (which certainly changes the risks since 1969). The last flood came down that river into Ventura in 1969. What would happen to the hazardous materials stored on site if a flood came down the river?

Again as another example, the truck traffic down to the proposed RI-NU facility from the freeway would go directly along two boundaries of my property. That means exhaust, dust, fumes are impacting my property, planted to row crops, every day. That pollution also affects all of western Santa Paula. What about the hazardous materials being transported onto the proposed RI-NU site to carry out its decontamination tasks? What if there is a collision? Will the testing required at the gate slow down traffic so much that we will have stopped trucks backed up for miles leading to this facility? These types of issues have a bearing on the entire community of Santa Paula.

Of the options being considered, I favor Option 1 which will include the Mission Rock Road area within the proposed Disadvantaged Community finding for the Santa Paula Study Area.

**Please describe the pollution burdens or socioeconomic burdens that you believe have a**

**disproportionate impact on the Study Area but were not identified in the study.**

I do not have a copy of the study's underlying data to understand, for example, the score of 96 for pesticide use in Santa Paula, or the 96 score for impaired water bodies, or the 89 rating for the hazardous waster, or the 80 for childrens' lead risk from housing, or the score of 84 on educational attainment. I am a retired school teacher. I care about the impacts on children. Santa Paula needs the protection of special scrutiny for future development in the area so that one of the poorer communities in the county is not unfairly and disproportionately burdened with development that other communities refuse to permit in their back yard.