

Ventura County 2040 General Plan Update Background Report

Major Findings Executive Summary

PURPOSE OF THE BACKGROUND REPORT

The Background Report provides a “snapshot” in time of the County’s existing conditions and represents the first major technical product of the general plan update process. It presents the physical, social, and economic resource information required to support the preparation of the General Plan.

The Background Report serves as the foundation document from which subsequent planning policies and programs will be formulated. The document is also used as the “environmental setting” section of the General Plan Environmental Impact Report.

The Ventura County General Plan Background Report is divided into 12 Chapters:

1 - Introduction. This chapter provides background information on the purpose of the General Plan, describes the regional setting, and outlines the organization and content of the General Plan.

2 - Demographics and Economics. This chapter describes the fiscal setting and economic conditions in Ventura County, as well as population and employment projections.

3 - Land Use. This chapter summarizes existing land use, describes local and regional land use plans, and explains land use designations in Ventura County.

4 - Community Health and Wellbeing. This chapter describes public health and accessibility to food, active transportation, and economic opportunities.

5 - Housing. This chapter describes the existing and projected housing needs for Ventura County.

6 - Transportation and Mobility. This chapter describes the transportation networks in Ventura County, including roadways, active transportation, aviation facilities, and vehicle miles travelled.

7 - Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure. This chapter describes all of the services offered by Ventura County and other local governments and agencies, including water supply, utilities, law enforcement, schools, and other local services.

8 - Natural Resources. This chapter provides an overview of energy, mineral, and biological features, as well as cultural and paleontological resources in Ventura County.

9 - Agriculture. This chapter provides an overview of agricultural trends and issues. Summaries of existing agricultural land patterns and production in the county are described and evaluated.

10 - Water Resources. This chapter discusses water resources found in the county and focuses on water availability, quality, systems in place for delivery, and conservation measures.

11 - Hazards and Safety. This chapter describes geologic, seismic, flood, fire, and human-made hazards, as well as noise and aviation hazards.

12 - Climate Change. This chapter describes Ventura County’s greenhouse gas emissions and the impact of climate change in Ventura County.

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CHAPTER 2: DEMOGRAPHICS AND ECONOMICS

Section 2.1 Population and Household Trends

- Ventura County had a total population of 856,508 residents in 2016, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 0.7 percent. The unincorporated areas within Ventura County accounted for 98,323 residents in 2016, which is approximately 11.4 percent of the total county population. Population in the unincorporated area has increased by 3,386 residents since 2010 (0.6 percent CAGR).
- The age distribution for the population in Ventura County shows a loss of population under 18 years of age between 2010 and 2016. While total population increased four percent between 2010 and 2016, residents 65 and older increased by 16 percent (14,885 persons). In contrast, the number of children under 18 years of age declined by 1.3 percent (2,126 persons), of which 46 percent declined in the unincorporated area despite that area having just 11.4 percent of the county's population.
- The racial and ethnic composition of Ventura County indicates that about 77.7 percent of the 2016 population is

white. 41.2 percent of the population identifies as Hispanic (any race), while residents identified as Black/African-American (1.8 percent), Asian (7.0 percent), other race (8.5 percent), or two or more races (4.1 percent) each accounted for less than 10 percent of the population. In general, the unincorporated areas have a higher proportion of white residents (83.0 percent) and lower proportion of Hispanic residents (31.3 percent) and other races and ethnicities.¹

- At the start of 2016, Ventura County had a total of 273,286 households, an increase of 6,366 households from 2010 (CAGR of 0.4 percent). The unincorporated areas accounted for 32,191 households, with only 261 new households since 2010 (0.1 percent CAGR).
- In 2014, the estimated mean household income in Ventura County was \$100,397, while the median income was \$77,335. The mean household income in the incorporated cities (\$97,693) was lower than the mean for the unincorporated areas (\$121,009). About 37.4 percent of Ventura County households earn \$100,000 or more annually, with about 43.1 percent of households in the unincorporated areas at that income level.

¹ The analysis does not include trend comparisons with prior years due to inconsistencies observed in the mixed race and other race classifications.

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- The educational attainment of Ventura County residents shows about 31.6 percent of residents 25 years or older with at least a Bachelor’s degree and 17.0 percent with no high school diploma. About 64.0 percent of the population 25 years or older have at least some college education. In general, the educational attainment in the unincorporated areas is slightly higher than the countywide average.

Section 2.2 Labor Force Patterns

- The civilian labor force in Ventura County averaged 394,105 employed residents 16 years of age and over during the five-year period between 2010 and 2014. The composition of the county labor force by occupation shows that the largest proportion of these employed residents was in the management, business, science, and arts occupations. The unincorporated areas of Ventura County show an average of 44,204 employed residents 16 years of age and over during the five-year period between 2010 and 2014. These areas have a higher representation of the labor force in management, business, science, and arts occupations with 41.4 percent of the employed residents.
- The civilian labor force in Ventura County by industry sector shows that the retail, health care, and manufacturing industries accounted for the highest proportion of the civilian

workers age 16 years and over. (“Industries” represent types of businesses with operations that can include many different types of occupations.) Compared to the cities, the unincorporated areas of Ventura County had a higher representation of the labor force in the professional, scientific, and technical services industry, and a lower representation of the labor force in manufacturing industries.

Section 2.3 Regional Market Trends

- In 2015, Ventura County had an employment base of 319,588 jobs, only about 80 percent of the jobs that would be needed to fully employ the County labor force. Similar to the industries in which the labor force is employed, though, the job base has large concentrations of jobs in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; retail trade, manufacturing, and health care and social assistance. Other industries with significant job levels include accommodations and food service, and public administration.
- The unincorporated areas accounted for 32,889 (10.3 percent) of the Ventura County job base in 2015. As with the County as a whole, this is well below the number of workers living in the unincorporated area (44,204). The largest concentration of jobs in 2015 in the unincorporated areas was agriculture, with smaller concentrations in construction, manufacturing and

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education. While substantial numbers of workers living in the unincorporated area are employed in these types of industries, most of the agricultural workers in the County live in the cities and there are even higher concentrations of workers in the unincorporated area employed in professional, scientific and technical services industries, health care, and retail trade (see Section 2.2).

- The industry output² for Ventura County indicates that the value of economic activity within the county totals more than
- \$70.8 billion. Overall, the Ventura County economy showed a slight decline in constant dollar (inflation-adjusted) terms between 2007 and 2014. The largest output is from the manufacturing sector, at \$14.1 billion, which represents a higher concentration of manufacturing than the state average. Ventura County's farm product value reached \$2.1 billion in 2014, an increase of about 50 percent in constant dollar terms since the year 2000, similar to the statewide average. Agriculture supports nearly 27,000 direct jobs in farming and about 5,800 additional jobs in related sectors and food processing. Combined with related distribution services and

food processing, the agriculture industry cluster is estimated to generate \$3.5 billion in economic activity (output). Agricultural production employment (not including food processing and related sectors) in the unincorporated areas totaled over 14,400 jobs in 2015, based on State Employment Development Department (EDD) records. However, it should be noted that many companies report their field jobs as located at their administrative office, which probably results in a lot of farm jobs showing up as located within cities rather than on farmland.

- The unincorporated areas host many of the scenic destinations that draw visitors to Ventura County. Between 2005 and 2014, the unincorporated areas increased their share of lodging revenues from 1.8 percent to 2.3 percent. Hospitality industries (accommodations and food service) grew to over 30,000 jobs in Ventura County in 2015, an increase of nearly 6,000 jobs from 2002. Hospitality employment in the unincorporated areas totaled over 800 jobs in 2015, which is about the same as the job count from back in 2002.

² This term refers to the sum of economic activity for an industry or business establishment within a specific geographic area. This includes the sum of

commodity inputs, labor income, taxes, property income, and other value added components.

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- Oil and gas production supported 3,211 direct jobs and over \$652 million in labor income in Ventura County (not including retail gas stations) in 2013. The industry supports a very high worker productivity of nearly \$700,000 in industry output per job, which is much higher than the average \$157,000 in output per worker for all Ventura County industries. The industry also has high wages and salaries, averaging \$118,400.
- Aggregate mining accounted for nearly 150 jobs in Ventura County in 2015. The average income per worker for this activity in 2015 came out to nearly \$58,500, which was above the countywide average income per worker of \$52,700. In addition, the mining industry had an average industry output per worker of over \$353,000 in 2015, which was more than double the average worker productivity for all industries in Ventura County.
- Ventura County has multiple institutions of higher learning located throughout the county. These institutions supported a total of 5,800 positions in 2015, an increase of nearly 800 jobs compared to 2002. Two of these institutions are located in the unincorporated area, California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) and Thomas Aquinas College (information on other educational facilities may be found in Chapter 7, Public Facilities). CSUCI opened in 2002 and is located in the Oxnard Planning area. The campus currently supports 6,167 students, 175 full-time faculty, and 753 total full-time equivalent staff. Based on the campus Capital Expansion Plan, the University is projected to grow to 11,500 students by 2025. Thomas Aquinas College is a private, liberal arts college located north of Santa Paula, with an enrollment of about 378 students.
- The Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) was established in 2000 through the merger of the former Naval Air Station Point Mugu and Construction Battalion Center Port Hueneme. The NBVC supports about 17,000 armed forces, civilian, and contractor jobs. The various commands located at the bases are responsible for a significant amount of research into new technologies and material for defense applications. A number of private firms work closely with the military to research and develop these new systems. The Point Mugu facility is in the unincorporated Oxnard planning area, and supports operations for aerial combat training, testing, logistics, and other support activities tied to airborne operations. Direct jobs (not including civilian or contractor positions) with the military in Ventura County accounted for nearly 5,200 jobs in 2015.
- Ventura County's location near Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley and its numerous scenic and historical sites

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make it a natural location for filming activity. Based on data from the Ventura County Film Commission, in 2015, the County attracted 1,964 days of filming activity, which benefits more than 3,500 trade workers and professionals. Total film activity in the County generated \$39.3 million in economic activity in 2015, which was more than double the \$16.8 million in economic activity that film production created in 2013. In addition, the \$20.1 million economic impact in the unincorporated areas in 2015 was also nearly double the \$10.7 million economic impact from 2013.

Section 2.4 Population and Employment Projections

- Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) projections for Ventura County show a projected population of 965,400 residents (12.7 percent increase over 2016) by 2040, with the unincorporated areas projected to increase to 113,600 residents (15.5 percent increase over 2016) by 2040. This is a slower rate of growth than the County has experienced in the past.
- In terms of the age distribution of the future population, the California Department of Finance project the older age groups to comprise an increasing share of total population as the Baby Boomers continue to age.
- The Hispanic and Asian populations in the County are projected to grow more rapidly than other racial/ethnic groups.
- Household projections indicate that the overall county total will increase to 312,300 by 2040, with the unincorporated areas increasing to 37,500 households.
- The projected employment in Ventura County will total 421,700 jobs, based on ADE's projections by 2040 (increase of 31.9 percent over 2015), with unincorporated areas expecting a job total of 38,700 by 2040 (increase of 17.7 percent over 2015). This is slightly slower than the County has experienced in the past.
- The highest employment growth is projected to occur in construction, retail, tourism, health care and education, all of which could occur in the unincorporated area.
- Employment growth is projected to occur more rapidly than population growth, leading to an increase in the number of jobs per household from 1.2 to 1.3. In 2015 it is estimated there are 1.6 workers per households in Ventura County.
- The California Economic Forecast projects that per capita income in Ventura County will increase in real terms twice as fast as population, meaning that future residents should have more disposable income.

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Section 2.5 Market Demand Measures for Different Land Uses

- Based on SCAG growth projections through 2040, the demand for new dwelling units in the unincorporated area will total 5,670 units.
- Based on the parcel-specific estimates prepared for the 2014 Housing Element, the unincorporated area has the potential to accommodate 1,361 residential units on vacant land currently zoned for residential uses, which totals 722.9 acres.
- The County's remaining residential development potential on vacant residential land yields an average of 1.9 dwelling units per acre (722.9 acres/1,361 dwelling units). At this density, vacant residential land would support approximately 24 percent of the projected dwelling unit demand of 5,670 units between 2012 and 2040. Accommodating the remainder of the projected residential demand at this density (i.e., 4,309 units at 1.9 dwelling units per acre), would require rezoning up to 2,268 acres of land.
- If the total projected residential development demand (5,670 units) was to be accommodated by a combination of the existing average development density of 1.9 units/acre and the maximum development density of 20 units/acre,

approximately 30 percent of vacant residential land (238 acres) would need to be “upzoned” to 20 dwelling units per acre, and approximately 70 percent of vacant residential land could be developed at the existing average of 1.9 dwelling units per acre.

- There is also residential development potential associated with second units, farmworker housing (individual units and complexes), and principal dwelling units on vacant parcels zoned OS, AE, and RA. The remaining residential development capacity of these residential dwelling types is approximately 28,200 units. (This total assumes no subdivision of OS, AE or RA-zoned land.)
- Construction completion data shows that over the last ten years, second dwelling unit construction averaged 19 units per year, individual farmworker dwelling units averaged three units per year, and farmworker complexes averaged 14 units per year (see Land Use Chapter, Section 3.7 Development Holding Capacity and Remaining Development Potential). These historical construction completion averages are far lower than the theoretical capacity associated with these dwelling types.
- Based on employment projections, there is an estimated deficit of approximately 51 acres of commercial land and

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approximately 16 acres of industrial land in the unincorporated area.

CHAPTER 3: LAND USE

Section 3.1 Planning Boundaries

- Ventura County covers 1.2 million acres and is bordered by the Pacific ocean to the southwest, Los Angeles County to the southeast and east, Santa Barbara County to the west, and Kern County to the north. The Los Padres National Forest accounts for approximately 574,000 acres, or 47 percent of the county's total land area. The balance of the county includes approximately 528,000 acres of land in the unincorporated area (43 percent) and approximately 121,000 acres of land in cities (10 percent).
- For statistical analysis purposes, the existing General Plan was divided into 15 planning areas: Ventura, Camarillo, Port Hueneme, Oxnard, Fillmore, Thousand Oaks, Santa Paula, Ojai, Moorpark, Simi Valley, North Half, Oak Park, Ahmanson Ranch, Las Posas, and Piru.
- The County has 10 area plans that include goals, policies, programs, and land use designations for geographically specific unincorporated communities: Ahmanson Ranch,

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

Section 3.2 Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) and Spheres of Influence

- There are no major findings related to the description of LAFCo and its responsibilities. See Section 3.3 Annexation and Development Trends, for a discussion of LAFCo-related trends and activities.

Section 3.3 Annexation and Development Trends

- A majority of the annexations and boundary changes in the cities in the western portion of Ventura County occurred earlier than 1960. After 1960 the eastern cities incorporated, beginning with Thousand Oaks (1964), followed by Camarillo (1964), Simi Valley (1969), and Moorpark (1982).
- The majority of growth and development in Ventura County has occurred in the incorporated cities. Between 2000 and 2016, 94.3 percent of the county's population growth occurred in incorporated cities.

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- The County, cities within the county, and LAFCo adopted the Guidelines for Orderly Development in 1969 to direct urban-level development and services to the incorporated areas.
- 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. 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 zoning. There are seven greenbelts in Ventura County.
- Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR) refers to a series of voter initiatives that have been adopted for eight of the 10 cities and the County unincorporated area (Ojai and Port Hueneme have not adopted SOAR measures). The city SOAR measures establish voter-controlled urban growth boundaries, known as City Urban Restriction Boundaries (CURBs). CURBs are lines around each city that require voter approval to allow City annexation and development of land outside of the CURB boundary. The County SOAR ordinance requires voter approval to amend the Open Space, Agriculture, and Rural General Plan land designations, and the goals and policies as they specifically apply to those land use

designations unless such amendment is approved by a vote of the people.

Section 3.4 Existing Assessor Land Use Categories

- Open space (defined by the Assessor as greenbelt, forest, water areas, brush hills, pasture grazing land) is the most common land use, accounting for over 75 percent of the unincorporated county, or 800,943 acres. The northern half of the county is mostly open space; including the Los Padres National Forest.
- Agriculture is the second most common type of land use at 13 percent of the unincorporated areas. Orchards and row crops are the most prominent agricultural uses in the county, accounting for over 90,000 acres of land. Agricultural uses are primarily located in the Santa Clara River Valley and on the Oxnard Plain.
- Public/quasi-public is the third most common land use accounting for approximately five percent of land in the unincorporated county. Public/quasi-public uses include areas dedicated to transportation, communication, utilities and public services and the majority are found in urbanized areas in the southern portion of the county.

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Section 3.5 General Plan and Area Plan Land Use Designations

- This section describes the status of existing plans, but contains no critical evaluation of these plans. Thus, there are no major findings related to general plans and area plans.

Section 3.6 Existing Zoning

- The Ventura County Zoning Ordinance has two separate sections: non-coastal and coastal. The Coastal Zoning Ordinance applies to land between the Coastal Zone Boundary and Pacific Coast. The Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance applies to land east of the Coastal Zone Boundary. Among the zoning districts, the County applied open space and agricultural zoning districts to the greatest proportion of land in the unincorporated county.
- The Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance establishes 21 base zones and three overlay zones. Among the 21 base zones, there are seven residential zones, three commercial zones, four industrial zones, and seven other zones that are primarily related to open space, agriculture, timberland, and other resource-related land uses. The Open Space (OS) zoning district includes approximately 780,000 acres, and the

Agricultural Exclusive (AE) zoning district includes nearly 205,000 acres.

- The Coastal Zoning Ordinance establishes 12 base zones and one overlay zone. Among the 12 base zones, there are four residential zones, one commercial zone, one industrial zone, two planned development zones, and four other zones that are related to open space, agriculture, and rural-related land uses. The Coastal Open Space (COS) zoning district includes approximately 22,600 acres and the Coastal Agricultural (CA) zoning district includes approximately 4,800 acres.

Section 3.7 Development Holding Capacity and Remaining Development Potential

- Based on adopted city and unincorporated County General Plans and zoning, the vast majority of development capacity lies within the County's ten incorporated cities and unincorporated area located within these cities spheres of influence. This includes 89.1 percent of the dwelling unit capacity, 90.0 percent of the population capacity, 92.0 percent of the non-residential building potential, and 90.3 percent of the employment potential.
- Based on the parcel-specific estimates prepared for the 2014 Housing Element, the unincorporated area has the potential

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to accommodate 1,361 dwelling units on vacant land currently zoned for residential uses, which totals 722.9 acres.

- The County’s remaining residential development potential on vacant residential land yields an average of 1.9 dwelling units per acre (722.9 acres/1,361 dwelling units). At this density, vacant residential land would support approximately 24 percent of the projected dwelling unit demand of 5,670 units between 2012 and 2040. Accommodating the remainder of the projected residential demand at this density (i.e., 4,309 units at 1.9 dwelling units per acre), would require rezoning up to 2,268 acres of land.
- If the total projected residential development demand (5,670 dwelling units) was to be accommodated by a combination of the existing average development density of 1.9 units/acre and the maximum development density of 20 units/acre, approximately 30 percent of vacant residential land (238 acres) would need to be “upzoned” to 20 dwelling units per acre, and approximately 70 percent of vacant residential land could be developed at the existing average of 1.9 dwelling units per acre.
- There is also residential development potential associated with second units, farmworker housing (individual dwelling units and complexes), and principal dwelling units on vacant parcels zoned OS, AE, and RA. The remaining residential

development capacity of these residential dwelling types is approximately 28,200 dwelling units. (This total assumes no subdivision of OS, AE or RA-zoned land.)

- Construction completion data shows that over the last ten years, second dwelling unit construction averaged 19 units per year, individual farmworker dwelling units averaged three units per year, and farmworker complexes averaged 14 units per year. These historical construction completion averages are far lower than the theoretical capacity associated with these dwelling types. As a practical matter, it is unlikely that the majority of residential demand could be filled by those unit types. Therefore, a greater diversity of units to accommodate a wider range of residential housing demand through 2040 will be needed. To determine how best to support the County’s housing goals, it would be prudent to evaluate the overall supply of land and subdivision potential during the alternatives development and evaluation phase of the General Plan Update.
- There is limited land available for commercial and industrial development in the unincorporated county, at approximately 184.4 acres. This land would accommodate 4,183 jobs, which falls below the projected employment growth in the unincorporated area of approximately 5,600 by 2040.

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- Based on employment projections, there is an estimated deficit of approximately 51 acres of commercial land and approximately 16 acres of industrial land in the unincorporated area. This suggests that limited land supply could constrain job growth in the unincorporated area. To determine how best to support the County's economic development goals, it would be prudent to evaluate the overall supply of land designated for non-residential uses during the alternatives development and evaluation phase of the General Plan Update.

Section 3.8 City General Plans

- No Major Findings

Section 3.9 Other Agency Plans

- The 2016-2040 SCAG Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy highlights the potential for Port of Hueneme to be a preferred port for specialized cargo, such as automobiles and military cargo.
- The U.S. Forest Service Land Management Plan – Part 2 Los Padres National Forest Strategy provides a comprehensive, long-range forest plan for land and resource management.

- The Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan for Ventura County protects the public from the adverse effects of aircraft noise, prevents concentration of people and facilities in areas that are susceptible to aircraft accidents, and ensures that no structures or activities encroach upon or adversely affect the use of navigable airspace. The plan applies to four airports: Camarillo and Oxnard Airports, Santa Paula Airport, and Naval Air Station (NAS) Point Mugu.

Section 3.10 Military Institutions and Installations

- The Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) is located along the Central Coast of Ventura County. NBVC is comprised of three separate Navy bases: NBVC Point Mugu, NBVC Port Hueneme, and NBVC San Nicolas Island.
- The Instrument Route-200 (IR-200) missile corridor is located primarily over rural land in Ventura County. Development within the IR-200 corridor could threaten the mission-critical testing and evaluation operations.

Section 3.11 Disadvantaged Unincorporated communities

- The Piru community meets the definition of a disadvantaged, legacy community, although no needs or deficiencies that require major improvements were identified that cannot be handled through private development opportunities.

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CHAPTER 4: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Section 4.1 A Healthy Community Model

- Ventura County ranked 8th in overall health outcomes out of the 58 California counties.
- Leading causes of death in Ventura County are cancer, coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease (stroke), Alzheimer’s Disease, and chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD); of these five, four are greatly influenced by the built environment.
- According to the 2016 Ventura County Community Health Survey conducted by VCPH Ventura County residents believe that:
 - Healthy behaviors and lifestyles, low crime/safe neighborhoods, a clean environment, and access to health care make a healthy community;
 - Aging, mental health, and lack of good paying jobs are the three most important health problems in the county;
 - Being overweight/obese, alcohol abuse, drug abuse, poor eating habits, and lack of exercise are behaviors

that have the greatest impact on overall community health; and

- Almost 90 percent of respondents believe that Ventura County is “somewhat healthy” to “healthy.”

Section 4.2 Food Security and Food Environment

- In 2014 there were 78,840 food-insecure people living in Ventura County, or roughly 9.4 percent of the county’s population. Among those who are food-insecure, an estimated 80 percent are within 200 percent of the poverty level, making them eligible for nutrition programs such as the federally-funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the food stamps program.
- Ventura County has a lower food insecurity rate than neighboring counties and California as a whole.
- Changing climate patterns may disrupt the stability of farming communities, in addition to making it more difficult for them to carry out healthy behaviors.
- The national “modified retail food environment index” (mRFEI) score is 10 and the California mRFEI score is 11. Most census tracts in Ventura County score higher than

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California and national mRFEIs; there are, however, pockets within the county that have few to no healthy food retailers.

- The Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and Conejo Valley Unified School District are two of Southern California's pilot Farm-to-School service sites.
- In total, there are 79 DOE Summer Food Service Program sites that serve breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a morning and/or an afternoon snack in the summer months of 2016.
- There are 12 certified farmers' markets operating within Ventura County in 2016.
- Food Forward has a Ventura County branch, which hosts roughly 20 fruit harvests a month and runs two farmers' market recovery events each week.
- There are 15 FOOD Share Community Market sites and 101 food pantry sites around Ventura County.

Section 4.3 Socioeconomic Status and Economic Opportunity

- There are pockets of disadvantaged neighborhoods within the county, namely within the Ojai, Oxnard, Ventura, Santa Paula, Fillmore, and Piru planning areas.

- The Oak Park (60.7 percent), Camarillo (49.2 percent), Simi Valley (40.6 percent), and Thousand Oaks (40.2 percent) planning areas have the highest percentage of residents attaining at least a Bachelor's degrees, while the Piru (46.7 percent), Santa Paula (34.5 percent), and Oxnard (30.0 percent) planning areas have the lowest percentage. (Five-year average 2010-2014)
- In 2014, 58 percent of renters within Ventura County were spending 30 percent or more of housing income on rent.
- In 2016, 53 percent of the chronically homeless reported they had a chronic illness such as diabetes, seizures, and hepatitis, and 48 percent reported they had a mental health problem.
- In 2014, approximately 17 percent of people in Ventura County reported having delayed or not received medical care they felt they needed.
- In 2016, Ventura County has a lower primary care provider-to-people ratio (75 providers/100,000) than the statewide rate (78 providers/100,000)
- According to the U.S., Census, American Community Survey (2011-2015), just over 86 percent of Ventura County adults had insurance coverage, compared with the statewide value of 81 percent.

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Section 4.4 Active and Healthy Living

- Historic development patterns within unincorporated communities often do not support safe and accessible walking, physical activity, or recreation.
- The current land use mix in the unincorporated county promotes an automobile-centric lifestyle since different types of destinations are not within walking distance.
- The County does not have a plan for pedestrian facilities.
- Due to higher percentages of transit-dependent populations, the Piru, Santa Paula, Moorpark, Las Posas, Ojai, and Oak Park areas may have greater need for public transit improvements and transit connectivity
- Ventura County has abundant active open space areas, although additional study may be necessary to evaluate connectivity and access to existing active open spaces.
- There is one federally-funded Safe Routes to School project within the unincorporated county.
- Communities around Oxnard and slightly south of Port Hueneme are experiencing a disproportionately higher amount of pollution burden.

CHAPTER 5: HOUSING

- No Major Findings

CHAPTER 6: TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

Section 6.1 Roadway and Functional Classifications

- Ventura County is well connected to adjacent communities to the east, specifically Los Angeles County. Roadway connections to the north and west of Ventura County are limited by the mountain range in the Los Padres National Forest. Ventura County's connection to neighboring communities is primarily via US 101, SR-1, SR-118, SR-150, and SR-126, all of which serve as the system's primary backbones.
- Based on state roadway designations, there are a number of corridors in Ventura County that are eligible for leveraging numerous state and federal transportation funding programs. Of the local roadways located in the unincorporated regions of the county, 215 miles are eligible for federal aid.
- The vast majority of traffic, in terms of volumes and miles travelled within unincorporated Ventura County, takes place on state highways.

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Section 6.2 Level of Service and Vehicle Miles of Travel

- LOS D is the minimum acceptable level of service for all County-maintained thoroughfares and federal/state highways in Ventura County, with a few exceptions. Currently, there are two portions of arterial roadways that exceed this standard: Harbor Boulevard between Oxnard and Ventura and Wendy Drive in Casa Conejo are operating at LOS E. Additionally, seven highway segments are operating at unacceptable conditions, including portions of SR-33, SR-23, SR-34, SR118, and US 101. One highway segment on SR-33 is operating at LOS F.
- Of the roadways selected for analysis, 83% of County roadways in the unincorporated areas of the county operate at an LOS of C or better, and 76% of state highway roadways in the unincorporated areas operate at LOS C or better.
- Of the total 2,983 maintained miles in Ventura County, 24 percent traverse unincorporated areas of the county. These unincorporated roadways carry approximately 21 percent of Ventura County's total vehicle miles traveled (VMT) on a daily basis. The majority of VMT in Ventura County occurs within the incorporated areas, both on local roads and state highways

- The top three causes for collisions on roadways in unincorporated areas are improper turning maneuvers, unsafe travel speeds, and driving under the influence. The most prominent collision types are “hit object” and rear-end collisions. Approximately 64 percent of all collisions occur during daylight hours.

Section 6.3 Active Transportation

- A robust source of funding for local active transportation projects in other jurisdictions is through transportation sales tax measures. At this time, Ventura County does not have such a funding source. Currently, most of Ventura County's funding for transportation comes from state and federal funding sources.
- To maintain competitiveness for Active Transportation Program (ATP) program funds, the County and its local jurisdictions are required to update active transportation plans that are older than five years. The program guidelines prioritize projects that are identified on adopted plans. Jurisdictions that develop Safe Routes to School, bicycle, and pedestrian plans can better compete for state ATP funding.
- The County is focusing on closing gaps in the countywide bikeway network that were identified in the Ventura

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Countywide Bicycle Master Plan. Improving the connections within the existing network can improve systemwide connectivity. This strategy integrates existing recreational and arterial networks to better serve transit, employment, and activity centers. Developing publicly-accessible bicycle support facilities also improves access and usage of the county's trails and coastal bikeways. VCTC anticipates the completion of a bicycle wayfinding study in 2017.

- Many of the segments in the unincorporated roadway network do not include sufficient shoulder space to stripe Class II bike paths onto existing paved surfaces. This presents a challenge for closing gaps in the existing bike network.
- The County has jurisdiction of 103 miles of trails and 58 miles of bike lanes in the unincorporated areas.
- There is currently no inventory of County-maintained sidewalks or ADA compliant curb cuts within the unincorporated areas. Development of such an inventory would facilitate future compliance tracking of pedestrian improvements consistent with the ADA and AB 1358.

Section 6.4 Transit Service

- According to the 2015 American Community Survey (reflecting 2014 totals), 1.4 percent of workers in Ventura

County commute to work by transit, compared to a statewide share of 5.2 percent.

- According to the 2015 American Community Survey (reflecting 2014 totals), 9.2 percent of Ventura County households have no vehicle available.
- According to the 2015 American Community Survey (reflecting 2014 totals), 11.2 percent of the County's population is aged 65 years or older, 25.9 percent are under 16 years of age, 11.9 percent are disabled, 27.4 percent live below poverty level. These populations are more likely to be dependent on transit for some of their mobility needs. Additionally, the 65 years or older demographic has grown more in Ventura County than any other demographic age group over the past 20 years. This trend is projected to continue in the future. The Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) is the largest transit operator in Ventura County in terms of annual passenger boardings and revenue hours of operation (i.e. the hours a bus is in service).
- The 2016 RTP/SCS identified the need to significantly increase the share of trips by transit modes in order to achieve the goals of AB32 and SB375.

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- VCTC Intercity and GCTD provide inter-city bus service throughout the county. GCTD, Thousand Oaks Transit, Valley Express, and the Kanan Shuttle serve unincorporated areas. Municipal transit operators that provide primarily intra-city or community circulation service have connections with the Metrolink and Amtrak commuter rail stations to link Ventura County residents and workers with employment and activity centers in neighboring counties (Los Angeles and Santa Barbara). Additionally, the jointly-funded Coastal Express serves the counties of Ventura and Santa Barbara.
- The Ventura County Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) from VCTC (2015) identified the following needs and priorities for guiding investments to improve transit service and coverage in the county: 1) improve countywide transit coordination and cooperation to address service gaps and deficiencies; 2) invest in transit facilities to make transfers more convenient; 3) consolidate service providers in east Ventura County to improve productivity and connectivity where market analysis suggest that the areas can support increased levels of transit service; and 4) develop countywide performance metrics to evaluate transit services on a continuous basis in accordance with State reporting and funding requirements.

Section 6.5 Goods Movement

- Ventura County has a number of highways and arterials that are designated truck routes according to the Primary Highway Freight System (PHFS). These include Hueneme Road (Port to Los Pasos), Los Pasos (Hueneme to US 101), Ventura Road (Hueneme to Channel Island), Channel Island Boulevard (Ventura to Victoria), and Victoria Ave (Channel Island to US 101).
- The Port of Hueneme is the only port accommodating commercial freight serving the Central Coast region and is located strategically between San Francisco and the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.
- The Ventura County Railroad (VCRR), privately owned by Genesee and Wyoming Railroad Services, Inc., is an integral corridor for the movement of goods in the industrial areas of south of the City of Oxnard, the Port of Hueneme and the U.S. Naval Base Ventura County. The VCRR connects the Union Pacific main rail-line.
- Most freight shipments originate or end within the Los Angeles-Long Beach area (of which the federal Commodity Flow Survey considers Ventura County a part). Outbound and

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inbound flows with areas outside of the state account for the next highest share of freight shipments.

- US 101, SR-118, and SR-126 carry the vast majority of Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 (STAA) truck traffic in terms of absolute volumes. SR-23 carries the highest percentage of STAA-sized vehicles, relative to the overall traffic on the route, followed by SR-126, SR-118, SR-232, and US 101. On average, STAA-sized trucks make up 4.7 percent of the overall truck traffic on unincorporated segments of state highways.

Section 6.6 Aviation Facilities and Service

- Ventura County's aviation system consists of two publicly-owned airports, one privately-owned airport, a base operated by the California Air National Guard, and a federally-operated Naval Air Station and runway. The privately-owned airport allows public use. Airports in adjacent Los Angeles and Santa Barbara Counties provide commercial passenger services.
- The County directly owns two airports, Camarillo Airport and Oxnard Airport.
- County land use policies can have impacts on all four of the airports.

Section 6.7 Transportation Demand and System Management

- VCTC provides TDM resources to encourage alternative modes of transportation for county residents and commuters. Online resources on www.goVentura.com provide users with information on joining a vanpool or carpool, taking transit, and biking to work. The website also has links to smart phone apps that provide mobile access to transit and bike information.
- The four TSM strategies that are most applicable to unincorporated Ventura County are: 1) Traffic Signal Timing Management; 2) Pavement Management Systems; 3) Intelligent Transportation Systems; and, 4) Parking Management (including park-and-ride lots).
- To maximize the efficiency of the existing transportation system, field deployment of the following Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) service packages are most applicable to the unincorporated areas of the county: Safety; Traveler Information Systems; Incident Management; Advanced Public Transit Systems; and, Traffic Management.
- Combined, the County of Ventura and its cities are responsible for maintaining approximately 2,420 centerline miles of local roads and arterials. Caltrans and other state/federal agencies

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maintains their own facilities. The County is responsible for the approximately 543 miles located in unincorporated areas, which represents 22 percent of the total local roadways within the county.

- Preservation of the existing transportation system and infrastructure condition can be considered a key component of TSM. This includes the pavement condition of County maintained roadways. Currently, there is a funding shortfall of \$438 million projected over the next 10 years that is needed to maintain public roadways in Ventura County at current conditions; over the next 30 years, the shortfall is expected to grow to \$2.2 billion.
- There are 22 park-and-ride-lots with a total of 2,280 parking spaces in the county. The lots are situated primarily along highway corridors and at transit stations to incentivize commuters to rideshare or take bus or commuter rail.

Section 6.8 Programmed Transportation Improvements

- Ventura County has programmed transportation improvements covering a variety of roadway and transit improvements.
- Approximately \$17.6 of capital improvements were identified for the 2017 horizon year with an additional \$19 million of capital improvements for the 2021 horizon year.

- The County's Traffic Impact Mitigation Fee Program includes 20 local roadway improvements and 10 state highway improvements have been identified to accommodate future development.

CHAPTER 7: PUBLIC FACILITIES, SERVICES, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Section 7.1 Wastewater Collection and Treatment

- Wastewater collection, treatment, recycling, and disposal in Ventura County is provided by 19 agencies, districts, or service providers. Unincorporated Ventura County is served by 16 of these organizations.
- There are approximately 14,000 private septic systems in Ventura County.

Section 7.2 Storm Drainage and Flood Protection

- The Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) maintains flood control facilities in four zones:
 - Ventura River Watershed Zone;
 - Santa Clara Watershed Zone;
 - Calleguas Creek Watershed zone; and

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- Malibu and Potrero Creeks and Cuyama River Watershed.
- Ventura County has a Class 6 Community Rating System, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Community Rating System rewards cities and counties that voluntarily exceed the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); the Class 6 rating gives properties within a floodplain in the unincorporated areas a 20 percent discount on flood insurance.
- Permittees under the Ventura County NPDES permit include the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Simi Valley, Santa Paula, Thousand Oaks, Ventura, the County of Ventura, and the Ventura County Watershed Protection District.

Section 7.3 Solid and Hazardous Waste Disposal and Recycling

- During the fourth quarter of 2014 and the first three quarters of 2015, Ventura County as a whole had a solid waste diversion rate of 39 percent; the unincorporated area in Ventura County had a diversion rate of 58 percent.
- There are 117 facilities in Ventura County that collect and/or transfer hazardous wastes. These facilities collect different

types and combinations of hazardous wastes, with 10 collecting household hazardous waste/e-waste, four collecting medications, and 25 collecting sharps. Seven are transfer stations, and 84 are used oil collection facilities.

- In 2014, 2,617,807 pounds of household hazardous waste were collected in Ventura County, or about 3.12 pounds per capita.
- The County Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP) calculated that landfills in Ventura County have a capacity greater than the targeted 15 years.

Section 7.4 Utilities

- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) monitors mobile and wireline broadband throughout the county. Mobile phone service in Ventura County is considered underserved at best, and unserved in many of the unincorporated areas. Wireline service, including DSL and cable modems, is considered limited in many of the unincorporated areas, especially in the north half of the county.
- Utility electric generation accounts for over 50 percent of the natural gas used in Ventura County.

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Section 7.5 Law Enforcement

- There are no major planning-related findings for this section.

Section 7.6 Fire Protection

- Ventura County encompasses 1,179,520 acres (1,843 square miles) of which 353,180 acres (552 square miles) are State Responsibility Area (SRA). The Ventura County Fire Department response area covers 542,720 acres (848 square miles). In 2015, VCFD responded to more than 40,000 incidents (an average of 102 calls each day).

Section 7.7 Emergency Services

- The Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services leads, coordinates and supports countywide preparedness, response and recovery efforts to approximately a dozen large scale incidents or disasters per year.
- The Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services administers the largest annual homeland security and emergency management grant program in the county.
- The Ventura County Public Health Department Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) handles approximately 45,000 emergency medical calls each year, and is responsible for over 30,000 patient transports to local hospitals.

- The Ventura County Public Health Department Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) and the Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) aid in medical emergency response. VCFD is the largest first responder in the county, and the EMS oversees ambulance services that provide transport.

Section 7.8 Health Care Services

- The Ventura County Medical Center hospital has 180 beds; the Santa Paula Hospital has 49 beds, both serving all Ventura County residents.
- The Ventura County Health Care Agency's Ambulatory Care System provided service to nearly 500,000 patients in 2015, equivalent to 2,000 visits per weekday. These services were provided at 19 primary care clinics, 26 specialty care clinics, and eight urgent care centers throughout the county.
- Ventura County Public Health Department (VCPH) was awarded a five-year national accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board. VCPH is one of 79 public health departments in the country and the first in California to have earned this distinction.
- The County Board of Supervisors approved the "Health in All Policies" Resolution 15-007, on January 27, 2015 that provides a framework for all County agencies and

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departments to consider community health in non-medical areas such as planning, housing, transportation, and safety.

- There are 13 hospitals located in Ventura County, two of which are managed by the County. There are also 25 long term care facilities, 22 primary care clinics, 15 specialty care clinics, and 115 home health agencies and hospice facilities.

Section 7.9 Schools and Childcare

- An estimated 40 percent of students in K-12 education in Ventura County come from homes where English is not the primary language. Levels of proficiency in English among students from non-English speaking homes can be as low as 60 percent among kindergarteners, but these numbers grow to an estimated 90 percent among all 12th graders.

Section 7.10 Library Services

- The Ventura County Library System consists of 11 library branches, a museum research library, an administration office facility, and a Virtual Library or e-Library that can be accessed 24/7 online.
- Library funding, while stable, is also stagnant and not increasing as costs increase. Since 2000, state funding for the Ventura County Library System went from \$1.2 million to zero.

- Per capita spending for FY 15-16 for the Ventura County Library System was \$32.52, with a service population of 252,656 and a total operating budget of \$8,215,860 (not including \$1,212,327 for Fixed Assets). The average per capita spending for California public libraries in FY 14-15 was \$49.89.
- There were 65.63 FTE and 88 authorized positions at the Ventura County Library System in FY 2015-16.
- The Ventura County Library System celebrated 100 years of operation in 2016.

CHAPTER 8: NATURAL RESOURCES

Section 8.1 Air Quality

- Currently, air quality within the county is typically moderate to good. Overall, reactive organic gases (ROG) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions are declining countywide, as they have for many years, continuing the County's progress towards meeting the California and National ambient air quality standards (CAAQS and NAAQS) for ozone. This decline in ozone precursor emissions is occurring despite growing population and motor vehicle usage (VCAPCD 2015). However, as population increases and the county and region

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continue to grow, additional pollution sources (e.g., mobile-and-stationary sources) could result in increased emissions of ozone precursors and more smog. Temperature increases as a result of global climate change could also lead to the production of more smog, since warmer weather can result in more smog-forming conditions.

- Ventura County is located in the South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB) and is under the jurisdiction of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD). The VCAPCD is currently designated as a nonattainment area for ozone under the CAAQS and the NAAQS; additionally, Ventura County is listed as a nonattainment area for the CAAQS for respirable particulate matter with an aerodynamic resistance diameter of 10 micrometers or less (PM₁₀). A nonattainment area is defined as an area or air basin that does not meet the CAAQS or NAAQS for a given pollutant.
- Within Ventura County, mobile sources (e.g., cars and trucks) are the largest contributor of ozone precursor emissions, which include ROG and NO_x. Area-wide sources (e.g., paved road dust, agriculture, construction and demolition activities) in Ventura County are the largest contributor of PM₁₀ and fine particulate matter with an aerodynamic resistance diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less (PM_{2.5}) emissions.
- There are approximately 674 stationary sources in Ventura County that emit toxic substances and are subject to the Air Toxics Hot Spots reporting requirements under Assembly Bill (AB) 2588. The majority of locations are concentrated in incorporated or developed areas, including Oxnard, Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, Ventura, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore.
- Ventura County is not classified as having the potential to contain serpentine bedrock. Thus, there is no potential for naturally-occurring asbestos (NOA) in the unincorporated county.

Section 8.2 Biological Resources

- Ventura County is home to unique and sensitive biological resources, including rare plant and animal species, coastal wetlands, extensive chaparral habitat, and riverine systems maintained mostly in a natural state.
- As of November 2016, there are 417 special-status plant and animal species known to occur in Ventura County, including species tracked by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in their California Natural Diversity Data Base and those species that are on the Locally Important Plant and Wildlife Species lists maintained by Ventura County. As

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of November 8, 2016, 34 and 22 species in Ventura County are listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing by the federal government and State, respectively.

- Most of the northern half of Ventura County is within the boundary of the Los Padres National Forest. This is where the north-south trending Coastal Range transitions into the east-west Transverse Range. The Los Padres National Forest contains the majority of the Transverse Range in the County. These national forest lands contribute to habitat diversity and connectivity in the northwestern part of the County.
- The majority of development, both urban and agriculture, has occurred in the southern half of the County and in the lower elevations, and approximately nine percent of the County (which includes the unincorporated area and incorporated cities) is classified as developed.
- Three major riverine systems extend from the mountains to the ocean in the County: the Ventura River (watershed area is 227 square miles), the Santa Clara River, (watershed area is 1,634 square miles), and Calleguas Creek (watershed area is 343 square miles), and are habitat to many special-status species. Small portions of the Ventura River watershed occur in Santa Barbara County and small portions of the Santa Clara River and Calleguas Creek watersheds occur in Los Angeles

County, however, the majority of these watersheds occur in Ventura County.

- Ventura County has one of the few major coastal to inland habitat connections remaining in the South Coast Ecoregion. It stretches from the Santa Monica Mountains at the coast to the Santa Susana Mountains and the Sierra Madre Ranges of the Los Padres National Forest. This important network of habitat linkages has been identified as the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Connection by the South Coast Missing Linkages Project (SCMLP), a collaborative effort of scientists, state and federal agencies, academic institutions, land managers, conservation organizations, and community groups that has evolved into the “Linkage Implementation Alliance” to develop a comprehensive regional networks of habitat linkages between existing reserves. Ventura County also recognizes the three major river systems as landscape scale linkages because they provide contiguous habitat that facilitates wildlife movement through large regional areas. Within Ventura County, State Routes 126, 23, and 118 represent substantial barriers to wildlife migration.

Section 8.3 Open Space for Outdoor Recreation

- There are approximately 640,000 acres of open space in Ventura County that are managed by federal, state, county,

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special district, local, and non-profit agencies. 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.
- Ventura County owns 5,321 acres of parks, open spaces, and golf courses as well as 23.25 miles of trails. A variety of recreational opportunities are also provided through special

districts like the Conejo, Pleasant Valley, and Rancho Simi Recreation and Park Districts.

Section 8.4 Scenic Resources

- The diversity of scenic resources is reflected in the four physiographic provinces that occur in the County, which include: Coastal Plain and Valleys, the Western Transverse Ranges, the Cuyama Badlands, and the Channel Islands.
- 54 percent of the County's lands are comprised of protected local, state, or federal open space areas.
- 62 percent of the County's roads are county eligible scenic highways, which require specific protection measures to maintain visual quality within each highway's scenic corridor.
- The majority of the eligible county and eligible and designated state scenic highways are located in the southern half of the County.
- The Ojai Area Plan includes the most designated Scenic Resource Areas, and the Piru Area Plan includes the second highest amount of scenic resource areas.
- The Ojai Area Plan has the most protective goals, policies, and programs among the County's area plans.

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- Four of the County's eight (non-coastal) Area Plans include designated Scenic Resource Areas.

Section 8.5 Mineral Resources

- The per-capita demand for aggregate in the Ventura County Production Consumption Region is approximately 6 tons per year and similar to the Statewide average.
- The 50-year (2011-2050) demand for aggregate in Ventura County Production Consumption Region is estimated to be 298 million tons.
- The permitted aggregate reserves in the Ventura County Production Consumption Region are currently 168 million tons (56% of the 50-year demand).
- In 2015, Ventura County produced 8,101,140 barrels of oil.
- In 2015, Ventura County produced 8,064,384 thousand cubic feet of natural gas.
- In 2015, Ventura County ranks third in State petroleum production.

Section 8.6 Energy Resources

- No new offshore oil and gas development is anticipated within Ventura County or nearby federal waters due to regulation and

opposition from the California State Lands Commission (SLC);

- Onshore oil production in Ventura County accounts for four percent of overall crude oil production in California;
- Offshore oil production in Ventura County accounts for 0.1 percent of overall crude oil production in California;
- Onshore natural gas production in Ventura County accounts for four percent of overall natural gas production in California;
- Offshore natural gas production in Ventura County accounts for 0.1 percent of overall natural gas production in California;
- According to the California Energy Commission, hydroelectric and biomass facilities are the only current sources of renewable energy generation in Ventura County.

Section 8.7 Cultural, Historical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Resources

- There are 1,637 prehistoric archaeological sites that have been documented within Ventura County, according to a 2016 Archaeological Records Search through the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS)-Southern Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), at California State University, Fullerton.

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- There are 282 historic sites that have been documented within Ventura County, according to a 2016 Historical Records Search through the CHRIS-SCCIC at California State University, Fullerton.
- There are 316 vertebrate fossil localities that have been documented within Ventura County, according to a 2016 Paleontological Record Search through the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles (NHMLAC).
- 36 historic sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Among these, 10 are classified as districts, and 21 are buildings.
- One historic site is listed as a National Historic Landmark (Rancho Camulos).
- 46 historic sites are listed on the California Register of Historical Resources. Among these, 10 are classified as districts, and 25 are buildings.
- 14 historic sites are designated as California Landmarks.
- 177 historic sites are designated as Ventura County Historical Landmarks.
- Eleven historic sites are listed on the Ventura County Historical Points of Interest.

- 566 historic sites are listed as Ventura County Sites of Merit.

CHAPTER 9: AGRICULTURE

Section 9.1 Agricultural Resources

- Approximately 65 percent of soil associations within Ventura County are suitable for agricultural production.
- According to the 2013 Ventura County Water Supply and Demand Report, the total demand for water used solely for agricultural irrigation decreased by approximately 34,000 acre feet (AF) or 11.75 percent between 1992 and 2013.
- Between 2004 and 2014, land designated as Prime Farmland decreased by 6,049 acres or 12.8 percent, and land designated as Unique Farmland decreased by 375 acres or 1.3 percent.
- Approximately 430,000 acres (77 percent) of land designated as part of the Important Farmland Land Program by the Department of Conservation is in the unincorporated county. The remaining 126,000 acres (23 percent) of land is within incorporated cities.

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Section 9.2 Agricultural Production

- Ventura County is the tenth largest agricultural producing county in the State, with over 95 varieties of crops and 2,150 farms totaling over 281,000 acres.
- Over a recent ten-year period (2002-2012), the amount of acreage devoted to farming operations decreased by 51,325 acres or 15.4 percent according to the 2012 Census of Agriculture
- The average farm size in 2012 was 131 acres, which represents a 21 percent increase from 2007, when the average farm size was 106 acres.
- According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture of the 2,150 farms in Ventura County, 88 percent or 1,922 farms, were under 180 acres in size, with less than 4 percent, or 58 farms, over 1,000 acres.

Section 9.3 Agricultural Policies and Programs

- Together, the Guidelines for Orderly Development, the Land Conservation Act, and the Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources (SOAR) initiatives have created one of the most effective agricultural land preservation programs in the State.

As of 2016, over 204,000 acres in the County were designated an Agricultural Preserve (AE-40 ac).

CHAPTER 10: WATER RESOURCES

Section 10.1 Major Findings

- **Shift toward integrated watershed management.** In the past, different elements of the water system were managed separately from other elements, i.e., groundwater was managed as a separate resource from stormwater and separate from recycled water. There has been a shift in water resources management and regulation toward watershed based approaches. This approach integrates on a regional level the many facets of water resources management, including water supply, water quality, flood management, ecosystem health, and recreation through enhanced collaboration across geographic and political boundaries and diverse stakeholder groups.
- **There is great diversity in the size, source, and organization of water suppliers in Ventura County.** Many properties are served by private wells and surface water diversions. Other properties are served by mutual water companies, irrigation companies, special districts, cities, private utilities, and wholesale water agencies. There are more than 162 water suppliers in the County.

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- **Drought has significantly affected local water supplies.** More than 850,000 residents and 156 square miles of irrigated farmland in Ventura County experienced direct impacts from the drought that began in 2012.
- **There are inadequate water supplies to meet future demands in some areas of the county.** Developing new water supplies is costly and requires a significant amount of time for planning, environmental review, permitting, and construction. Some of the new supplies being considered include advanced treatment of wastewater for use as potable water, stormwater capture and reuse, treatment of brackish groundwater, and ocean desalination. Facilities to import and deliver the local, unused State Water Project entitlements are being considered. In addition, significant water conservation efforts have begun, mainly in municipal and industrial uses. This effort will need to continue and be sustained.
- **Groundwater basins in the County are experiencing overdraft conditions.** Groundwater is estimated to provide 67 percent of the local water supply. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has identified the following Ventura County groundwater basins as being in critical overdraft³: Cuyama Valley, Oxnard, and Pleasant Valley. These basins serve both urban

³ As defined in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, a basin is subject to critical overdraft when continuation of present water management practices would probably result in significant adverse overdraft-related environmental, social, or economic impacts such as

populations and agriculture. Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act will require taking actions to assess the condition of groundwater basins, managing groundwater demand, and undertaking groundwater recharge projects to achieve long-term sustainability.

- **Groundwater information is limited.** The locations and volumes of groundwater extracted are not accurately known in some areas of the County. This inhibits analysis and planning. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, signed into law in September 2014, will result in more groundwater management planning with additional data gathering that will help fill this gap.
- **Water supplies dedicated to environmental purposes may change.** State and federal requirements dictate the amount of water that must be available for endangered species and this affects management of water resources. Potential requirements to provide increased instream flows could further reduce water available for municipal, agricultural, and other uses.
- **Land development significantly affects demand and supply.** The type of land use greatly drives the demand and dictates the type of water needed. High-density residential development will

persistent lowering of groundwater levels, drying of wells, reductions in groundwater storage, sea water intrusion, degradation of water quality, land subsidence, and reduction of water in streams and lakes.

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require water treated to drinking water standards. Water sent to users with sewer systems is collected and can be used as a secondary recycled water supply. Agricultural users may be able to utilize raw or recycled water and application of water in agricultural fields may recharge groundwater.

- **Urban land development impacts water quality.** Land development commonly creates an increase in impervious surfaces, which increases the amount of runoff and pollutants in stormwater. As stormwater runs over impervious surfaces such as rooftops, roadways, and parking lots, the runoff accumulates pollution and sediment, nutrients, bacteria, and other pollutants. Pollutants in stormwater are typically transported directly to local channels, rivers, and the ocean, without any treatment. Land development impacts floodplains, the risk of flooding, and the ability to manage storm waters naturally. Development in floodplains may impact the ability to recharge groundwater basins through infiltration and may remove potential sites with recharge capabilities. In addition to altering stormwater runoff, land development introduces other sources of pollution including discharges from sewage-treatment plants, septic tanks, and industrial facilities.
- **Agriculture land development impacts water quality.** Tillage and irrigation of land changes the runoff and infiltration characteristics of the land, affecting recharge to groundwater, and

increases erosion into surface-water bodies, while altering evapotranspiration. This in turn affects the interaction of groundwater and surface water.

- **Poor water quality limits beneficial uses of water.** Poor water quality can limit suitability of a water body for beneficial uses such as recreation, fisheries, and riverine habitat. Poor water quality also can limit the use of the water for a water supply or drastically increase the treatment cost.
- **Development affects natural hydrologic processes.** Development significantly alters land topography. Removal of natural vegetation and manmade structures such as levees, dams, and diversion structures disrupt natural hydrologic processes (i.e. sediment transport and deposition, groundwater recharge). These changes alter water velocity, river substrate, water shading, soil moisture, and other ecosystem characteristics needed by fish and wildlife.

CHAPTER 11: HAZARDS AND SAFETY

Section 11.1 Geologic and Seismic Hazards

- There are several earthquake faults in the County of Ventura that have a status of “Active” or “Potentially Active,” according to the California Geological Survey’s Regional

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Geologic Hazards and Mapping Program. Fault designations within the County are subject to change as further evidence is received, providing either clearer proof of potential for activity or convincing geologic evidence of inactivity.

- The entire County of Ventura, including all cities, is susceptible to liquefaction, but the most vulnerable locations are along the Santa Clara River and in the Oxnard Plain.

Section 11.2 Flood Hazards

- Three types of flood risk have been mapped in Ventura County: upland, broad floodplain, and coastal. The Ventura County Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) identifies the following Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHAs): 7.8 square miles in the 100-year “coastal high hazard” flood zone; 78.4 square miles in the 100-year flood zone; and 51.7 square miles in the 500-year flood zone.
- According to FEMA’s definition, ten dams in Ventura County are considered high hazard (i.e., over 1,000 acre-feet of storage capacity). Eight of these are under State jurisdiction and are inspected annually to ensure that they are in good operating condition. There is no record of a failure of any dam located in Ventura County.

- The Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) monitors nine provisionally accredited levees (PALs) in the Calleguas Creek, Santa Clara River, and Ventura River watersheds. Most of these levees, which protect a total 5.2 square miles of land in the county, require rehabilitation work to be fully compliant with FEMA levee certification regulations.
- Because of its history of wildfires, Ventura County is susceptible to potentially hazardous debris flows. The susceptibility affects areas adjacent to and downslope of these burn areas, especially in locations that are in ravines and canyons, and at the mouths of canyons.
- Coastal areas in Ventura are subject to inundation resulting from tsunamis, including areas within the cities of Oxnard, Port Hueneme, and Ventura and unincorporated areas south of Ormond Beach and around Mugu Lagoon.

Section 11.3 Wildfire Hazards

- Within Ventura County, very high fire hazard severity zones (FHSZs) are located in mountainous or hillside areas (west of Lake Casitas, northeast of Ojai, north of Fillmore, and surrounding Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley), where the greatest fuel density exists; very high FHSZs are also located

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throughout much of the county's large agricultural and cattle-grazing areas. 81.9 square miles are in the high FHSZ and 504.4 square miles are in the very high FHSZ. The populations that live in the very high FHSZ are mainly located in the cities of Moorpark (44.0 percent), Simi Valley (27.7 percent), Thousand Oaks (43.1 percent), as well as the unincorporated area (37.1 percent).

- Vegetation that has dried during long, hot summers provides a living fuel for wildfires and the Santa Ana winds combine to contribute to the high incidence of wildfires in Ventura County. In the past, fires burning more than 1,000 acres have occurred about every one to three years.

Section 11.4 Aviation Hazards

- Airspace within the County can be heavily congested. Oxnard and Camarillo airports had a combined total of over 220,000 flights in 2015. An additional 130,000 aircraft flights occur at Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu, and an estimated 70,000 flights occur at the Santa Paula Airport.
- Since 2010, there have been a total of 23 reported aviation incidents at Camarillo, Oxnard, Point Mugu, and Santa Paula, of which eight resulted in fatalities. During this same period, there have been a total of 33 reported incidents (five of which

resulted in substantial damage to aircraft), and eight near mid-air collisions (all of them at Camarillo).

Section 11.5 Hazardous Materials

- There are over 2,600 facilities within Ventura County that store and use hazardous materials, maintain above-ground and under-ground hazardous substance storage tanks, and generate hazardous wastes. The majority of hazardous waste generated in the county is comprised of used oil, waste solvents and waste batteries.
- As of November 2016, there were 300 Hazardous Materials sites located in the unincorporated area of Ventura County, of these sites:
 - 27 were permitted underground storage tanks.
 - 273 have undergone or are undergoing hazardous materials remediation or may require remediation pending further testing. Of these, 162 have been designated as "Completed-Case Closed" including:
 - 22 Cleanup Program Sites,
 - 10 Landfill Disposal Sites,
 - 130 leaking underground fuel storage tank (LUST) sites,

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- One LUST site is designated “Open--Site Assessment,”

Section 11.6 Noise and Vibration

The with respect to noise are as follows:

- Based on ambient noise level measurements throughout unincorporated areas of the county, the predominant sources of noise include traffic noise on major roadways, transit and freight trains, and aircraft.
- Roadway traffic is the predominant source of noise affecting sensitive land uses in the county. Freeways and major arterial roadways are the primary sources of traffic noise. Based on traffic-noise modeling, the roadways in unincorporated Ventura County with the greatest modeled traffic-noise levels are US-101 and State Routes 23, 118, and 126.
- Of the roadway segments modeled, the 60 A-weighted decibels (dBA) traffic noise contour ranges from 4 to 1,792 feet from the centerline of the roadway. Residential land uses located within the 60 dBA contour along these roadway segments are currently exposed to noise levels above the 60 dBA Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) standard for residential land uses.
- In addition to traffic noise on local roadways and state highways, passenger and freight trains operating within the unincorporated areas of the county contribute to community noise levels. Based on the modeling conducted, the 60 dBA CNEL railroad noise contour is between approximately 154 to 165 feet from the centerline of the rail line. Residential land uses located within the 60 dBA contour along these railroad lines are currently exposed to noise levels above the 60 dBA CNEL standard for residential land uses.
- The Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) for Ventura County establishes noise compatibility policies for sensitive land uses within the 60 dBA and higher CNEL noise contours. The plan restricts extremely sensitive land uses (e.g., mobile home parks) within the 60 dBA CNEL contour and requires mitigation measures for moderately sensitive land uses within the 60 dBA CNEL contour.
- Noise generated by industrial facilities and other stationary sources contribute to the ambient noise environment in their immediate vicinities.

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CHAPTER 12: CLIMATE CHANGE

Section 12.1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Total countywide GHG emissions in Ventura County were approximately 7.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO₂e) in 2012. The unincorporated area of Ventura County accounted for 1.3 MMTCO₂e in 2012, or 18 percent of countywide emissions.
- The primary source of GHG emissions in Ventura County is on-road transportation, comprising about 53 percent of all GHG emissions in the county in 2012. Electricity generation for, and natural gas combustion in, buildings comprised nearly 36 percent of countywide emissions in 2012.
- The County set GHG emissions reduction goals in 2011 for GHG emissions sources from Ventura County operations. The goal includes achieving a 15 percent reduction in emissions by 2020, relative to GHG emissions levels in the established 2005 base year.
- The County has adopted several goals that address the reduction of GHG emissions and related efforts to improve sustainability in County operations. While the County has not formally adopted a local climate action plan (CAP) that addresses community-wide emissions, the County's Climate

Adaptation Workgroup presented the Board of Supervisors with a Climate Protection Plan (CPP) that focused on GHG reduction opportunities in government operations and set out six major action areas with 15 goals.

Section 12.2 Climate Change Effects

- Annual average temperatures in Ventura County are projected to rise by three to six degrees Fahrenheit (°F) by 2090, with the range based on low and high global GHG emissions scenarios (Cal-Adapt 2016).
- Potential climate impacts due to sea-level rise and storm events in Ventura County include:
 - more frequent flooding events due to rising sea levels;
 - more extensive and longer duration of flooding;
 - permanent inundation in coastal areas due to higher ocean levels and shifts in the tidal range;
 - increased shoreline erosion; and
 - elevated groundwater levels and salinity intrusion.
- Ventura County could experience coastal erosion of up to 1.4 meters per year by 2100 as a result of sea-level rise and related coastal flooding.

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- Currently 7,300 people, or one percent of the Ventura County’s population, live in areas at risk of being inundated in a 100-year flood event. A 1.4-meter rise in sea level will put an additional 16,000 people at risk of exposure to a 100-year flood event, for a total of 23,300 people. While the racial composition of populations vulnerable to a 100-year flood event generally reflects the county as a whole, a disproportionate number of affected persons (located largely in southeastern Oxnard) are low-income and are especially vulnerable. (California Energy Commissions [CEC] 2009).
- Critical infrastructure, such as 170 miles of roads and railways, hospitals, schools, emergency facilities, wastewater treatment plants, three power plants, a naval base, and more in Ventura County will be at increased risk of inundation, as will areas of wetlands and other natural ecosystems due to sea-level rise. In addition, the cost of replacing property at risk of coastal flooding with a 1.4-meter rise in sea levels is projected at \$2.2 billion (in year 2000 dollars) (CEC 2009).
- Biological resources in Ventura County will be affected by multiple climate change-related factors. Increased temperatures may induce movement of terrestrial species to higher elevations resulting in habitat fragmentation. Changes in precipitation may lead to prolonged periods of drought and/or more intense rain events, which could adversely affect river flow and riparian habitat. Rising sea levels may inundate existing coastal biotic communities.
- Areas south of U.S. 101 in the City of Ventura, including the Ventura County Fairgrounds, the City of Ventura Marina, and some residential uses along North Harbor Boulevard, as well as some commercial and residential uses southeast of State Route (SR) 1 in Oxnard and around Naval Base Ventura County - Point Mugu are currently vulnerable to flooding. Taking varying levels of sea-level rise into consideration (up to 1.4 meters) along with existing flood risks, additional inundation areas in Ventura County may be exposed to flooding further upland and closer to SR 1.
- According to Cal-Adapt, the countywide average extreme heat day for Ventura County is 88°F and the county has a historical average of four extreme heat days a year. Under a low-emissions scenario, the number of extreme heat days is likely to increase to an average of 20 days per year between 2040 and 2045 and an average of 31 days per year from 2095 to 2099. Further, under a high-emissions scenario, an average of 20 extreme heat days are projected to occur between 2040 and 2045 with an average of 79 from 2095 to 2099.

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- Ventura County is projected to experience a 15 percent increase in the potential amount of area burned by wildfire between 2020 and 2085 (Cal-Adapt 2016).