



# Film Permit Waiver Instructions

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency • Planning Division  
800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1740 • (805) 654-2406 • [ventura.org/filmpermits](http://ventura.org/filmpermits)

In Ventura County unincorporated areas, a film permit “with waivers” is required when filming activities exceed any of the following thresholds:

- After hours filming activities (i.e. before 7:00 am or after 10:00 pm);
- Excessive noise (e.g. explosions, gunfire, aircraft), light, glare, or dust exceeding that which is normal for the area, except when the nearest residence is more than 2,000 feet from noise source;
- Exceed a total of 60 days on any lot in any 180-day period; or,
- Other thresholds listed in Section 8107-11.1.a-f of the *Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance*.

The “waiver” process is in lieu of a much longer Conditional Use Permit process which might normally be required when these thresholds are exceeded. Note: Some properties have zoning that does not allow the issuance of a film permit with waivers. In these areas, filming cannot exceed the above thresholds. To find out what the zoning is on your property or filming location, click [here](#).

## Waiver Distribution

During the film permit waiver process, the film production is required to prove waivers were distributed to one hundred percent (100%) of the residences which may be impacted by the filming activities. The distance of the “radius area” is determined by the General Plan designation of the property, as described below.

Notification of residents and/or property owners beyond that which is required by the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance may be required as determined by the Planning Director.

## Radius Area

A radius area is the distance from the permit area(s) where the filming activities are taking place. It encompasses all the residences which may be impacted by the filming activities:

- In areas designated Open Space, Rural, or Agriculture in the *Ventura County General Plan*, a radius of 1,000 feet of the boundary of the film permit area(s) is required.
- In areas designated Urban and Rural Community in the *Ventura County General Plan*, a radius of 300 feet of the boundary of the film permit area(s) is required.

## Cost of Film Permit with Waivers

The fee for a film permit with waivers is \$655 for the first location, and \$155 for each additional location. This does not include other agency fees like the Fire Review Fee or the Business License Fee. To provide better customer service, the Planning Division collects the fee for the Fire Department and the County Tax Collector.

## Film Permit Waiver Process

Requests for a film permit with waivers should be made at least one week prior to the start of filming activities to allow adequate time for review. To expedite processing, all of the information below should be submitted:

- A detailed **site map** of the areas used for filming activities. The site map must indicate where all filming activities are, this includes the areas where prep, filming, and strike occur, and related parking/base camp areas. If there are multiple locations, submit a site map for each location. To view a sample site map, click [here](#).
- A draft **film permit waiver statement form**. This form must be submitted to the Film Permit Coordinator for approval prior to canvassing the neighborhood. The Film Permit Coordinator will verify all pertinent information is included and accurate. The film permit waiver statement form can be downloaded at this [link](#). If a more detailed description of filming activities is necessary (i.e. maps, production schedules, call times), attach it to the form. Where it is believed that there is a high percentage of residents in the waiver area who do not speak English, waiver forms in the likely foreign language (e.g. Spanish) will be prepared by the County. The film permit waiver statement form in Spanish can be downloaded at this [link](#).
- The Film Permit Coordinator will provide a **radius map and address list** to the applicant. Note that there may be more than one dwelling unit at each parcel. Waivers are required to be left at each residence within the radius.
- Once the film permit waiver statement form is approved by the Film Permit Coordinator, distribute the forms to one hundred percent (100%) of the impacted residences. Permits will only be issued where approval is obtained from fifty percent plus one (50%+1) of the impacted residences (60% if located within the Coastal Zone).

**Waivers will be counted as follows by the Film Permit Coordinator (click [here](#) for a Sample Completed Waiver Form):**

- Only one per residence will be counted, regardless of the number of occupants of a residence. Property owners who may live elsewhere do not have to sign waivers.

- In instances where more than one potentially affected lot is inhabited by the same resident, only one waiver from that resident shall be counted.
- If there are multiple dwelling units on a lot (e.g. apartment units, condo units, mobile homes, farmworker dwelling, granny flats, etc.) a waiver must be sought from each residents in dwelling unit. Apartment managers, for example, cannot sign on behalf of all the tenants.
- If animals (e.g. horses) are housed in stalls on property within the affected area, then the caretaker or owner/keeper of these animals must sign the waiver (even where there is no dwelling or the property).
- **“Vacant”** residences and properties with no dwelling units or animals housed within 1,000 feet of the boundary of the permit area will not count.
- **“No response”** from a residence will count as “disapprove.”
- Any property with **“limited access”** (e.g. fenced homes, gated communities, barking dogs, etc.) and does not garner a response will count as “disapprove.”
- Make sure that each waiver statement is completed by the resident (i.e. signed, and checked “approve” or “disapprove”). Otherwise, the waiver statement will count as “disapprove.”
- The applicant and/or the production company is responsible for abiding by the above provisions when seeking waivers for a film production.
- Once completed, submit all documents to the Film Permit Coordinator for review. The film production is required to prove waivers were distributed to one hundred percent (100%) of the residences which may be impacted by the filming activities.
- Residents who sign the waiver must be 18 years of age or older.

### **Approvals Required**

A majority of the film waivers must be approved:

- The film production will need to obtain fifty percent plus one (50%+1) approval from the residences which may be impacted by the filming activities.
- The film production will need to obtain sixty percent (60%) approval if the film production is located within the Coastal Zone.

Click [here](#) to see if your filming locations falls within the Non-Coastal Zone or the Coastal Zone.