Ventura County
2040 General Plan
Public Review Draft

January 2020
Please see the next page.
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Introduction
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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the General Plan

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

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

The Ventura County 2040 General Plan serves several purposes:

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

- The County of Ventura, cities within the county, and the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) adopted the Guidelines for Orderly Development in 1969 to direct urban-level development and services to the incorporated areas.

- Greenbelts, voluntary agreements between the County and one or more cities, are used to limit development of agricultural and/or open space areas within the unincorporated county. Through greenbelt agreements, cities commit to not annex any property within a greenbelt while the County agrees to restrict development to uses consistent with existing agricultural or open space zoning. There are seven greenbelts in Ventura County totaling approximately 164,000 acres.

- Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR) refers to a series of voter initiative measures that have been approved by 8 of the 10 cities and the unincorporated area (Ojai and Port Hueneme have not adopted SOAR measures). SOAR measures within cities establish voter-controlled urban growth boundaries, known as City Urban Restriction Boundaries (CURBs). A city’s annexation or approval of urban development of land outside of a CURB boundary requires voter approval. The County’s SOAR measure, which is included as Appendix C and incorporated by reference into the General Plan, generally requires voter approval to re-designate land with Open Space, Agricultural, or Rural General Plan land use designations, and to amend the goals and policies for these land use designations.

**Using the General Plan**

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

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

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

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

1.2 Vision and Guiding Principles

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

Vision Statement

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

The following is the 2040 General Plan Vision Statement:

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

Guiding Principles

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

Land Use and Community Character

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

Housing

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

Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility

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

Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure

Invest in facilities, infrastructure, and services, including renewable energy, to promote efficiency and economic vitality, ensure public safety, and improve our quality of life.
Conservation and Open Space
Conserve and manage the County’s open spaces and natural resources, including soils, water, air quality, minerals, biological resources, scenic resources, as well as historic and cultural resources.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Policy Document

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State-Mandated Elements</th>
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<td>Land Use</td>
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The Ventura County 2040 General Plan Policy Document is organized into 11 chapters: An Introduction, 9 elements, and a chapter containing County Area Plans. The General Plan also contains three appendices. The following provides a brief description of each chapter and appendix in the 2040 Ventura General Plan Policy Document. The two- or three-letter acronym following each element’s name represents the letters used to refer to the goals and policies under that element. See Section 1.4 for further information on use of these acronyms.
1. **Introduction**
The Introduction chapter provides an overview of the General Plan and the process used to develop the 2040 General Plan. This chapter also includes a Reader’s Guide (Section 1.4) that provides useful information on how to read and use the goals, policies, and programs presented in each element.

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. **Agriculture Element (AG)**
The Agriculture Element focuses on the protection, preservation, and expansion of productive agriculture. Agriculture plays a key role in shaping the economy and unique character of Ventura County.
9. **Water Resources Element (WR)**

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

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

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

11. **Area Plans**

    The current General Plan includes the following nine area plans:

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

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

12. **Glossary**

    Definition of key terms used in the 2040 General Plan.

    A. **Appendix A**

       This appendix contains Area Plan and Community land use maps.

    B. **Appendix B**

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

    C. **Appendix C**

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

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

**Background Report**

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

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

### 1.4 Readers’ Guide

**Goals and Policies**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Climate Action Plan
The 2040 General Plan serves as the County’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) by including both a GHG Strategy and Climate Adaptation Strategy that are integrated throughout the 2040 General Plan. The GHG Strategy identifies policies and implementation programs that establish GHG emissions reduction
targets and GHG reduction measures to achieve the targets in the unincorporated county, consistent with state guidance and applicable GHG protocols. The Climate Adaptation Strategy includes analysis of climate change vulnerability and adaptation measures that address unincorporated county vulnerabilities to climate change and increase the County’s long-term resilience, per the requirements of Government Code Section 65302(g). The specific goals and policies under both strategies that would otherwise form a “stand-alone” CAP are integrated into the Ventura County 2040 General Plan. This integrated CAP approach allows the 2040 General Plan to be recognized as a “Plan for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions” (as allowed for in Section 15183.5 of the CEQA Guidelines).

Implementation Tools and Actions

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

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

**Regulation and Development Review (RDR)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Local agencies such as cities, special districts, and school districts;
- Regional agencies such as Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, Ventura Council of Governments, and Ventura County Transportation Commission;
State agencies such as Caltrans, General Services, California State University, California Environmental Protection Agency, California Coastal Commission, and Native American Heritage Commission; and

Federal agencies such as U.S. Coast Guard, Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Figure 1-2  How to Read Implementation Programs

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

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

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

**Assets, Issues, and Opportunities Summary Report**

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

**General Plan Update Public Opinion Survey Summary Report**

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

**Vision and Guiding Principles**

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

**Alternatives Concept Report**

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

The County published Chapters 1 to 6 of the Alternatives Report in July 2018, and Chapters 7 to 9 in November 2018. This report is the culmination of the Alternatives Phase of the General Plan Update project, which develops and explores different options for how the county could grow in the future and how the General Plan Update project could address major policy issues. This phase included discussions with community members, stakeholders, and decision-makers about General Plan organization, population projections, land use capacity assessment and alternatives, and policy options. This process provided the community with an opportunity to discuss pros and cons of different growth alternatives, ways to achieve the vision, and build consensus for a Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative provided the framework for future growth and resource protection and established the basis for the updated goals, policies, and implementation programs that comprehensively address land use, mobility, public facilities, environmental quality, water conservation, agricultural resources, and healthy communities.

1.6 Community Engagement

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

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

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

Public Opinion Survey

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vision and Guiding Principles Community Meetings and Open House Events
From July 17 to August 12, 2017, County staff held seven community meetings and four open house events to provide information on the proposed Vision and set of Guiding Principles. The County conducted open house events in coordination with the six Municipal Advisory Councils and the Piru Neighborhood Council. Open house events were facilitated as pop-up information booths with County staff present to answer questions and provide information about the General Plan Update project. The Open House events were conducted in local libraries and parks for communities that did not have a Municipal Advisory Council or neighborhood council to host a community meeting.

General Plan Update Information Booth at the Ventura County Government Center
County staff hosted an information booth at Ventura County Government Center’s Hall of Administration from July 24th to 28th, 2017. It featured informational posters in both English and Spanish.

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

VC2040 Draft General Plan Community Open Houses
As part of the review of the Preliminary Public Review Draft 2040 General Plan, the County held a set of seven community workshops/open houses in Spring 2019. These events allowed participants to learn more about the 2040 General Plan and to ask questions of County staff.

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

- Graduate and undergraduate classes at California Lutheran University;
- Municipal Advisory Councils in the Casa Conejo, El Rio-Del Norte, Oak Park, Oak View, Santa Rosa Valley, and Somis communities;
- Santa Clara River Watershed Committee;
- Student group from California Polytechnic Institute of San Luis Obispo;
- Partnership for a Healthy Ventura County;
- Piru Neighborhood Council;
- Ventura County Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee;
Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board;
Ventura County Economic Development Association;
Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission;
Ventura County Community Transformation Leadership Team; and
Open Space Roundtable.

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

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

Online Workshop Questionnaire for “Vision and Guiding Principles”

General Plan Advisory Bodies

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Planning Commission Work Sessions**

- **April 7, 2016**
  Presentation of an overview of the Planning Commission roles and responsibilities, final work program and schedule, and proposed Community Engagement Strategy.

- **June 8, 2017**
  Presentation of the Assets, Issues, and Opportunities Summary Report and the Draft Background Report.

- **November 9, 2017**
  Presentation of the revised Draft Background Report and update the Planning Commission on next steps for the General Plan Update project.

- **June 6, 13, and 20, 2019**
  Presentation of the Preliminary Public Review Draft 2040 General Plan and receive comments from the public and Planning Commission. This review occurred over several meetings. As part of these meetings, the Planning Commission made recommendations on the content of the 2040 General Plan to be used in the preparation of the Draft Program EIR.
Figure 1-3  Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors Process Integration

Planning Commission Work Session (April 7, 2016)
Overview of the Planning Commission roles and responsibilities, final work program and schedule, and proposed Community Engagement Strategy

Planning Commission Work Session (June 8, 2017)
Presentation on the Assets, Issues, and Opportunities Summary Report and the Draft Background Report

Planning Commission Work Session (November 9, 2017)
Presentation on the revised Draft Background Report and update on the next steps in the General Plan Update project

Board of Supervisors Work Session (January 23, 2018)
Presentation on the General Plan Update project’s Assets, Issues, and Opportunities Summary Report and Public Opinion Survey; gathered input on the Draft Vision Statement and Guiding Principles; and gathered input on the Draft Background Report

Board of Supervisors / Planning Commission Joint Work Session (April 17, 2018)
Consideration of the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles and the Alternatives Concept Report

Board of Supervisors / Planning Commission Joint Work Session (July 31, 2018)
Consideration of Alternatives Report, Chapters 1 to 6

Board of Supervisors / Planning Commission Joint Work Session (November 6, 2018)
Consideration of Alternatives Report, Chapters 7 to 9

Planning Commission Work Sessions (June 6, 13, and 20, 2019)
Presentation on the Preliminary Draft 2040 General Plan and received comments from the public and Planning Commission

Board of Supervisors Work Sessions (August 6 and September 10, 2019)
Presentation on the Preliminary Draft 2040 General Plan and recommended changes based on Planning Commission and public input

Planning Commission Hearings (Spring 2020)
Following release of the Draft and Final Program EIRs, a set of hearings will be held to provide their final review of the 2040 General Plan and Program EIR

Board of Supervisor Hearings (Spring 2020)
Following release of the Draft and Final Program EIRs and after receipt of a recommended set of actions from the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors will hold hearings to consider the final documents
1. Introduction

**Board of Supervisors Work Sessions**
- **January 23, 2018**
  Receive and file the General Plan Update project’s Assets, Issues, and Opportunities Summary Report and Public Opinion Survey; provide input on the Draft Vision Statement and Guiding Principles; and provide input on the Draft Background Report.

- **August 6 and September 10, 2019**
  Presentation of the Preliminary Public Review Draft 2040 General Plan and recommended changes based on Planning Commission and public input. As part of these meetings, the Board of Supervisors made recommendations on the content of the 2040 General Plan to be used in the preparation of the Public Review Draft General Plan and Draft Program EIR. The September 10, 2019 Work Session included the review of the policy changes recommended at the August 6, 2019 Work Session and consider outstanding questions.

**Board of Supervisors / Planning Commission Joint Work Sessions**
- **April 17, 2018**

- **July 31, 2018**
  Consideration of Alternatives Report, Chapters 1 - 6.

- **November 6, 2018**
  Consideration of Alternatives Report, Chapters 7 - 9.

**Planning Commission Hearings**
- **Spring 2020**
  Following release of the Draft and Final Program EIRs, a set of hearings will be held with the Planning Commission to provide their final review of the 2040 General Plan and Program EIR. At these hearings, the Planning Commission will take public testimony and make final recommendations for any changes needed. The Planning Commission will then recommend an action on both documents for the Board of Supervisors consideration.

**Board of Supervisor Hearings**
- **Spring 2020**
  Following release of the Draft and Final Program EIRs and after receipt of a recommended set of actions from the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors will hold hearings to consider the final documents. Following public testimony and discussion and requested changes, the Board of Supervisors will act to certify the Program EIR and to adopt the 2040 General Plan.
Please see the next page.
Please see the next page.
The County of Ventura has land use regulatory authority over most unincorporated land in the county. In contrast, the County lacks land use authority within the city limits of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura. The County lacks land use authority over land in the unincorporated area that is owned/managed by the state or federal government (e.g., state parks, national parks, Bureau of Land Management areas, and tribal lands), except for portions of state parks and other state land located in the coastal zone. Under state law the County has land use authority over land owned/managed by special districts in the unincorporated area (e.g., school districts, cemetery districts, water districts), subject to limited exceptions.

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

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

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</table>

2.1 Growth Management

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

Guidelines for Orderly Development

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

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

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

- **1983**: The Guidelines were revised and readopted by the County, LAFCO, and all incorporated cities in Ventura County. Revisions to the Guidelines included establishment of the Areas of Interest, with one city in each Area of Interest; establishment of Spheres of Influence for each city which identify where annexations could occur; and clarification of land use policies.

- **1995**: The Guidelines were revised and readopted by the County, LAFCO, and all incorporated cities in Ventura County. Changes to the Guidelines included defining “urban development” as referring to residential lots less than two acres in area; change in the County’s minimum lot size for the Rural land use designation from one to 2 acres; and clarified land use policies.

**Greenbelt Agreements**

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LU-1</th>
<th>To ensure that the County can accommodate anticipated future growth and development while promoting orderly growth and development that enhances quality of life, maintains a safe and healthful environment, preserves valuable natural resources, and plans for adequate public facilities and services. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.1.1.1 and Goal 3.1.1.3, modified]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**LU-1.1 Guidelines for Orderly Development**

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

- working with cities in Ventura County and the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to promote and maintain reasonable city boundaries and Spheres of Influence to prevent growth-inducing urban development in unincorporated areas, and

- require unincorporated urban development to be located in areas designated as Existing Communities and unincorporated urban centers consistent with the Guidelines for Orderly Development and as defined in Policy LU-1.2.

(RDR, IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.1.1.2 and Goal 3.1.1.5, modified]
LU-1.2 Area Designations
For purposes of planning within the county and as used in this General Plan, the County establishes the following area designations:

▪ **Urban.** Figure 2-1 indicates the boundary of the Urban area designation. All areas inside these boundaries are considered within the Urban area designation for purposes of this General Plan and implementation of the Guidelines for Orderly Development and Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR). See Goal LU-2 and associated policies for further information on this designation.

▪ **Existing Community.** Figure 2-1 indicates the boundary of the Existing Community area designation. All areas inside these boundaries are considered within the Existing Community area designation for purposes of this General Plan and implementation of the Guidelines for Orderly Development and Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR). See Goal LU-3 and associated policies for further information on this designation.

▪ **Area Plans.** Area Plans are an integral part of the County’s General Plan, providing the basis for future land use development in specifically defined areas. These plans govern the distribution, general location, and extent of uses of the land for housing, business, industry, open space, agriculture, and public facilities. In the General Plan, the Area Plan designation defines the boundary for the specific geographic areas of the county that are covered by an adopted Area Plan. Area Plans shall be consistent with the General Land Use Diagram, although the Area Plans may be more specific. Figure 2-2 indicates the areas covered by the Area Plans in the county.

▪ **An Area of Interest** is part of a plan adopted by Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) which divides the county into major geographic areas that are reflective of community and planning identity. Within each Area of Interest there should be no more than one city or unincorporated urban center, but there will not necessarily be a city or unincorporated urban center in each Area of Interest. Figure 2-3 shows the Area of Interest boundaries for the county.

▪ **An Unincorporated Urban Center** is an existing or planned community which is located in an Area of Interest where no city exists. The unincorporated urban center represents the focal center for community and planning activities within the Area of Interest. For example, the Community of Piru represents the focal center in the Piru Area of Interest.

▪ **A Sphere of Influence**, as used in this General Plan, is an area determined by the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to represent the "probable" ultimate boundary of a city. LAFCO also recognizes Spheres of Influence for special districts, which are not discussed in this Element. The adoption of Spheres of Influence is required by Government Code Section 56425.

(RDR) [Source: Existing GPP, Section 3.2, modified]
Please see the next page.
Figure 2-3: Areas of Interest and City Spheres of Influence (SOI)

Map Date: September 03, 2019
Please see the next page.
2. Land Use and Community Character Element

LU-1.3 Regional Housing Needs Allocations
The County shall coordinate with Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to
direct state regional housing needs allocations predominantly to cities to ensure consistency
with the County’s Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR) initiative and the
SCAG’s Sustainable Communities Strategy. (RDR, IGC) [Source: New Policy]

LU-1.4 Land Use Patterns
The County shall ensure that new land use patterns emphasize efficient use of land and
infrastructure, walkable neighborhoods, contemporary development practices, and sense of
place consistent with the Guidelines for Orderly Development. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

LU-1.5 Infill Development
The County shall encourage infill development within Existing Communities and within or
adjacent to existing development within unincorporated urban centers to maximize the efficient
use of land and existing infrastructure. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.4.2.1 and
Policy 4.1.2.2, modified]

LU-1.6 Accommodating Future Growth
The County shall ensure that the General Plan designates adequate land for urban
development to accommodate projected population and employment growth in the
unincorporated areas as determined by the Board of Supervisors. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

LU-2 To maintain an Urban designation that:

- recognizes areas within the county planned for urban development which are
currently incorporated, or which are candidates for future incorporation
  [Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.2.1.1, SOAR];

- direct urban development to existing cities and unincorporated urban centers
  within their own Area of Interest [Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.2.1.2, SOAR]; and

- discourage outward expansion of urban development when suitable
developable areas exist within cities and unincorporated urban centers.
  [Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.2.1.3, SOAR]

LU-2.1 Urban
The Urban area designation, referred to in the Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources
(SOAR) initiative, is used to depict existing and planned urban centers which include
commercial and industrial uses as well as residential uses where the building intensity is
greater than one principal dwelling unit per two acres. This designation has been applied to all
incorporated lands within a city’s Sphere of Influence as established by the Local Agency
Formation Commission (LAFCO), and unincorporated urban centers within their own Areas of
Interest which may be candidates for future incorporation. In this General Plan, this term is
synonymous with the combination of the areas shown as “Cities” and “Unincorporated Urban
Centers” on Figure 2-1. (RDR, MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2 Land Use
Designations, modified, SOAR]
This designation defines the boundary of Urban in the unincorporated areas of the county and the areas within these boundaries, as shown on Figure 2-1.

LU-3

To recognize and confine existing urban enclaves, which are within Existing Community boundaries, to limit the location of uses, densities, and zoning designations normally limited to Urban designated areas. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.2.1.2, modified. SOAR, modified]

LU-3.1 Existing Community(ies)

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

Figure 2-1 indicates the boundary of the Existing Community area designation. All areas inside these boundaries are considered within the Existing Community area designation for purposes of this General Plan and implementation of the Guidelines for Orderly Development and Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR) initiative. This term is considered synonymous with “Urban Enclave” as used in other planning documents. (RDR, MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2 Land Use Designations, modified. SOAR]

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

LU-3.2 Areas Appropriate for the Existing Community Designation

The County shall include existing unincorporated urban enclaves located outside cities and unincorporated urban centers within Existing Community designated boundaries. (MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2.2.2, SOAR, modified]

LU-3.3 Range of Uses in the Existing Community Designation

The County shall recognize that the Existing Community area designation may cover the range of zones present in the area including, but not limited to, residential, commercial, and industrial, as well as the range of existing population densities and building intensities. The County shall allow the appropriate zoning, population densities, and building intensities based on the adopted Area Plan or, where no Area Plan exists, by the applicable Existing Community Map contained in Appendix A. Because of the degree of specificity on the Existing Community Maps, the County shall require a General Plan amendment for any zone change within an Existing Community. (MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2.2.2, SOAR]
2.2 Land Use Designations and Standards

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

| LU-4 | To ensure that land uses are appropriate and compatible with each other and guide development in a pattern that will minimize land use conflicts between adjacent land uses. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.1.1.4. modified] |

LU-4.1 General Plan Land Use Diagram

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

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

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

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

(RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.1.2.1, modified]

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

LU-4.2 Zoning Consistency

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

- Recognizing the desirability of retaining existing uses and densities on the subject land;
- Recognizing the desirability of accommodating anticipated uses on the subject land;
- Maintaining continuity with neighboring zoning, land uses and parcel sizes;
Implementing the recommendations of specific zoning and land use studies of the area in question;

Recognizing and addressing the presence and significance of resources and hazards; and

Evaluating the ability to provide public services and facilities.

(RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.1.2.2, Modified]

LU-4.3 Minimum Parcel Size

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

A parcel may be created for the sole purpose of transferring, by lease or sale, possession of an agricultural water well and the land around the well as may be necessary for its operation. Such parcels, and the wells they contain, shall be used for agricultural purposes only.

Parcels for public purposes such as, but not limited to, fire, police, municipal water wells, flood control, and other public health and safety facilities.

Affordable and elderly housing developments that are eligible for density bonuses as specified in Article 16 of the County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance may be granted a reduction from the minimum parcel size requirements in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 or pursuant to state law.

Parcels designated as Cultural Heritage Sites may be granted a reduction from the minimum parcel size requirements in accordance with the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance.

Parcels subdivided for resource conservation purposes in accordance with the conservation subdivision process established in the Ventura County Subdivision Ordinance.

Parcels subdivided for the perpetual maintenance of biotic or wildlife habitat in accordance with California Government Code section 66418.2.

Parcels of less than the prescribed minimum lot area may be allowed for farmworker housing complexes on land zoned Agricultural Exclusive (AE) within or adjacent to a city Sphere of Influence, provided the remaining non-farmworker housing complex parcel is a minimum of 10 acres.

(RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.1.2.6, Modified]
Figure 2-4: General Plan Land Use Diagram

Map Date: August 19, 2019
Figure 2-5: General Plan Land Use Diagram Southern Area

Map Date: August 19, 2019
Please see the next page.
# 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

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

| General Plan Land Use Designations | AE | C1 | CA | CC | CM | COS | CPD | CPD/CBD | CR | CR1 | CR2 | CRE | CRPD | CPD | CPD | IND | M1 | M2 | M3 | O/S | R/MU | R1 | R2 | RA | RB | RBH | RE | RES | RHD | RO | RPD | TC | TP | REC | OS-REC |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|---------|----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|------|----|----|----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|
| Rural                             |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |     |    |    |    |     |      |    |    |    |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |
| ECU-Rural                         |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |     |    |    |    |     |      |    |    |    |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |
| Agricultural                      |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |     |    |    |    |     |      |    |    |    |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |
| ECU-Agricultural                 |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |     |    |    |    |     |      |    |    |    |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |
| Open Space¹,²                     |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |     |    |    |    |     |      |    |    |    |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |
| ECU-Open Space¹,²                |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |     |    |    |    |     |      |    |    |    |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |
| Very Low Density Residential      |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |     |    |    |    |     |      |    |    |    |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |
| Low-Density Residential           |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |     |    |    |    |     |      |    |    |    |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |
| Medium-Density Residential        |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |     |    |    |    |     |      |    |    |    |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |
| Residential High-Density          |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |     |    |    |    |     |      |    |    |    |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |
| Residential Planned Development  |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |     |    |    |    |     |      |    |    |    |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |     |    |     |    |     |
### General Plan Land Use Designations

| Designations                | AE | C1 | CA | CC | CM | COS | CPD | CPD/CBD | CR | CR1 | CR2 | CRE | CRPD | CPD | IND | M1 | M2 | M3 | OS | R/MU | R1 | R2 | RA | RB | RBH | RE | RES | RHD | RO | RPD | TC | TP | REC | OS-REC |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|---------|----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|------|----|----|-----|
| Coastal Residential        |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |      |     |     |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |     |    |       |    |    |     |
| Planned Development        |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |      |     |     |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |     |    |       |    |    |     |
| Residential Beach          |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |      |     |     |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |     |    |       |    |    |     |
| Mixed Use                  |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |      |     |     |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |     |    |       |    |    |     |
| Commercial                 |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |      |     |     |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |     |    |       |    |    |     |
| Commercial Planned         |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |      |     |     |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |     |    |       |    |    |     |
| Development                |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |      |     |     |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |     |    |       |    |    |     |
| Industrial                 |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |      |     |     |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |     |    |       |    |    |     |
| Parks & Recreation²        |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |      |     |     |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |     |    |       |    |    |     |
| State, Federal,            |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |      |     |     |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |     |    |       |    |    |     |
| Other Public Lands         |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |         |    |     |     |     |      |     |     |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |     |    |       |    |    |     |

**Notes:**

1. The minimum lot size is 10 acres, or 20 acres if contiguous with Agricultural.
2. Parcels and corresponding zone classifications have not yet been identified for the new Parks and Recreation land use designation, Recreation zone classification or Open Space Parks and Recreation zone classification.
Table 2-2  Land Use Designation General Development Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Land Use Designation</th>
<th>Maximum Density / Intensity</th>
<th>Minimum Lot Size</th>
<th>Max. Lot Coverage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rural, Agricultural, and Open Space Designations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUR</td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>1 du/2 ac</td>
<td>2 acres, or zone suffix equal to or more restrictive than 2 acres</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECU-R</td>
<td>ECU-Rural</td>
<td>1 du/2 ac</td>
<td>2 acres</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG</td>
<td>Agricultural</td>
<td>1 du/40 ac</td>
<td>40 acres</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECU-A</td>
<td>ECU-Agricultural</td>
<td>1 du/40 ac</td>
<td>40 acres</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>1 du/parcel</td>
<td>10 acres, or 20 acres if contiguous w/Agricultural</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECU-OS</td>
<td>ECU-Open Space</td>
<td>1 du/parcel</td>
<td>10 acres, or 20 acres if contiguous w/Agricultural</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Residential Designations</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>VLDR</td>
<td>Very Low Density Residential</td>
<td>4 du/ac</td>
<td>10,000 SF</td>
<td>n/a*</td>
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<td>LDR</td>
<td>Low-Density Residential</td>
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<td>6,000 SF</td>
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<td>MDR</td>
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<td>Residential Beach</td>
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<td><strong>Mixed Use, Commercial, and Industrial Designations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>MU</td>
<td>Mixed Use</td>
<td>20 du/ac; 60% lot coverage</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>60% lot coverage</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<td>CPD</td>
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<td>I</td>
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<td>50% lot coverage</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

*Maximum lot coverage is per appropriate County Zoning classification.*
LU-4.4 Nonconforming Parcel Size
The County shall not prohibit the use or development of a parcel which is a legal lot for the purposes of the County Subdivision Ordinance, but which fails to meet the minimum parcel size requirements of the applicable land use designation, solely by reason of such failure. However, this policy shall not be construed to permit the division of any parcel into two or more lots if any of the new lots fail to meet the minimum parcel size requirements. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.1.2.7, modified]

LU-4.5 Jobs-Housing Balance
The County shall evaluate employment generating discretionary development resulting in 30 or more new full-time and full-time-equivalent employees to assess the project’s impact on lower-income housing demand within the community in which the project is located or within a 15-minute commute distance of the project. At such time as the Housing Impact Mitigation Fee Program is completed, this policy shall no longer apply. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.4.2.9, modified]

LU-5 To promote the effective implementation and use of the General Plan Land Use Diagram. [Source: New Goal]

LU-5.1 General Plan Land Use Amendments
When reviewing proposed General Plan amendments to modify or change land use designations or the General Plan Land Use Diagram, the County shall consider if the proposal:

- maintains consistency with the General Plan Vision, Guiding Principles, and relevant goals, and policies;
- maintains consistency with the Guidelines for Orderly Development;
- minimizes the creation of a land use that is inconsistent with the policies, land uses, or development standards of surrounding parcels;
- enhances compatibility with existing or planned uses in the area;
- addresses new physical, social, or economic factors that are relevant and were not present at the time of the General Plan adoption;
- reduces the potential for undesired, growth-inducing precedent;
- demonstrates appropriate infrastructure and services are available, or amendment is conditioned on requirement to provide or appropriately fund needed infrastructure and services; and
- demonstrates acceptable effect on the fiscal health of the County.

(MPSP) [Source: New Policy]
LU-5.2 Land Use Boundary Interpretation
The County Planning Director shall have the interpretative authority, subject to appeal to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, of the alignment of all land use boundaries depicted on the General Plan Land Use Diagram, consistent with the goals and policies of the General Plan. To the extent feasible, the boundaries on the Land Use Diagram should follow natural or human-made boundaries (including parcel lines), such as:

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

(RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.1.2.8, Existing Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley Area Plan Policy 1.1.2.3, Oak Park Area Plan Policy 3.1.2.2, and Piru Area Plan Policy 3.1.2.2, modified]

LU-5.3 Concurrent Zoning Change Processing
The County shall process zone changes, if necessary, concurrently with General Plan amendments to assure zoning consistency. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.1.2.9]
Typical Uses

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

Residential Designations

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

The drawings to the left illustrate the concept of residential density.
Non-Residential Designations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**RURAL LAND USE DESIGNATIONS**

**Rural (RUR)**

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

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

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

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

**Development Standards**

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: Existing GPP Section 3.2 Land Use Designations, SOAR]
ECU-Rural (ECU-R)
This designation provides a physical transition between the outer edges of an Existing Community or Urban Area and nearby agricultural and open space areas and uses. The ECU-Rural designation generally applies to the outer edges of Existing Community and Urban Areas and around sensitive natural resources within the boundaries of an Existing Community designated area. Typical building types include large-lot single family homes in a rural setting.

Development Standards
Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: New Land Use Designation]

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

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

Under this designation, the County shall:

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

Development Standards
Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: Existing GPP Section 3.2 Land Use Designations, SOAR]
ECU-Agricultural (ECU-A)

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

**Development Standards**

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: New Land Use Designation]

OPEN SPACE LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

Open Space (OS)

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

- Open space for the preservation of natural resources including, but not limited to, areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life, including habitat for fish and wildlife species; areas required for ecologic and other scientific study purposes; rivers, streams, bays and estuaries; and coastal beaches, lakeshores, banks of rivers and streams, and watershed lands.

- Open space used for the managed production of resources, including but not limited to, forest lands, rangeland, agricultural lands not designated agricultural; areas required for recharge of groundwater basins; bays, estuaries, marshes, rivers and streams which are important for the management of commercial fisheries; and areas containing major mineral deposits, including those in short supply.

- Open space for outdoor recreation, including but not limited to, areas of outstanding scenic, historic and cultural value; areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes, including access to lakeshores, beaches, and rivers and streams; and areas which serve as links between major recreation and open space reservations, including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails, and scenic highway corridors.

- Open space for public health and safety, including, but not limited to, areas which require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, flood plains, watersheds, areas presenting high fire risks, areas required for the protection of water quality and water reservoirs and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality.

- Open space to promote the formation and continuation of cohesive communities by defining the boundaries and by helping to prevent urban sprawl.

- Open space to promote efficient municipal services and facilities by confining urban development to defined development areas.
Development Standards
Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: Existing GPP Section 3.2 Land Use Designations, SOAR]

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

Development Standards
Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: New Land Use Designation]

RURAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND OPEN SPACE POLICY DIRECTION

LU-6 To provide appropriate land use designations that provide for the long-term preservation of the county’s rural lifestyle, productive farmland and supporting services, and the vast open space resources that define the county. [Source: New Goal]

LU-6.1 Agricultural Buffers
The County shall require non-agricultural land uses adjacent to agricultural uses to incorporate adequate buffers (e.g., fences, setbacks) to limit conflicts with adjoining agricultural operations. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

LU-6.2 Maximum Lot Coverage Exclusions - Agricultural Land Use Designation
The County shall exclude structures used for growing plants such as greenhouses, hothouses, and agricultural shade/mist structures from the Agricultural land use designation maximum lot coverage. This exclusion does not include structures used for preliminary packing, storage and preservation of produce and similar structures. Additionally, greater building coverage may be allowed under discretionary permits for Farmworker Housing Complexes. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Figure 3.4 General Residential Building Intensity Standards/Population Density Range Table, Footnote No. 3, Modified]
2. Land Use and Community Character Element

LU-6.3 Density Exceptions – Agricultural Land Use Designation
The County shall exclude from the Agricultural land use maximum density farmworker dwellings, and accessory dwelling units pursuant to section 65852.2 of the Government Code. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Figure 3.4 General Residential Building Intensity Standards/Population Density Range Table, Footnote No. 2, Modified]

Additional goals and policies on agricultural resources are in Chapter 8, Agriculture Element.
Goals and policies on farm-related housing are in Chapter 3, Housing Element.

RURAL LAND USE POLICY DIRECTION

LU-7
To recognize and plan for low-density rural residential and recreational development, while preserving resources, avoiding hazards, and providing adequate public facilities and services. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.2.1.3, SOAR]

LU-7.1 Areas Appropriate for the Rural Land Use Designation
The County shall require that lands designated as Rural are those located outside areas designated Urban or Existing Community which are deemed suitable and appropriate for low-density rural residential or recreational development. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2.2.3, SOAR]

LU-7.2 Minimal Parcel Size for the Rural Land Use Designation
The County shall require that the smallest minimum parcel size consistent with the Rural land use designation is two acres. The County may require larger minimum parcel sizes based on the parcel’s Non-Costal Zoning Ordinance zoning classification. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2.2.3, SOAR, modified]

LU-7.3 Maximum Lot Coverage Nonconforming Lots - Rural Land Use Designation
The County shall require that the maximum lot coverage for lots of less than one acre (nonconforming) in area shall be as specified for the Rural designation, or 2,500 square feet plus 1 square foot for each 4.596 square feet of lot area over 5,000 square feet, whichever is greater. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Figures 3.7a through 3.28b, Existing Community Building Intensity/Population Density Tables, Footnote No. 1]
AGRICULTURAL LAND USE POLICY DIRECTION

To maintain an Agricultural designation that:

▪ Recognizes the farmlands within the county that are critical to the maintenance of the local agricultural economy and which are important to the state and nation for the production of food, fiber, and ornamentals;

▪ Preserves and protects agricultural lands as a nonrenewable resource to assure their continued availability for the production of food, fiber, and ornamentals;

▪ Promotes the economic viability of agricultural lands by assisting agricultural producers and establishing zoning policies that support long-term investments in agriculture;

▪ Maintains agricultural lands in parcel sizes which will assure that viable farming units are retained;

▪ Establishes policies and regulations which encourage agricultural land to remain in farming and related uses;

▪ Restricts the introduction of conflicting uses into farming areas;

▪ Subject to state law, the Guidelines for Orderly Development, and applicable zoning requirements, actively promotes infrastructure, sized not larger than necessary for the specific project, for farmworker housing to support the continuing viability of agriculture. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.2.1.4, SOAR]

LU-8.1 Areas Appropriate for the Agricultural Land Use Designation
The County shall ensure that the Agricultural land use designation primarily includes lands that are designated as Prime Farmlands, Farmlands of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmlands in the state’s Important Farmland Inventory (IFI), although the County may not designate land as Agricultural if small areas of agricultural land are isolated from larger blocks of farming land. In such cases, the Agricultural land is to be assigned to the Open Space or Rural designation for consistency with surrounding properties. (MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2.2.4-1, SOAR]

LU-8.2 Land Uses Appropriate for the Agricultural Land Use Designation
The County shall ensure that land designated as Agricultural is used for the production of food, fiber, and ornamentals; animal husbandry and care; uses accessory to agriculture; and limited temporary or public uses which are consistent with agricultural or agriculturally related uses. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2.2.4-3, SOAR]
LU-8.3 Minimal Parcel Size for the Agricultural Land Use Designation
The County shall ensure that the smallest minimum parcel size consistent with the Agricultural land use designation is 40 acres. The County may require larger minimum parcel sizes based on the zone classification. (RDR, MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2.2.4-2, SOAR]

LU-8.4 Maximum Lot Coverage Nonconforming Lots - Agricultural Land Use Designation
The County shall ensure that the maximum lot coverage of lots of less than 10 acres (nonconforming) in area shall be as specified for the Agricultural designation, or 2,500 square feet plus 1 square foot for each 22.334 square feet of lot area over 5,000 square feet, whichever is greater. Greater lot coverage may be allowed under discretionary permits for Farmworker Housing Complexes and existing uses/structures listed in the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance under the heading of “Crop and Orchard Production”. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Figure 3.4 General Residential Building Intensity Standards/Population Density Range Table, Footnote No. 5, modified]

LU-8.5 Farmworker Housing
The County shall support the development of safe and quality farmworker housing that facilitates a reliable labor force and promotes efficient agricultural operations. Housing units shall include a variety of housing types, including group quarters and larger dwelling units that can accommodate a family. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]
OPEN SPACE LAND USE POLICY DIRECTION

To maintain an Open Space designation that:

▪ Preserves for the benefit of all county residents the continued wise use of the county’s renewable and nonrenewable resources by limiting the encroachment into such areas of uses which would unduly and prematurely hamper or preclude the use or appreciation of such resources;

▪ Acknowledges the presence of certain hazardous features which urban development should avoid for public health and safety reasons, as well as for the possible loss of public improvements in these areas and the attendant financial costs to the public;

▪ Retains open space lands in a non-urbanized state so as to preserve the maximum number of future land use options;

▪ Retains open space lands for outdoor recreational activities, parks, trails and for scenic lands;

▪ Defines urban areas by providing contrasting but complementary areas which should be left non-urbanized;

▪ Recognizes the intrinsic value of open space lands and not regard such lands as “areas waiting for urbanization”;

▪ Encourages Land Conservation Act (LCA) contracts on farming and grazing and open space lands; and

▪ Supports the productive agricultural activities of Open Space designated lands that are commonly used for agriculture, grazing, and ranching and that are important to the overall economy of Ventura County. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.2.1.5, SOAR]

LU-9.1 Areas Appropriate for the Open Space Land Use Designation

The County shall ensure that the Open Space land use designation includes areas of land or water that are set aside for the preservation of natural resources, including, but not limited to, areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life, including habitat for fish and wildlife species; areas required for ecologic and other scientific study purposes; rivers, streams, bays, wetlands, and estuaries; and coastal beaches, lakeshores, banks of rivers and streams, and important watershed lands. (MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2.2.5-1, SOAR]
2. Land Use and Community Character Element

**LU-9.2 Preservation of Areas for Public Health and Safety**
The County shall designate areas of land or water which are set aside for public health and safety as Open Space, thereby safeguarding humans and property from certain natural hazards, including, but not limited to, areas which require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, flood plains, watersheds, areas presenting high fire risks, areas required for the protection of water quality and water reservoirs, and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality. (MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2.2.5-4, SOAR, modified]

**LU-9.3 Minimal Parcel Size for the Open Space Land Use Designation**
The County shall ensure that the smallest minimum parcel size consistent with the Open Space land use category is 10 acres. The County may require larger minimum parcel sizes based on the zone classification. (RDR, MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2.2.5-6, SOAR]

**LU-9.4 Minimal Parcel Size for the Open Space Contiguous with Agricultural**
The County shall require Open Space properties contiguous with Agricultural designated land to have a minimal parcel size of 20 acres. (RDR, MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2.2.5-7, SOAR]

**LU-9.5 Recreational Areas Appropriate for the Open Space Land Use Designation**
The County shall designate areas appropriate for recreational activities as Open Space, including, but not limited to, use and enjoyment of recreational trails and areas for hunting and fishing. Preservation of open space also serves to protect areas of outstanding scenic, historic, and cultural value; areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes, including access to lakeshores, beaches, and rivers and streams; and areas which serve as links between major recreation and open space reservations, including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails, and scenic highway corridors. (MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2.2.5-3, SOAR, modified]

**LU-9.6 Undeveloped Areas Appropriate for the Open Space Land Use Designation**
The County shall designate undeveloped natural areas as Open Space if they surround urban-designated areas which have been set aside to define the boundaries of the urban-designated areas, to prevent urban sprawl, and to promote efficient municipal services and facilities by confining the areas of urban development. (MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2.2.5-5, SOAR, modified]

**LU-9.7 Natural Resource Areas Appropriate for the Open Space Land Use Designation**
The County shall designate areas set aside for managed production of resources as Open Space, including, but not limited to, forest lands, rangeland, agricultural lands not otherwise designated Agricultural; areas required for the recharge of groundwater basins; bays, estuaries, marshes, rivers, and streams which are important for the management of commercial fisheries; and areas containing major mineral deposits, including those in short supply. (MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2.2.5-2, SOAR, modified]

**LU-9.8 Maximum Lot Coverage Nonconforming Lots – Open Space Land Use Designation**
The County shall ensure that the maximum lot coverage of lots of less than 10 acres (nonconforming) in area shall be as specified for the Open Space designation, or 2,500 square feet plus 1 square foot for each 22.334 square feet of lot area over 5,000 square feet, whichever is greater. Greater building coverage may be allowed under discretionary permits for Farmworker Housing Complexes and existing uses/structures listed in the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance under the heading of “Crop and Orchard Production”. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP


**Figure 3.4 General Residential Building Intensity Standards/Population Density Range Table, Footnote No. 5, modified**

**LU-9.9 Open Space Land Use Designation Interpretations**
The County shall ensure that Open Space Interpretations granted prior to May 17, 1983 permitting parcel sizes less than those specified in the General Plan shall be considered conforming to the General Plan. Zoning which is consistent with the purpose and intent of the Open Space Interpretations shall be considered conforming to the General Plan. (RDR)

[Source: Existing GPP Figure 3.2a Zoning Compatibility Matrix Non-Coastal Zones, Footnote Open Space Interpretations, modified]

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**RESIDENTIAL DESIGNATIONS**

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

**RESIDENTIAL LAND USE DESIGNATIONS**

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

**Development Standards**
Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

- Maximum Density: 3 dwelling units per acre
- Minimum Lot Size: 10,000 square feet
- Maximum Lot Coverage: Not applicable

[Source: New Land Use Designation]
Low-Density Residential (LDR)
This designation provides for a variety of single-family homes and neighborhoods. Typical building types include small-lot single family homes, and other similar housing types, such as second units.

**Development Standards**
Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: New Land Use Designation]

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

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

**Development Standards**
Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: New Land Use Designation]

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

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

**Development Standards**
Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: New Land Use Designation]
Residential Planned Development (RPD)

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

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

**Development Standards**

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: New Land Use Designation]

Coastal Residential Planned Development (CRPD)

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

**Development Standards**

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: New Land Use Designation]
Residential Beach (RB)

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

Development Standards

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: New Land Use Designation]

RESIDENTIAL LAND USE DESIGNATIONS POLICY DIRECTION

LU-10 Accessory Dwelling Units

The County shall permit accessory dwelling units as provided for in the Non-Coastal and Coastal Zoning Ordinances, even if such a dwelling would result in a density greater than the standard density specified for the residential land use designations. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

LU-10.2 Density Exceptions – Residential Land Use Designation

The County shall exclude from the Residential land use maximum density farmworker dwellings, and accessory dwelling units pursuant to section 65852.2 of the Government Code. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Figure 3.4 General Residential Building Intensity Standards/Population Density Range Table, Footnote No. 2, Modified]

LU-10.3 Maximum Lot Coverage Nonconforming Lots - Residential Land Use Designations

The County shall ensure that the maximum lot coverage for lots of less than one acre (nonconforming) in area shall be as specified for the Residential designation, or 2,500 square feet plus 1 square foot for each 4.596 square feet of lot area over 5,000 square feet, whichever is greater. [Source: Existing GPP Figures 3.7a through 3.28b, Existing Community Building Intensity/Population Density Tables, Footnote No. 1, Modified]

LU-10.4 Range of Housing Choices

The County shall facilitate the creation of a variety of housing types that meet the needs of all residents. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]
MIXED USE, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL DESIGNATIONS

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

MIXED USE LAND USE DESIGNATION

Mixed Use (MU)

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

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

Development Standards

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: Existing Saticoy Area Plan Land Use Designations]
COMMERCIAL LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

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

**Development Standards**
Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: Existing GPP Section 3.2 Land Use Designations]

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

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

**Development Standards**
Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: Existing GPP Section 3.2 Land Use Designations]
INDUSTRIAL LAND USE DESIGNATION

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

Development Standards
Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: Existing GPP Section 3.2 Land Use Designations]

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

LU-11 To promote the development of mixed-use, commercial, and industrial uses in areas that are appropriate for these uses. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.4.1.3, modified]

LU-11.1 Location
The County shall encourage mixed-use, commercial, and industrial discretionary development be located within cities, existing unincorporated urban centers, or designated Existing Communities where necessary public facilities and services can be provided to serve such development. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.4.2.1, modified]

LU-11.2 Applications Within Sphere of Influence
The County shall direct all applicants for commercial and industrial discretionary development located within a city's Sphere of Influence to that city for possible annexation and processing. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.4.2.2, modified]

LU-11.3 Design
The County shall require new commercial and industrial developments to be designed to be generally compact, grouped and consolidated into functional units providing for sufficient off-street parking and loading facilities, maximize pedestrian and vehicle safety, reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), encourage electric vehicle charging, and minimize the land use conflicts and traffic congestion. The County shall require that commercial and industrial discretionary development is designed to provide adequate buffering (e.g., walls, landscaping, setbacks) and operational conditions (e.g., hours of operation, and scheduling of deliveries) to minimize adverse impacts (e.g., noise, glare, and odors) on adjoining and adjacent residential areas. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policies 3.4.2.3 and 3.4.2.4, modified]
2. Land Use and Community Character Element

LU-11.4 Sustainable Technologies
The County shall encourage discretionary development on commercial- and industrial-designated land to incorporate sustainable technologies, including energy- and water-efficient practices and low- or zero-carbon practices. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

LU-11.5 Mixed-Use Development
The County shall require discretionary development on land designated mixed-use be developed under a single plan that details the full buildout of the development and any associated phasing for construction and includes specific design guidelines and standards that address the overall site design, scale of development, relationship to adjacent uses, circulation and parking, architecture, infrastructure, and landscaping. (RDR, PSP) [Source: New Policy]

LU-11.6 Live-Work Development
The County shall encourage mixed-use developments to include live-work floor plans for residents who desire office, commercial, or studio space adjacent to their living space. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

LU-11.7 Density Exceptions – Mixed Use Land Use Designation
The County shall exclude from the Mixed Use land use maximum density farmworker dwellings and accessory dwelling units pursuant to section 65852.2 of the Government Code (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Figure 3.4 General Residential Building Intensity Standards/Population Density Range Table, Footnote No. 2, Modified]

LU-11.8 Location of Retail Sales and Service Type Commercial and Office Facilities
The County shall encourage retail sales and service type commercial and office facilities to locate in shopping centers, established commercial areas, or planned mixed-use districts. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.4.2.5]

LU-11.9 Alternative Energy and Alternative Fuel Production
The County shall allow the production of alternative energy and alternative fuels on land within the Industrial designation to reduce the reliance on petroleum-based fuel and greenhouse gas emissions. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]
OTHER DESIGNATIONS

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

PARKS & RECREATION LAND USE DESIGNATION

Parks & Recreation (PR)

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

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

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

Development Standards

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: New Land Use Designation]
STATE, FEDERAL, OTHER PUBLIC LANDS LAND USE DESIGNATION

State, Federal, Other Public Lands (P)

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

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

Development Standards

Development within this designation is subject to the following standards:

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

[Source: Existing GPP Section 3.2 Land Use Designations, Modified]
# PARKS & RECREATION LAND USE DESIGNATION POLICY DIRECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LU-12</th>
<th>To provide parks and recreational facilities to serve all residents of Ventura County. [Source: New Goal]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**LU-12.1 Parks and Recreational Facilities**

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LU-13</th>
<th>To maintain a designation that:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Recognizes lands devoted to governmental uses which are under the authority of the state or federal government and over which the County has no effective land use jurisdiction.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Encourages the proper planning of governmental lands so that uses on these lands are compatible with existing and planned uses on adjacent privately-owned lands.</td>
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[Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.2.1.6]

**LU-13.1 Areas Appropriate for the State, Federal, Other Public Lands Land Use Designation**

The County shall include state- or federally-owned lands on which a significant governmental use is located under the State, Federal, Other Public Lands land use designation, and which are under the control of the state or federal government. For state land within the coastal zone, the County has land use authority except for land under the California Coastal Commission’s jurisdiction. All other areas are beyond the land use jurisdiction of the County. (MPSP)  
[Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2.2.6]

**LU-13.2 Process for Changing the State, Federal, Other Public Lands Land Use Designation**

When land designated as State, Federal, Other Public Lands is transferred to a private party or another public entity, the County shall require that the land be re-designated to an appropriate land use designation through the General Plan amendment process. (RDR, MPSP)  
[Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2.2.6]
CITY’S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE (SOI) POLICY DIRECTION

LU-14

To acknowledge the interests of cities and recognize the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) adopted Spheres of Influence as areas in which urbanization will likely occur under the authority of each city. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.2.1.7, modified]

LU-14.1 Development Applications in a City’s Sphere of Influence (SOI)

The County shall encourage applicants for General Plan amendments, zone changes, and discretionary development within a city’s Sphere of Influence to submit their application for change to the appropriate city and shall discourage applicants from applying to the County. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.2.2.7]

2.3 Area Plans

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

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

This section addresses the goals and policies that apply to all Area Plans related to land use. The goals and policies that are specific to an area are in the separately contained Area Plan.
To provide a clear policy framework that enhances the communities within each Area Plan boundary. [Source: New Goal]

**LU-15.1 Area Plan Requirements**

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

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

**Introduction**

- Purpose
- Area Plan Chronology
- Content and Organization

**Local Setting**

- Overview of Plan Area
- Community History

**Area Plan Elements**

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

(MSP) [Source: New Policy]

**LU-15.2 General Plan and Area Plan Consistency**

Area Plans for specific geographic subareas of the County may be adopted as part of the County General Plan. Area Plans shall be consistent with the General Land Use Diagram (Figures 2-4 and 2-5), although the Area Plans may be more specific and provide additional direction and restrictions concerning future development and resource management. (MSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.1.2.4]

**LU-15.3 General Plan and Area Plan Hierarchy**

Within locations covered by an area plan, where an inconsistency is identified between the General Plan and the Area Plan, the more restrictive of the two shall prevail. (RDR, MSP) [Source: New Policy]
LU-15.4 **Complete Communities**
The County shall encourage the development of an appropriately-scaled land use mix in each designated Area Plan where these plans include this type of use, and each designated Existing Community that contributes to an adequate economic base to fund capital improvements, including long-term maintenance, and to meet the daily needs of residents, including grocery stores, local-serving restaurants, community facilities, and civic centers. (RDR, MPSP) [Source: Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley Area Plan Goal 1.1.1.4 and Oak Park Area Plan Goal 3.1.1.5, modified]

LU-15.5 **Commercial and Industrial Land for Employment Uses**
The County shall provide sufficient commercially and industrially designated land to meet the employment needs of the community. (MPSP) [Source: Existing El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan Goal 3.8.1.1 and Piru Area Plan Goal 3.3.1.1]

LU-15.6 **Neighborhood Configurations to Promote a Variety of Lifestyles**
The County shall encourage the development of neighborhood configurations that encourage a variety of lifestyles, a central community focus, and distinct identity. (MPSP, RDR) [Source: Existing Oak Park Area Plan Goal 3.3.1.3]

LU-15.7 **Neighborhood Configurations to Preserve Natural Features**
The County shall encourage the development of neighborhood configurations that preserve the natural features of the site and minimize the requirements for grading. (RDR) [Source: Existing Oak Park Area Plan Goal 3.3.1.4 and Thousand Oaks Area Plan Goal 3.3.1.2]

LU-15.8 **Nonconforming Uses in Residential Areas**
The County shall continue to work with land owners to eliminate nonconforming land uses in residential areas, as appropriate. (SO) [Source: Existing El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan Goal 3.6.1.4, modified]

LU-15.9 **Area Plan Impacts on Jobs/Housing Balance**
The County shall require that as Area Plans are prepared or updated, planned industrial and commercial areas shall be evaluated to assess the impact on jobs/housing balance within the community and region. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.4.2.8]
2.4 Character and Design

A key aspect of preserving agricultural, rural, and open space lands is actively investing in enhancing existing communities and urban areas. These are areas with adequate public services and infrastructure to support housing and employment centers. This section focuses on promoting attractive communities with a distinct sense of place.

To enhance the character and design of unincorporated communities in the county in order to cultivate self-contained communities designed to meet the daily needs of Ventura County residents. [Source: New Goal]

**LU-16**

**LU-16.1 Community Character and Quality of Life**
The County shall encourage discretionary development to be designed to maintain the distinctive character of unincorporated communities, to ensure adequate provision of public facilities and services, and to be compatible with neighboring uses. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

**LU-16.2 Urban Design Standards for Commercial and Industrial Development**
The County shall require that discretionary commercial and industrial developments maintain high standards of urban design and environmental quality by incorporating compact form, maximizing pedestrian access and safety, and minimizing land use conflicts and traffic congestion. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.4.1.5 and Policy 3.4.2.3, modified]

**LU-16.3 Mixed-Use Development**
The County shall support compatible, mixed-land use development in areas designated as Area Plans and Existing Communities, where these plans include this type of use. (MPSP, RDR) [Source: New Policy]

**LU-16.4 Live/Work Spaces**
In Area Plans and Existing Communities, the County shall encourage the development of flexible live-work spaces for residents who desire office, commercial, or studio space adjacent to their living space, where these plans include this type of use. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

**LU-16.5 Multimodal Access to Commercial Development**
The County shall encourage discretionary commercial development to promote ease of pedestrian/bicycle access to encourage walk-in business, while providing sufficient off-street parking. (RDR) [Source: Existing El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan Goal 3.7.2.2, El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan Goal 3.7.1.4, Piru Area Plan Policy 3.2.2.6, and Oak Park Area Plan Policy 3.4.2.2]

**LU-16.6 Strip Commercial Development Concerns**
The County shall discourage the development of new or expansion of existing strip commercial development. (RDR) [Source: Existing El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan Goal 3.7.1.5 and Ojai Valley Area Plan Goal 3.6.1.3]

**LU-16.7 Parking Location**
The County shall encourage discretionary development to locate central gateways and building entrances in areas that are visible from the street to contribute to an active commercial center and locate parking in areas that are less visible from the street. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]
**2. Land Use and Community Character Element**

**LU-16.8 Residential Design that Complements the Natural Environment**
The County shall encourage discretionary development that incorporates design features that provide a harmonious relationship between adjoining uses and the natural environment. (RDR) [Source: Existing Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley Area Plan Policy 1.1.2.5, Oak Park Area Plan Policy 3.3.2.3, modified]

**LU-16.9 Building Orientation and Landscaping**
The County shall encourage discretionary development to be oriented and landscaped to enhance natural lighting, solar access, and passive heating or cooling opportunities to maximize energy efficiency. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.9.2.5, modified]

**LU-16.10 Visual Access for Rural Development**
The County shall encourage discretionary development in rural areas to maintain views of hillsides, beaches, forests, creeks, and other distinctive natural areas through building orientation, height, and bulk. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

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

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

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

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

There are two major components of environmental justice. One is meaningful involvement in the decision-making process, and the second is the actual planning, siting, development, and operations of public facilities and infrastructure.
Within designated disadvantaged communities, to plan for and provide public facilities, services, and infrastructure that provide fair treatment and quality of life to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income. [Source: New Goal]

**LU-17.1 Providing Equitable Public Services**
Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall consider environmental justice issues as they relate to the equitable provision of public services and infrastructure such as parks, recreational facilities, community gardens, public safety facilities, and other beneficial uses that improve the overall quality of life. (MPSP, FB, PSR, SO, JP) [Source: New Policy]

**LU-17.2 Siting of Uses**
Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall consider environmental justice issues as they relate to potential health impacts associated with land use decisions to reduce the adverse health effects of hazardous materials, industrial activities, and other uses that may negatively impact health or quality of life for affected county residents. (RDR, MPSP, PSR) [Source: New Policy]

**LU-17.3 Environmental Protection**
The County shall apply environmental protection measures equally among geographic and socioeconomic sectors within designated disadvantaged communities of the county. (RDR, MPSP, PSR) [Source: New Policy]

**LU-17.4 New Incompatible Land Uses**
The County shall prohibit the introduction of new incompatible land uses and environmental hazards that would have health implications into or abutting existing residential areas, in particular within designated disadvantaged communities. (RDR, MPSP, PSR) [Source: New Policy]

**LU-17.5 Placement of New Residential Uses**
Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall discourage the establishment of new residential and other sensitive land uses near incompatible industrial land uses unless appropriate mitigations or design consideration can be included. (RDR, MPSP, PSR) [Source: New Policy]

**LU-17.6 Negative Impacts from Potential Hazards**
Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall work to reduce or prevent negative impacts associated with environmental hazards, including industrial and roadway-generated pollution, to people who are living and working in close proximity to these uses. (RDR, MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

**LU-17.7 Brownfield Remediation**
Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall promote the remediation and reuse of contaminated brownfield sites to spur economic development, expand natural open spaces and parks, community gardens, and other similar health-promoting community revitalization activities. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

**LU-17.8 Limit Concentrations of Unhealthy Food Providers**
Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall encourage farmer’s markets and healthier food options within neighborhoods or near child-oriented uses (e.g., schools, family day care, parks). (RDR) [Source: New Policy]
2.6 Civic Engagement

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

To promote meaningful dialogue and collaboration between members of designated disadvantaged communities and decision-makers to advance social and economic equity. [Source: New Goal]

LU-18.1 Communication Channels
Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall continue to improve communication channels and methods for meaningful dialogue between community members and decision-makers, including County staff and elected and appointed representatives. (SO) [Source: New Policy]

LU-18.2 Input on Proposed Planning Activities
Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall facilitate opportunities for community members and stakeholders to provide meaningful and effective input on proposed planning activities early on and continuously throughout the public review process. (SO) [Source: New Policy]

LU-18.3 Times and Locations of Public Engagement Opportunities
Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall aim to hold meetings, workshops, and other public engagement opportunities at times and locations that make it convenient for community members to attend, particularly stakeholders who are the most likely to be directly affected by the outcome. (SO) [Source: New Policy]

LU-18.4 Variety of Public Communication Methods
Within designated disadvantaged communities, the County shall continue to share public information across a variety of media, technological, and traditional platforms, and languages based on the demographics of the community. (Pl) [Source: New Policy]

LU-18.5 Participation in Climate Change Planning
The County shall encourage stakeholders in designated disadvantaged communities who are vulnerable to sea level rise or other climate change impacts to have the opportunity to learn about and participate in the decision-making process for adaptation planning within Ventura County. (Pl) [Source: New Policy]
2.7 Development Review and Inter-Agency Coordination

There are many local, regional, state, and federal agencies that have land use planning, permitting, or development review authority in Ventura County. It is critical that there is clear direction on which agency is responsible at each step of the process and that there is coordination among agencies to ensure regulatory compliance, increase efficiency for development projects, and eliminate redundancies among agencies.

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

LU-19 To enhance inter-agency coordination to achieve mutually-beneficial land use conservation and development. [Source: New Goal]

LU-19.1 County and City Cooperation
The County shall work cooperatively with all cities in the county to enhance consistency among planning processes and to ensure that each jurisdiction’s general plan is compatible with the Ventura County General Plan, the Guidelines for Orderly Development, and adopted greenbelt agreements. (IGC, MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

LU-19.2 Policy Consultation within Spheres of Influence
For General Plan amendments and other policy changes that may impact growth or the provision of public services within city Spheres of Influence, the County shall engage in meaningful consultation with the appropriate city early on in the process. (IGC, MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

LU-19.3 Development Incentives and Streamlined Review
The County shall support expanded incentives and CEQA streamlining opportunities for projects that are consistent with the following:

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

(RDR, MPSP, IGC) [Source: New Policy]

LU-19.4 Consultation with State and Federal Agencies
The County shall continue to consult with applicable state and federal regulatory agencies during project review and permitting activities. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]
2. Land Use and Community Character Element

LU-20

To encourage the protection and use of state- and federally-owned beaches, hillsides, woodlands, grasslands, rivers, streams, wetlands, estuaries, and cultural resources for the education and enjoyment of Ventura County residents and visitors. [Source: New Goal]

LU-20.1 Recreational Access and Use

The County shall encourage federal, state, and local agencies currently providing recreation facilities to maintain, at a minimum, and improve, if possible, their current levels of service. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

LU-20.2 Coastal Access from Federal and State Lands

The County shall encourage federal and state agencies to consider existing uses in the area (residential, visitor-serving, and public) at beach and coastal sites so that access is optimized, potential conflicts are minimized, and existing qualities maintained. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

LU-20.3 Day-Use Opportunities

The County shall encourage federal and state agencies to provide improved day-use recreational facilities in the county. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

2.8 Military Compatibility

Ventura County is home to several significant military installations and operations areas. These facilities are not only critical to the nation’s defense, but also provide significant economic benefits and land use challenges.

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

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

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

- Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) report for Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu
- Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)
To ensure that County plans and policies are consistent with state laws concerning military compatibility and the recommendations contained in the Naval Base Ventura County Joint Land Use Study as they relate to land use and communications. [Source: New Goal, NBVC JLUS Strategy LU-9A, modified]

LU-21.1 Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) Coordination Committee
The County shall participate in the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) Coordination Committee responsible for the efficient and effective coordination among JLUS partners and implementation of Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) recommendations to enhance long-term coordination on military compatibility issues. (IGC) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy COM-1A, modified]

LU-21.2 Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)
The County shall utilize the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) and the strategies contained therein that list Ventura County as a “Responsible” entity to guide land use and resource management decisions and plan updates. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS]

LU-21.3 Military Compatibility Areas
The County shall utilize the Military Compatibility Areas (MCA), as defined in the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Joint Land Use Study (JLUS), to guide land use and resource management decisions and plan updates. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy COM-1A, modified]

LU-21.4 Enhance Communications
The County shall work to enhance communication and coordination with Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) and other jurisdictions in the county to enhance public knowledge and access to information regarding military operations and compatibility challenges. (IGC, PI) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS]

LU-21.5 Infrastructure Expansion Coordination
The County shall notify and coordinate with Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Public Works Department on County-initiated major infrastructure expansion plans (e.g., mainline/trunk facilities) within the Military Compatibility Area (MCA) that may impact NBVC infrastructure or services. (SO, IGC) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy IE-1A]

LU-21.6 Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Coordination
The County shall notify and coordinate with the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Public Works Department on County-initiated major stormwater infrastructure (mainline/trunk facilities) improvement or expansion plans in the Calleguas Creek Watershed. (SO, IGC) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy IE-2A]

LU-21.7 Capital Improvement Coordination
The County shall coordinate with the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) and cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme when updating its Capital Improvement Program for projects related to improvement projects on Victoria Avenue. (MPSP, IGC) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy LU-5B]
2.9  General Plan Maintenance

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

LU-22.1  Five-Year General Plan Review
The County shall conduct a thorough review of the General Plan every five years from the date of final approval, and revise and update as necessary. This review can include the following:

- Modify, add, or delete goals, policies, or programs to reflect notable changes in the county over the previous period;
- Remove or modify programs that have been completed or require additional time;
- Modify or add new goals, policies, or programs to reflect changing needs within the county;
- Modify to reflect applicable changes in state law; and
- Modify as needed to comply with state housing law.

(PSR) [Source: New Policy]

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Implems Which Policy(ies)</th>
<th>Responsible Supporting Department(s)</th>
<th>2020 – 2025</th>
<th>2026 – 2030</th>
<th>2031 – 2040</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong> Guidelines for Orderly Development Implementation</td>
<td>LU-1.1</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall continue to implement the Guidelines for Orderly Development and work with cities to promote orderly and compact, increased options for affordable housing, lower vehicle miles traveled, and limit sprawl. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong> General Plan Consistency</td>
<td>LU-1.6, LU-4.2, LU-5.3, LU-15.2</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall review and amend, as necessary, applicable ordinances and regulations to ensure consistency with the General Plan, including the Zoning Ordinances and Building Code. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>All County agencies, as necessary</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong> Expansion of Allowed Housing Types</td>
<td>LU-10.4</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<td>The County shall research existing regulatory impediments to the creation of new housing types that have the potential to fulfill unmet housing needs (e.g., tiny homes, co-housing developments) and if necessary, shall amend applicable ordinances to allow for their development. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>D</strong> Technical Assistance Grants</td>
<td>LU-11.1, LU-15.5</td>
<td>CEO</td>
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<tr>
<td>To the extent that federal and state grants are available, the County shall continue to administer loan and technical assistance programs to small businesses and micro-enterprise to develop new and strengthen existing economic opportunities in the county, with a focus on job creation and retention. [Source: Existing GPP Program 3.4.3.4]</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
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## 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

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<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Implements Which Policy(ies)</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>2020 – 2025</th>
<th>2026 – 2030</th>
<th>2031 – 2040</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>E</strong> Update Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance for Alternative Fuel Productions</td>
<td>LU-11.9</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall update the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance to allow for the production of alternative fuels in the industrial zone. [<em>Source: New Program</em>]</td>
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| **F** Comprehensive Area Plan Updates | LU-15.1                      | RMA         |              |              |              |        |         |
| The County shall review and periodically prepare a comprehensive update to each of the Area Plans to ensure that they reflect community needs and expectations. |                      | All County agencies, as necessary |              |              |              |        |         |
| Coastal Area | | | | | | | | |
| El Rio/Del Norte | | | | | | | | |
| Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley | | | | | | | | |
| North Ventura Avenue | | | | | | | | |
| Oak Park | | | | | | | | |
| Ojai Valley | | | | | | | | |
| Piru | | | | | | | | |
| Saticoy | | | | | | | | |
| Thousand Oaks | | | | | | | | |

[Source: New Program]

| **G** Update Coastal Area Plan | LU-15.1                      | RMA         |              |              |              |        |         |
| The County shall move General Plan policies specific to the Coastal Zone to the Coastal Area Plan as part of the next Coastal Area Plan update. |                      | n/a         |              |              |              |        |         |

[Source: New Program]

<p>| <strong>H</strong> Limit Alcohol and Tobacco Outlets | LU-17.2, LU-17.4           | RMA         |              |              |              |        |         |
| The County shall explore establishing zoning code limitations on the density of alcohol and tobacco outlets near sensitive receptors such as schools, childcare facilities, senior housing, parks, etc., that is consistent with State law. [<em>Source: New Program</em>] |                      | n/a         |              |              |              |        |         |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Implements Which Policy(ies)</th>
<th>Responsible Supporting Department(s)</th>
<th>2020 – 2025</th>
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<th>2031 – 2040</th>
<th>Annual</th>
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The County should collaborate through the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) and Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) Coordination Committee to facilitate the development of a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that delineates the roles and responsibilities for each partner agency in the JLUS Study Area, including the County, NBVC, and incorporated cities. This document should contain information such as:

- Point of contact and contact information for each agency,
- Role in addressing compatibility issues with the base,
- Responsibility in addressing compatibility issues,
- Community and military response times, and
- Triggers for coordination and communication, e.g., infrastructure planning, water resources planning, economic development.

[Source: New Program, NBVC JLUS Strategy COM-1B]
### 2. Land Use and Community Character Element

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Implements Which Policy(ies)</th>
<th>Responsible Supporting Department(s)</th>
<th>2020 – 2025</th>
<th>2026 – 2030</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The County shall cooperate with Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) partners in the development of a reference guide providing information about the various agencies in the JLUS Study Area with their respective responsibilities. It shall be tailored to existing JLUS issues and contain:</td>
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<td>- Map(s) identifying the important resources in the area, and</td>
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<td>- County and JLUS partner contact information for the agency representative that will help in cases of community-military compatibility.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>[Source: New Program, NBVC JLUS Strategy COM-1D]</td>
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<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Update Plans and Amend Regulations with AICUZ Recommended Land Uses</td>
<td>LU-21.2, LU-21.3</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<td>The County should amend the Zoning Ordinance and/or Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, if necessary, to incorporate the Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) recommended land use limitations and standards in the safety and noise zones. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy LU-8A]</td>
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<td>Programs</td>
<td>Implements Which Policy(ies)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>L</strong> Amend Zoning Ordinance</td>
<td>LU-21.2, LU-21.3</td>
<td>RMA, AIR</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<td>The County should amend the Zoning Ordinances, if necessary, to comply with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) vertical obstruction guidelines, more specifically with the Navy’s Airfield Imaginary Surfaces of the airfields located in the area. These surfaces are more restrictive and provide for greater safety of the public, pilots, and aircraft. The Navy’s Airfield Imaginary Surfaces include slopes and heights that are allowable from various distances from the airfield. [Source: New Program, NBVC JLUS Strategy LU-3B, LSA-5A, LG-1D, and VO-2A]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>M</strong> Military Compatibility Areas (MCA)</td>
<td>LU-21.3</td>
<td>RMA, n/a</td>
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<td>The County shall update the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance and the Coastal Zoning Ordinance, if necessary, to delineate and establish the Military Compatibility Areas and Subzones illustrated on Figures 5 through 7 of the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy LU-8B, LU-10A, COM-2A, SA-1A, SA-2A, modified]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>N</strong> Acquisition of Land Near Airfield</td>
<td>LU-21.3</td>
<td>CEO, AIR</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The County shall support the acquisition of conservation easements that protect operations at Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu, while maintaining agricultural production capabilities. [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy SA-1B]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>O</strong> Five-year General Plan Review</td>
<td>LU-22.1</td>
<td>RMA, Other County Agencies</td>
<td></td>
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<td>✔️</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The County shall conduct a thorough review of the General Plan, (including the Background Report) every five years from the date of final approval. [Source: New Program]</td>
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</table>
### Programs

<table>
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<th>Programs</th>
<th>Implements Which Policy(ies)</th>
<th>Responsible Supporting Department(s)</th>
<th>2020 – 2025</th>
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<th>Ongoing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual General Plan Implementation Review</td>
<td>LU-22.2</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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</table>

The County shall review the General Plan annually, focusing on the status and progress of program implementation. The County shall prepare a report to the Board of Supervisors summarizing the status of implementation programs and any recommendations for General Plan amendments. [Source: New Program]
Please see the next page.
Please see the next page.
The County of Ventura adopted its current Housing Element in 2014, which was certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The 2014 Housing Element provides a comprehensive assessment of current and projected housing needs for all economic segments in the unincorporated area. The Housing Element includes goals, policies, implementation programs, and identifies housing sites adequate to meet the needs of the County and state.

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

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

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

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

The RHNA numbers provided by SCAG will be used to prepare the 2021-2029 Housing Element update. To comply with state Housing Element law, the County must demonstrate that there is adequate capacity to accommodate the development of dwelling units that are affordable for all household income categories (i.e., extremely low, very low, low, moderate, and above moderate-income) based on the existing zoning and General Plan designations.
The County’s 2021-2029 Housing Element update will also address changes in state law that have occurred since the 2014-2021 Housing Element was adopted in 2014. During 2017 and 2018 the state passed several new affordable housing laws that will impact the analysis and ultimate identification of adequate RHNA sites for the 2021-2029 Housing Element cycle. These include, but are not limited to, a law that requires the County demonstrate that the projected residential development capacity of RHNA sites can realistically be achieved (Gov. Code, Section 65583.2(c)). According to HCDs “Building Blocks: A Comprehensive Housing-Element Guide,” realistic development capacity is based on several factors:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
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<td>Figure 4-1</td>
<td>Ventura County Minimum Level of Service Standards</td>
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<td>Figure 4-2</td>
<td>Ventura County Regional Transportation Network</td>
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<td>Figure 4-3</td>
<td>Ventura County Roadway Classifications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Figure 4-4</td>
<td>Federal Highway Classifications</td>
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<td>Figure 4-5</td>
<td>Goods Movement Corridors</td>
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<td>Figure 4-6</td>
<td>National Highway System</td>
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<td>Ventura County Bikeway Network</td>
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<td>Figure 4-8</td>
<td>Ventura County Transit Network</td>
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These diagrams were developed to guide long-range transportation system planning and programming in Ventura County. Roadways are classified in this system based on the linkages they provide and their function in the hierarchy of roadways. The Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element works closely with the Land Use section of the Land Use and Community Character Element to ensure that the county transportation system can accommodate growth anticipated during the General Plan planning period.

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

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

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

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

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<td>Regional Multimodal System</td>
<td>4-25</td>
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<td>4.3</td>
<td>Vehicle Trip Length and Frequency</td>
<td>4-30</td>
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<td>4.4</td>
<td>Air Transportation</td>
<td>4-31</td>
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<td>4.5</td>
<td>Emerging Technologies and Sustainable Practices</td>
<td>4-32</td>
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<td>4.6</td>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>4-33</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>Implementation Programs</td>
<td>4-34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Figure 4-1: County of Ventura Roadway Level of Service (LOS) Standards

Map Date: September 19, 2019
Source: Ventura County, 2019; USGS, 2013.
Please see the next page.
Please see the next page.
Figure 4-3: Ventura County Roadway Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street Class</th>
<th>Expressway / Conventional Highway</th>
<th>Freeway</th>
<th>Regional Road Network</th>
<th>Cities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
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<td>Secondary</td>
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<td>Collector</td>
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<td>Minor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local</td>
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Map Date: September 19, 2019
Source: Ventura County, 2019; USGS, 2013.
Please see the next page.
Please see the next page.
Figure 4-5: Goods Movement Corridors

Map Date: September 19, 2019
Source: Ventura County, 2019; California Department of Transportation, 2018; USGS, 2013.
Please see the next page.
Please see the next page.
Figure 4-7: Existing Ventura County Bikeways

Map Date: September 19, 2019
Source: Ventura County, 2019; California Department of Transportation, 2007; USGS, 2013.
Figure 4-8: Transit Network

Map Date: September 19, 2019
Source: Ventura County, 2019; California Department of Transportation, 2007; USGS, 2013.

Legend:
- Metrolink Stations
- Amtrak Routes
- Metrolink and Amtrak Routes
- Gold Coast Routes
- VCTC Routes
- VCTC CSU
- TO Routes
- Heritage Valley Routes
- Ojai Routes
- Moorpark Routes
- Simi Valley Routes
- Kanan Shuttle
- Major Roadways
- Regional Road Network
- Cities
- Ventura County Boundary
- Water Bodies

Ventura County Boundary
Los Angeles County
Santa Barbara County
Santa Paula
Simi Valley
Ojai
Oxnard
Thousand Oaks
Moorpark
Camarillo
Oxnard
Ventura
Santa Paula
Fillmore
Port Hueneme
Ventura
Pacific Ocean

Map Scale: 1:54,000
10 Miles
0 5
4. Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element

4.1 Roadways

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

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

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

Bicycle facilities are defined using the following classification scheme:

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

In total, the County maintains 58.2 miles of bike lanes – all but 1.56 miles are located within the shared roadway right-of-way (Class II or Class III). There are currently no Class IV bike facilities in the unincorporated areas of the County. The bikeway network in Ventura County is provided in Figure 4-7. Provision of transit service is dependent on the roadway network. Transit routes serving Ventura County are shown in Figure 4-8.
Planning for roadways near areas of new discretionary development can ensure that the roadway system maintains sufficient capacity and mobility. This section describes how the County will maintain and improve the quality of the county roadways to efficiently move people and goods on the highways and roads within and through the county.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CTM-1</th>
<th>To ensure the design, construction, and maintenance of a safe and efficient roadway system for the movement of persons and goods. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.2.1.2, modified]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**CTM-1.1 Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Standards and CEQA Evaluation**
The County shall require evaluation of County General Plan land use designation changes, zone changes, and discretionary development for their individual (i.e., project-specific) and cumulative transportation impacts based on Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the methodology and thresholds of significance criteria set forth in the County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.2.2.4, modified]

**CTM-1.2 Projects with Significant Transportation Impacts**
County General Plan land use designation changes, zone changes, and discretionary development that would cause an individual (i.e., project-specific) or cumulative significant transportation impact based on Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) shall be prohibited unless:

1. There are no feasible mitigation measures available that would reduce the impact to a less than significant level; and

2. The County’s decision-making body, after balancing, as applicable, the economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, of the project against its unavoidable transportation impact and any other environmental risks, determines that the benefits of the project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental impacts and adopt a statement of overriding considerations pursuant CEQA. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.2.2.5, modified]
CTM-1.3 County Level of Service (LOS) Standards
The County shall maintain LOS standards for use as part of the County’s transportation planning including the traffic impact mitigation fee program, and the County’s review and consideration of proposed land use legislation and discretionary development. For purposes of County transportation planning and review and consideration of proposed land use legislation and discretionary development, the County shall use the following minimum acceptable Level of Service (LOS) for road segment and intersection design standards within the Regional Road Network and all other County-maintained roadways:

a. LOS-‘C’ for all Federal functional classification of Minor Collector (MNC) and Local roadways (L); and

b. LOS-‘D’ for all Federal functional classifications except MNC and L, and Federal and State highways in the unincorporated area, except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (c and d);

c. LOS-‘E’ for State Route 33 between the northerly end of the Ojai Freeway and the city of Ojai, Santa Rosa Road, Moorpark Road north of Santa Rosa Road, State Route 34 north of the city of Camarillo, and State Route 118 between Santa Clara Avenue and the city of Moorpark;

d. LOS ‘F’ for Wendy Drive between Borchard Drive to Lois Avenue; and

e. The LOS prescribed by the applicable city for all federal highways, state highways, city thoroughfares and city-maintained local roads located within that city, if the city has formally adopted and is implementing a General Plan policy, ordinance, or a reciprocal agreement with the County regarding development in the city that is intended to improve the LOS of County-maintained local roads and federal and state highways located within the unincorporated area of the county.

f. At any intersection between two or more roads, each of which has a prescribed minimum acceptable LOS, the lower LOS of the roads shall be the minimum acceptable LOS for that intersection.

CTM-1.4 Level of Service (LOS) Evaluation
County General Plan land use designation changes and zone changes shall be evaluated for their individual (i.e., project-specific) and cumulative effects, and discretionary developments shall be evaluated for their individual effects, on Level of Service (LOS) on existing and future roads, to determine whether the project:

a. Would cause existing roads within the Regional Road Network or County-maintained roadways that are currently functioning at an acceptable LOS to function below an acceptable LOS;

b. Would add traffic to existing roads within the Regional Road Network or County-maintained roadways that are currently functioning below an acceptable LOS; and

c. Could cause future roads planned for addition to the Regional Road Network or County-maintained roadways to function below an acceptable LOS.

d. The Level of Service (LOS) evaluation shall be conducted based on methods established by the County. [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.2.2.3, modified]
CTM-1.5  Projects with Unacceptable Level of Service (LOS)

1. County General Plan land use designation changes and zone changes that would cause any cumulative unacceptable LOS as determined pursuant to Policies CTM-1.3 and CMT-1.4 shall be prohibited unless the Board of Supervisors imposes all feasible conditions of approval to address all unacceptable LOS effects and, after balancing, as applicable, the project’s economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, against the project’s unacceptable LOS effects, determines that the benefits of the project outweigh the project’s unacceptable LOS effects.

2. County General Plan land use designation changes, zone changes, and discretionary development that would individually (i.e., project-specific) cause an unacceptable LOS effect as determined pursuant to Policies CTM-1.3 and CMT-1.4 shall be prohibited unless the improvements to the roadway and intersections are included in the Public Works Agency, Transportation Department Strategic Master Plan with a funding mechanism identified and the project is conditioned on the payment of a fee proportional to the project’s fair share of unacceptable LOS effects.

3. The following are exempt from this Policy:
   a. Farmworker Housing Complexes and other housing exclusively for lower-income households. Affordable housing developments, pursuant to Article 16 of the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance, where such developments are served by roads that are currently operating at LOS “E” or better;
   b. Additional dwellings and lots on Cultural Heritage Sites as permitted in the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance;
   c. Agriculture and Agricultural Operations as permitted in the Coastal and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinances, where such developments are served by roads that are currently operating at LOS “E” or better;
   d. The unacceptable LOS exists on a City-maintained road or federal or state highway located within a city unless the applicable city has formally adopted and is implementing a general plan policy, ordinance, or a reciprocal traffic impact mitigation fee agreement with the County regarding development in the city that is intended to improve the LOS of County-maintained local roads and federal and state highways located within the unincorporated area of the county;
   e. Allow LOS “F” for Wendy Drive and maintain as two-lane road; and
   f. If the LOS effects of a County-approved Specific/Area Plan are determined acceptable pursuant to Policies CTM-1.3 and CMT-1.4, the LOS effects of any subsequent development that is consistent with the approved Specific/Area Plan shall be exempt from this Policy.

[Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.2.2.5, modified]

CTM-1.6  Ojai Valley Area Plan - Level of Service (LOS) Evaluation and Unacceptable Level of Service

County General Plan land use designation changes, zone changes, and discretionary development within the boundaries of the Ojai Valley Area Plan are not subject to Policies CTM-1.4 and through CTM-1.6. [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.2.2.5, modified]
CTM-1.7 Pro Rata Share of Improvements
The County shall require discretionary development that would generate additional traffic pays its pro rata share of the cost of added vehicle trips and the costs of necessary improvements to the Regional Road Network pursuant to the County’s Traffic Impact Mitigation Fee Ordinance. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP 4.2.1.4, 4.2.1.5, 4.2.2.6, and 4.2.2.6, combined and modified]

CTM-1.8 Discretionary Development in Cities
The County shall oppose discretionary development within cities, and annexation to cities for the purposes of discretionary development, where such development would individually or cumulatively cause:

1. Any existing road within the County’s Regional Road Network, or any existing County-maintained local road, that is currently functioning at an acceptable Level of Service (LOS) to function below an acceptable LOS pursuant to Policy CTM-1.2;

2. Any existing road within the County’s Regional Road Network, or any existing County-maintained local road that is currently operating below an acceptable LOS, as determined pursuant to Policy CTM-1.2, to have a worsening of traffic conditions; or

3. Any project that will create a significant unavoidable transportation impact pursuant to Policy CTM-1.1; or

4. Any future road planned for addition to the County’s Regional Road Network, or any planned future County-maintained local road, to function below an acceptable LOS as determined pursuant to Policy CTM-1.2).

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

(RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.2.2.7]

CTM-1.9 National Highway System Performance Measure and Target Monitoring
The County shall coordinate with Caltrans and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to monitor the performance measures and targets established by Caltrans and Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for compliance with the National Performance Management Measures Rule for all roadways designated as part of the National Highway System in Ventura County, including some portions owned or maintained by the County. (SO) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-1.10 Direct Traffic to Highways to Preserve County Character
The County shall strive to direct interregional traffic to federal and state highways. Improvement to County roadways shall not be for the primary purpose of relieving congestion on federal or state highways. (SO) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.2.2.1, modified]

CTM-1.11 Safe and Efficient Goods Movement
The County shall coordinate with Caltrans and cities to ensure that truck routes are appropriately designed and designated for the safe and efficient movement of goods throughout the county, particularly to the Port of Hueneme. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]
CTM-1.12 **Surface Transportation Assistance Act Planning**
The County shall coordinate with Caltrans, cities, and major shipping entities to improve and enhance the Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) Terminal Access routes and STAA network connectivity between and among goods movement modes and facilities (e.g., truck routes/terminals, railroads/yards, shipping lanes/ports, and air-transport/airports). This will include at a minimum adequate STAA Terminal “T” and “S” signage as appropriate to improve wayfinding and access to the National STAA Network. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-1.13 **Grade Separations**
The County shall work with the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) to determine the feasibility of grade separations on unincorporated segments of NBVC mobilization corridors to increase mobility and allow for uninterrupted mission operations and military readiness. (IGC) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy RC-2B]

CTM-1.14 **Railroad Grade Crossings**
The County shall work with Union Pacific Railroad, the Port of Hueneme, owner of the Ventura County Railroad, Caltrans, cities, and the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to continue to enhance roadway safety along railroad grade crossing surfaces through improvements including the installation of concrete railroad grade crossing surface panels. (IGC, SO) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.2.1.12, modified]

CTM-1.15 **Mobilization Corridors**
The County shall work with Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) and neighboring jurisdictions to enhance circulation for identified roadway mobilization corridors. (IGC) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy RC-2B]
4. Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element

4.2 Regional Multimodal System

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

CTM-2
To facilitate the safe, efficient, and cost-effective movement of all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, public transportation riders, children, older people, and disabled people, as well as motorists through the provision of an integrated multimodal system. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.2.1.1, modified]

CTM-2.1 Complete Streets
The County shall prepare and adopt Complete Streets Design Guidelines to be used when constructing new roadways or improving existing roadways where Complete Streets would be appropriate/feasible. The Complete Streets Design Guidelines shall employ a context-sensitive approach to planning and designing the road and street network to reflect the distinct agricultural, rural, or urban character of a particular location. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.2 Functional Classification
The County shall plan a roadway system that has adequate capacity and is designed to provide reasonable and safe use by vehicles, public transportation, bicycles and pedestrians with minimum delay pursuant to LOS standards described in Policy CMT-1.2. The road system should follow Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) classification as identified on Figure 4-4. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.3 County Road Access
The County shall require discretionary development with access onto a County road to have the access point(s) designed and built to County standards. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.4 Transportation System Safety
The County shall strive to provide safe operating conditions for all appropriate modes and uses of County roadways. (RDR, MPSP, SO) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.5 Emergency Services
The County shall coordinate the development and maintenance of all transportation facilities with emergency service providers to ensure continued emergency service operation and service levels. (ICG) [Source: New Policy]
CTM-2.6  Regional Transportation Planning
The County shall work with Caltrans, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), and cities in the county to plan, develop, and maintain regional transportation facilities and services, and to identify existing and future transportation corridors that should be linked across jurisdictional boundaries so that sufficient right-of-way may be preserved. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.7  Congestion Management Program
The County shall coordinate with Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to implement and update the Congestion Management Program (CMP). The County shall also encourage consideration of multimodal performance measures as part of future updates to the CMP. (MPSP, IGC) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.8  Congestion Management Program and County Regional Network Consistency
For those portions of the County’s Regional Road Network currently not designated as part of the Congestion Management Program (CMP), the County shall coordinate with Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to formally designate applicable County maintained roadways as part of the CMP. (MPSP, IGC) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.9  State Route 118 Improvement in Saticoy Area
The County shall work with the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) and Caltrans to reprioritize the re-stripping of SR 118 from Vineyard Avenue to Darling Road on the Ventura County Congestion Management Plan and the Caltrans list of projects to provide for an additional lane in each direction of travel. (IGC) [Source: New Policy, Saticoy Area Plan Mobility Program 2 (MOB-P2), modified]

CTM-2.10  Safe Routes to School
The County shall work with public and private schools to identify and expand safe routes to school, where feasible. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.11  Efficient Land Use Patterns
The County shall establish land use patterns that promote shorter travel distances between residences, employment centers, and retail and service-oriented uses to support the use of public transportation, walking, bicycling, and other forms of transportation that reduce reliance on single-passenger automobile trips. (RDR, MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.12  Countywide Bicycle Lane and Trail System
The County shall coordinate with cities in the county and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to plan and implement a system of bicycle lanes and multi-use trails that link the cities, unincorporated communities, schools including colleges and universities, commercial/retail, employment centers, health care service facilities, public transportation, and other points of interest. (MPSP, IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.2.1.10, modified]

CTM-2.13  Transportation System Connectivity
The County shall strive to eliminate “gaps” in roadways, bikeways, and pedestrian networks by planning for and seeking funding to construct necessary improvements to remove barriers and improve transportation system connectivity as well as connections that support first and last mile accessibility to and from public transportation. (MPSP, PSR, FB) [Source: New Policy]
CTM-2.14 Bicycle Facility Design
When designing new bicycle facilities, or modifying existing roadways with bicycle facilities, the County shall prioritize and install features to improve the safety and visibility of bicyclists. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.15 Bicycle/Pedestrian Design
The County shall rely on the guidelines and design standards for bicycle and pedestrian facilities established by the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD) and supporting guidelines provided the Federal Highway Administration, Caltrans, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). (MPSP, PSR, SO) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.16 Pedestrian Planning
The County shall consider the safety and accessibility of pedestrians when preparing transportation plans, studies, and reports. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.17 Support Regional Bicycle Infrastructure
The County shall support efforts to improve regional infrastructure that will make biking more attractive to residents and tourists. (IGC, SO, JP) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.18 Complete Streets Standards in Existing Communities
The County shall require discretionary development in designated Existing Communities to construct roadways to urban standards and Complete Streets principles, including curb, gutter, sidewalks, and bike lanes when there is a nexus for improvement. The County shall rely on the guidelines and design standards for Complete Streets design established by the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), Caltrans in the Highway Design Manual, and Complete Streets Guidelines (pursuant to Deputy Directive 64-R2), Federal Highway Administration, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.19 Safety Metrics
The County shall continue to examine and update safety metrics for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) impact analysis as appropriate. Options include but are not limited to: queue spill-back at intersections; mid-block unprotected crossings; and, increased crossing distances. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.20 Safe Pedestrian Crossings
The County shall improve pedestrian safety at intersections and mid-block locations in Existing Communities through approved features consistent with the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), Highway Design Manual, Federal Highway Administration, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and the National Cooperative Highway Research Program Report 498 (Application of Pedestrian Crossing Treatments for Streets and Highways). (RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.21 Pedestrian/Bicycle Conflicts along Overweight Vehicle Corridor and Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) Truck Routes
Within Existing Communities, the County shall provide/retrofit separated or buffered pedestrian and bicycle paths from the outside travel lane along County Road Network roads that are designated Overweight Vehicle Corridors and STAA designated Terminal Access Routes. Where the application or retrofitting of separated or buffered facilities is not feasible, the County shall prioritize alternative pedestrian and bicycle connections that encourage and attract...
pedestrian and bicycle traffic off designated Overweight Vehicle Corridors or STAA designated truck routes. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.22 Funding and Maintenance for Sidewalks
The County shall seek funding sources first for construction of new sidewalks in low-income areas and then for sidewalk maintenance particularly in low-income areas. (FB) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.23 Intercommunity and Countywide Public Transportation System
The County shall continue to work with Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), Naval Base Ventura County, and local public transportation regional bus service providers to promote the expansion of a safe, efficient, convenient, integrated, and cost-effective intercommunity and countywide public transportation and bus service that provides county residents with access to employment, commercial services, health and medical facilities, social services, educational facilities and institutions, and personal business destinations. (IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.2.1.7, modified]

CTM-2.24 Non-Drivers Living in Rural Areas
The County shall work with Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) and local public transportation providers to address the needs of non-drivers living in rural areas to provide public transportation and paratransit service. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.25 Amtrak Service Improvements
The County shall support the recommendations of the California State Rail Plan for Amtrak trains, including track and signalization upgrades, increasing service frequencies by adding additional round-trip service to regional destinations north and south of Ventura County, improving passenger information and comfort, and reducing travel time. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.26 Abandoned Railroad Rights-of-Way
When railroad rights-of-way are abandoned, the County shall evaluate the feasibility of acquiring the land for public use as public transportation, bicycle, pedestrian, or equestrian paths. (MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.2.2.9, modified]

CTM-2.27 Discretionary Development and Conditions of Approval to Minimize Traffic Impacts
The County shall require that discretionary development be subject to permit conditions of approval, where feasible, to minimize traffic impacts by incorporating pedestrian and bicycle pathways, bicycle racks and lockers, ridesharing programs, transit improvements (bus turnouts, shelters, benches), and/or transit subsidies for employees or residents of the proposed development. (RDR)[Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.2.2.8, modified]

CTM-3 To develop an accessible and interconnected bicycle network that addresses resident and visitor needs for commuting, daily activities, and recreation. [Source: New Goal]

CTM-3.1 Bicycle Network Strategy and Prioritization
The County shall identify and prioritize components of a bicycle network to increase public access and ridership on bicycle routes. (MSPR, SO) [New Policy, 5/23/2017, Agenda Item No. 42, Board of Supervisors’ Study Session of Standards for Prioritizing Construction of Future Bike Lane Improvements]
4. Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element

CTM-3.2 Inclusive Bicycle Network
The County shall develop a bicycle network for all user types and routes across the county. (MPSR, SO, PI) [Source: Ventura County Transportation Commission, Wayfinding Study]

CTM-3.3 Regional Destination Focus for Bicycle Network
The County shall encourage the development of a bicycle network that connects to regional destinations such as parks, trails, educational institutions, employment centers, transit, park and ride lots, and tourist destinations. (IGC) [Source: Ventura County Transportation Commission, Wayfinding Study]

CTM-3.4 Interjurisdictional Bicycle Network Connectivity
The County shall promote bicycle network connectivity between Ventura County communities as well as Santa Barbara and Los Angeles Counties. (IGC) [Source: Ventura County Transportation Commission, Wayfinding Study]

CTM-3.5 Bicycle Routes in Rural Areas
The County shall plan for bicycle network connectivity in rural, agricultural, and open space areas in a way that supports and complements business and agricultural activities in those areas. (JP) [New Policy]

CTM-3.6 Coordination with Bicycle Wayfinding Plan
The County shall support the Complete Streets effort by, when feasible, constructing bicycle lanes on County maintained roads listed in the Ventura County Transportation Commission Bicycle Wayfinding Plan. (SO, JP, IGC) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-3.7 Bicycle Trail along Santa Paula Branch Line
The County shall encourage the construction of a bicycle trail along the Santa Paula Branch Line Railroad in the unincorporated area between the cities of Ventura and Santa Paula. (SO, JP, IGC) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-3.8 Bicycle Network Routes and Wayfinding
The County shall use clear and consistent message and placement for on- and off-street regional bikeways and to regional destinations. (PI, SO) [Source: Ventura County Transportation Commission, Wayfinding Study]

CTM-3.9 Funding for Bicycle Network and Wayfinding Planning and Improvements
The County shall actively pursue outside funding opportunities for bicycle network improvements. (FB, JP) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-3.10 Bicycle Storage Facilities
The County shall require adequate bicycle storage facilities (e.g., bicycle racks, lockers) for discretionary development as determined by allowable land uses at a given site. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]
4.3 Vehicle Trip Length and Frequency

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

CTM-4 To ensure that land use and transportation planning efforts in the county are cohesive, mutually supportive, and reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) per capita within the unincorporated areas of the County. [Source: New Goal]

CTM-4.1 Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
The County shall work with Caltrans and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to reduce VMT by:

- facilitating the efficient use of existing transportation facilities;
- striving to provide viable modal choices that make driving alone an option rather than a necessity,
- supporting variable work schedules to reduce peak period VMT, and
- providing more direct routes for pedestrians and bicyclists.

(MPSP, SO) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.2.1.6, modified]

CTM-4.2 Alternative Transportation
The County shall encourage bicycling, walking, public transportation, and other forms of alternative transportation to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), traffic congestion, and greenhouse gas emissions. (PI) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-4.3 Vehicle Occupancy
The County shall work with a broad range of agencies (e.g., Caltrans, Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), Amtrak, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, public transportation providers and shared mobility vendors) to encourage and support programs that increase vehicle occupancy including the provision of traveler information, shuttles, and preferential parking for carpools/vanpools. (IGC, PI) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-4.4 Park-and-Ride Facilities
The County shall coordinate with Caltrans and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to identify future park-and-ride lots within the unincorporated areas of Ventura County to facilitate more carpooling, vanpooling, and public transportation use. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]
4. Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element

4.4 Air Transportation

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

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

CTM-5 To ensure that air transportation systems provide safe, efficient, and reliable movements of people and goods. [Source: New Goal]

CTM-5.1 Airport Effects
The County shall strive to minimize adverse environmental and safety effects of County airports on the surrounding communities. (RDR, SO) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.2.1.14, modified]

CTM-5.2 General Aviation Service
The County shall provide facilities at Oxnard and Camarillo Airports to meet the general aviation and commuter service needs of the citizens of Ventura County. (SO, JP) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.2.1.13]

CTM-5.3 Private Airstrips and Agricultural Landing Fields
The County shall require private airstrips and agricultural landing fields to be sited to minimize conflicts with the flight paths of existing airports and other areas that would present significant hazards or nuisances. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.14.2.2, modified]

CTM-5.4 Air Freight Service
The County shall encourage industrial and commercial activities that involve goods movement by air to locate near airports with air freight service to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-5.5 Airport Land Use Compatibility
Discretionary development that would endanger the efficient, safe operation of an airport or would result in significant land use incompatibility impact with an airport shall be prohibited. (RDR, SO) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.2.2.10, modified]
4.5 Emerging Technologies and Sustainable Practices

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

CTM-6 To use emerging technologies and environmentally-sustainable practices to increase transportation system efficiency and resiliency. [Source: New Goal]

CTM-6.1 Routine Use of Alternative Transportation Options
The County shall support the integration of emerging technologies that increase the routine use of alternative transportation options to decrease single-passenger automobile travel. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-6.2 Autonomous Technology
The County shall continue to consider and assess the implications of autonomous vehicles, alternative energy vehicles, and other transportation technological advancements on mobility planning and infrastructure. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-6.3 Permeable Pavement
As part of new roadway planning and design as part of discretionary development, the County shall promote the use of permeable paving and other passive drainage features such as bioswales to prevent flooding, particularly in urban areas (RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-6.4 Facilities for Emerging Technologies
The County shall support the development of alternative fueling stations (e.g., electric and hydrogen) and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) technology for emerging technologies. (SO) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-6.5 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
The County shall support the installation of electric vehicle charging stations, where feasible, at County facilities, parking lots, park-and-ride lots, truck stops, and new development. (RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-6.6 Neighborhood Electric Vehicles
The County shall encourage developments and street systems that support the use of properly licensed Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV), where appropriate. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-6.7 Shared Mobility Operations
The County shall encourage and support car share operators at multimodal facilities including public transportation hubs, passenger rail stations, and park-and-ride lots.

CTM-6.8 Micro-Mobility Operations
The County shall evaluate the feasibility and work to establish requirements for shared micro-mobility (e.g., bike sharing) vendors within unincorporated areas. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]
4. Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element

CTM-6.9  Mobility-as-a-Service Enterprises – Vehicle Operations
The County shall encourage Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) providers to park between service calls versus driving within unincorporated communities (RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-6.10  Mobility-as-a-Service Enterprises – Support Public Transportation
The County shall encourage Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) providers to coordinate with public transportation providers that serve unincorporated areas to increase the attractiveness of public transportation through the provision of free or subsidized public transportation patron first and last mile connections within unincorporated communities (IGC, JP) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-6.11  Mobility-as-a-Service Enterprises – Streetscape Design
The County shall consider the need for designated curb space for Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) drop-off and pick-up activity in commercial/retail areas within unincorporated communities (SO) [Source: New Policy]

4.6  Funding

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

CTM-7  To maintain sufficient funding to provide for existing and future transportation facility and service needs, including the operation and maintenance of the transportation system. [Source: New Goal]

CTM-7.1  Federal and State Funding
The County shall identify, develop, and prioritize transportation projects to best compete for federal and state funds for roadway safety improvements, public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian improvements. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-7.2  Local Funding Mechanisms
The County shall continue to use local financing mechanisms such as gas tax, vehicle registration fees, and Traffic Impact Mitigation Fees to help fund transportation projects. The County shall continue to support regional and county-wide measures for transportation funding. (FB) [Source: New Policy]
## 4.7 Implementation Programs

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<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong> Traffic Impact Mitigation Fee Program</td>
<td>CTM-1.3 CTM-1.7 CTM-2.26 CTM-7.2</td>
<td>PWA CEO RMA</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall update its Traffic Impact Mitigation Fee Program and perform a comprehensive update to the program every five (5) years pursuant to Government Code Section 66000 et seq. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong> Initial Study Assessment Guidelines</td>
<td>CTM-1.3 CTM-1.4 CTM-1.5 CTM-1.7 CTM-1.8 CTM-1.9</td>
<td>RMA PWA GSA HSA VCSO CEO</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall update and adopt its' Initial Study Assessment Guidelines to address Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and safety metrics pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong> Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Reduction Program</td>
<td>CTM-1.1 CTM-1.2 CTM-4.1 CTM-4.2 CTM-4.3 CTM-4.4</td>
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<td>To support climate change related goals and CEQA related VMT policies per SB 743 (2013), the County shall develop a Vehicle Miles Traveled Reduction Program. [Source: New Program]</td>
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### Programs

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<td><strong>D</strong> Regional Road Network Coordination</td>
<td>CTM-1.7, CTM-2.6, CTM-2.7, CTM-2.8</td>
<td>PWA, RMA</td>
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<td>The County shall continue to coordinate across its own agencies as well as with cities in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties and Caltrans to identify needed improvements to the Regional Road Network. This will include identification of funds available and needed for County and cities inter-city road-building purposes to construct improvements. [Source: Existing GPP Program 4.2.3.2, modified]</td>
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<td><strong>E</strong> Pavement Management System</td>
<td>CTM-1.11</td>
<td>PWA, n/a</td>
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<td>The County shall continue to maintain its Pavement Management System (PMS) to identify Pavement Condition Index (PCI) and ensure that the County road network is kept in a state of good repair with an emphasis and priority on goods movement corridors (e.g., Surface Transportation Assistance Act, Overweight Vehicle corridor, or local County roadways designated as part of the National Highway System). The PCI thresholds for pavement rehabilitation shall be based on guidance provided by the Board of Supervisors. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>F</strong> Overweight Vehicle Corridors</td>
<td>CTM-1.12, CTM-1.13, CTM-1.14, CTM-1.15</td>
<td>PWA, RMA</td>
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<td>The County shall designate its Overweight Vehicle Corridors as Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) Terminal Access routes to connect to the National Network. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>H</strong>  Complete Streets Guidelines</td>
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The County shall work with the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) to determine feasibility of grade separations for segments of the mobilization corridors to ease mobility and allow for uninterrupted mission operations and military readiness. [Source: New Program, NBVC JLUS Strategy RC-2B]

The County shall prepare and adopt Complete Streets Design Guidelines/standards to be used when constructing new roadways or improving existing roadways where Complete Streets would be appropriate/feasible. Complete Streets Design Guidelines/standards should be consistent with the pedestrian and bicycle design guidelines and design standards established by Caltrans and supporting state/federal guidelines when designing bicycle/pedestrian facilities. These include the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), Highway Design Manual, Federal Highway Administration, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

The County shall improve pedestrian safety at intersections and mid-block locations in developed communities by providing pedestrian crossing treatments where appropriate. [Source: New Program]
### 4. Circulation, Transportation, and Mobility Element

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<tr>
<td><strong>I</strong> County Road Standards Update</td>
<td>CTM-2.1, CTM-2.2, CTM-2.3, CTM-2.14, CTM-2.15, CTM-2.18, CTM-2.19, CTM-6.11</td>
<td>PWA</td>
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<td>The County shall update Road Standards to include the Complete Street Design Guidelines/Standards. [<em>Source: New Program</em>]</td>
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<td><strong>J</strong> Vision Zero</td>
<td>CTM-2.4, CTM-2.19, CTM-2.20, CTM-2.21</td>
<td>PWA</td>
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<td>RMA</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall develop a Vision Zero strategy for the County of Ventura with the goal of reducing all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. [<em>Source: New Program</em>]</td>
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<td><strong>K</strong> Safe Routes to School</td>
<td>CTM-2.10</td>
<td>PWA</td>
<td></td>
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<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall support the Safe Routes to School Program by identifying opportunities to support bike and pedestrian routes to schools, identify needed improvements and opportunities to increase public access and use of these routes. [<em>Source: New Program</em>]</td>
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<td>The County shall develop a master bicycle network plan that includes the recommendations from the Bicycle Wayfinding Study and the prioritized list of bike lanes from the Board approved criteria. [<em>Source: New Program</em>]</td>
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<td><strong>M</strong> Bicycle Wayfinding Plan Participation</td>
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<td>PWA, RMA, GSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall continue to participate in and support the Ventura County Transportation Commission in updates to the Bicycle Wayfinding Plan linking all Ventura County cities, unincorporated communities, and CSUCI. [<em>Source Existing GPP Program 4.2.3.7, modified</em>]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>N</strong> Storage Facilities for Shared Mobility Enterprises</td>
<td>CTM-6.8</td>
<td>RMA, GSA</td>
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<td>The County shall analyze the feasibility of shared micro-mobility (e.g., bike sharing) vendors being required to provide storage/parking areas or facilities to be designated and/or physically placed outside of the public right-of-way if private shared mobility vendors are allowed to operate within the unincorporated areas of the county. [<em>Source: New Program</em>]</td>
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<td><strong>O</strong> Mobility-as-a-Service Enterprises – Parking</td>
<td>CTM-6.9, CTM-6.10</td>
<td>RMA, GSA</td>
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Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element
Please see the next page.
This element provides the framework for decisions in Ventura County concerning public and private infrastructure, utilities, and services. Existing and planned development in the county is dependent on a complicated network of public facilities and services. At the same time, infrastructure and services to residents and businesses in Ventura County are provided by a range of public and private institutions, and organizations. Each type of facility and service has a unique set of challenges and must adapt to growth and change differently. The County is responsible for providing and maintaining certain facilities and services necessary to maintain safe communities and to support the existing and future development described in the Land Use and Community Character Element.

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

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

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<td>Solid and Hazardous Waste</td>
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<td>Flood Control and Drainage Facilities</td>
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<td>Parks and Recreational Facilities</td>
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<td>5.13</td>
<td>Implementation Programs</td>
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5.1 Public Facilities and Services

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PFS-1</th>
<th>To equitably provide residents and businesses with quality, cost-effective, and accessible facilities and services. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.1.1.1 and 4.1.1.2, modified]</th>
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</table>
| PFS-1.1 | Equitable Provision of Public Facilities and Services  
EJ HC  
The County shall require that facilities and services that are essential for public health and safety shall be equitably provided for all residents and businesses. (SO) [Source: New Policy] |
| PFS-1.2 | Resilient Facilities and Services  
HC CAP  
The County shall monitor the projected impacts of climate change and natural disasters to make adaptive improvements and upgrades to public facilities and services. (SO) [Source: New Policy] |
| PFS-1.3 | Location of New Essential Public Facilities  
HC CAP  
The County shall review plans for constructing new essential public facility, such as a hospital, health care facility, emergency shelter, emergency command center, or emergency communications facility, so that these facilities are located outside of at-risk areas whenever feasible. If such a location is infeasible, then the County shall require the use of construction methods and site design features to minimize potential damage to these facilities. (RDR, SO) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.2.2.6, 2.6.2.1, and 2.7.2.1, modified] |

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

| PFS-1.4 | Collaboration on Infrastructure and Public Service Deficiencies  
EJ HC  
The County shall collaborate with the cities in Ventura County, neighboring jurisdictions, special districts, and regional agencies to address issues of mutual interest and concern, including infrastructure and public service deficiencies, particularly in Designated Disadvantaged Communities. (IGC) [Source: New Policy] |
5. Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element

PFS-1.5 **Infrastructure Expansion Coordination with Naval Base Ventura County**
The County shall coordinate with Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) when planning for infrastructure expansions, improvements, and maintenance that may impact any NBVC facility or operation. (IGC) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy IE-1A, IE-2A]

PFS-1.6 **Capital Improvements Prioritizations**
The County shall prioritize non-emergency capital improvement projects that provide the greatest benefit to county residents, including repairing or replacing inadequate facilities; updating or upgrading aging facilities and structures that exceed their planned lifecycles; protecting sensitive resources; and addressing deficiencies in Designated Disadvantaged Communities. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-1.7 **Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Availability**
The County shall only approve discretionary development in locations where adequate public facilities, services, and infrastructure are available and functional, under physical construction, or will be available prior to occupancy. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.1.2.2]

PFS-1.8 **Annexation Priority**
Within a city’s Sphere of Influence, annexation to that city is preferable to formation of new or expansion of existing County Service Areas. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.1.2.4]

PFS-1.9 **Requirements Inside City Spheres of Influence**
The County shall only approve a discretionary development within a city’s Sphere of Influence if the required public facilities and infrastructure meets or exceeds those required by the associated city. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.1.2.5, modified]

PFS-1.10 **Efficient County Operation and Maintenance**
The County shall operate and maintain County facilities in an efficient manner that meets community needs while conserving financial and natural resources. (SO) [Source: New Policy]

### 5.2 Energy Efficiency for County Operations

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

PFS-2 To be a regional leader in energy efficiency. [Source: New Goal]

PFS-2.1 **Sustainable Plans and Operations**
The County shall encourage energy efficiency, greenhouse gas reduction features, and resiliency planning into County facility and service plans and operations. (PSP, SO) [Source: New Policy]
PFS-2.2 Sustainable Community Facility Design
The County shall encourage the incorporation of sustainable design features in community facilities to reduce energy demand and environmental impacts, such as reflective roofing, permeable pavement, and incorporation of shade trees. (SO, IGC) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-2.3 Energy Efficient Facility Construction, Purchases, Leases, Retrofits, and Expansions
The County shall prioritize energy efficiency and water conservation as key design features when constructing, purchasing, leasing, retrofitting or expanding County facilities. (SO) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.9.2.3, modified]

PFS-2.4 Recycling Receptacles and Biodegradable/Recycled-Materials Products
The County shall provide recycling and composting receptacles and use of biodegradable or recycled-material products at County facilities and events, where feasible. (SO) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-2.5 County Employee Trip Reduction
The County shall encourage its employees to reduce the number and distance of single-occupancy vehicle work trips. (SO) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-2.6 County Alternative Fuel Vehicle Purchases
The County shall review market-available technologies for alternative fuel vehicles and prioritize purchase of vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions where economically feasible. (SO) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-2.7 Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse Coordination
When processing commercial renewable energy development applications, the County shall comply with Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse requirements and standards published in Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 211. (RDR) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy ED-1C]

PFS-2.8 Electric Vehicle Charging Station Infrastructure
The County shall include electrical vehicle charging station infrastructure in new County-initiated facility construction to the extent feasible. The County shall also look for opportunities to install EV charging stations as part of any major renovation, retrofit or expansion of County facilities. (SO) [Source: New Policy]

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PFS-3</th>
<th>To secure ample and predictable funding to maintain and upgrade infrastructure. [Source: New Goal]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PFS-3.1 Funding Mechanisms</td>
<td>The County shall pursue and maximize the use of a wide range of funding mechanisms for capital improvements, maintenance, and operations of infrastructure. This shall include use of federal, state, regional, local, and private resources, including development impact fees, assessment districts, and grant funding. (RDR, FB) [Source: New Policy, Existing GPP Program 4.4.3.2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFS-3.2 Fair Share of Improvement Costs</td>
<td>The County shall require development to pay its fair share of community improvement costs through impact fees, assessment districts, and other mechanisms. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.1.2.1, modified]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFS-3.3 Grant Funding Cooperation</td>
<td>The County shall coordinate with special districts and other agencies, as appropriate, when applying for state and federal funding for public infrastructure, water and wastewater treatment and distribution needs. (FB, IGC) [Source: New Policy]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.4 Wastewater Treatment and Disposal

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

PFS-4 To ensure the adequate provision of individual and public wastewater collection, treatment, reclamation, and disposal operations and facilities to meet the county’s current and future needs in a manner that will protect the natural environment as well as public health, safety, and welfare. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.4.1.4, Goal 4.4.1.1, and Goal 4.4.1.2, modified]

PFS-4.1 Wastewater Connections Requirement
The County shall require development to connect to an existing wastewater collection and treatment facility if such facilities are available to serve the development. An onsite wastewater treatment system shall only be approved in areas where connection to a wastewater collection and treatment facility is deemed unavailable. (RDR) [Source: Ventura County Sewer Policy, and Existing GPP Policy 4.4.2.1, modified]

PFS-4.2 Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems
The County may allow the use of onsite wastewater treatment systems that meet the state Water Resources Control Board Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy, Ventura County Sewer Policy, Ventura County Building Code, and other applicable County standards and requirements. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-4.3 Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Failure Repair
The County shall require landowners to repair or replace failing septic tanks, disposal area, and package systems that constitute a threat to water quality and public health. (SO) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-4.4 Groundwater Resource Protection
The County shall encourage wastewater treatment facilities to provide the maximum feasible protection and enhancement of groundwater resources. (SO, IGC) [Source: Existing El Rio/Del Norte Goal 4.2.1.3, modified]

PFS-4.5 Onsite Water Reuse
The County shall encourage on-site water reuse for landscape irrigation and groundwater recharge consistent with health standards, to reduce demand for potable water, and increase drought and disaster resiliency. (SO, RDR) [New Policy]

PFS-4.6 Reclaimed Water
The County shall encourage public wastewater system operators to upgrade existing wastewater treatment systems to reclaim water suitable for reuse for landscaping, irrigation, and groundwater recharge. (SO, IGC) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-4.7 Design to Minimize Inflow/Infiltration
The County shall require that new wastewater lateral and trunk collection lines be designed to allow the minimum feasible amount of inflow and infiltration into the wastewater collection system. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.4.2.3]
5.5 Solid and Hazardous Waste

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PFS-5</th>
<th>To maximize recycling, reuse, and composting of solid waste and ensure the safe handling and disposal of the remaining solid and hazardous waste [Source: New Goal]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| PFS-5.1 | **Solid Waste Facility Location**  
The County shall require new landfills and other solid waste processing and disposal facilities (including facilities for composting, green waste, food waste) to be sited in areas that do not pose health and safety risks to residents and groundwater resources. The County shall require such facilities to be located based on objective criteria that do not disproportionally impact Designated Disadvantaged Communities. (RDR) [Source: New Policy] |
| PFS-5.2 | **Land Use Compatibility with Solid Waste Facilities**  
The County shall review and condition discretionary development near landfills and other solid waste processing and disposal facilities (including facilities for composting, green waste, food waste) to avoid incompatible development and future nuisance complaints from encroachment by incompatible land uses. (RDR) [Source: New Policy] |
| PFS-5.3 | **Solid Waste Capacity**  
The County shall require evidence that adequate capacity exists within the solid waste system for the processing, recycling, transmission, and disposal of solid waste prior to approving discretionary development. (RDR) [Source: New Policy] |
| PFS-5.4 | **Solid Waste Reduction**  
The County shall support and promote solid waste reduction, recycling, and composting efforts, including food waste reduction in cases where consumable food can be redistributed rather than disposed. (SO) [Source: New Policy] |
| PFS-5.5 | **Agricultural Waste Reuse**  
The County shall support the beneficial reuse of agricultural wastes for activities such as composting and energy generation. (RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy] |
| PFS-5.6 | **Value-Added Alternatives to Waste Disposal**  
The County shall promote value-added alternatives to solid waste management, such as compost, energy, biochar, and wood products to avoid open burning of agricultural biomass wastes. (SO, PI) [Source: New Policy] |
**PFS-5.7** Discretionary Development Siting and the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan
The County shall require that discretionary development adjacent to existing and proposed waste treatment, transfer, and disposal sites, as identified in the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan, shall not conflict with the current and anticipated future use of these waste facilities. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.4.2.4]

**PFS-5.8** Waste Treatment and Disposal Operations
The County shall require sites used for waste treatment and disposal operations to be restored to a use compatible with surrounding uses upon conclusion of the operation. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 3.4.2.4, modified]

**PFS-5.9** Waste Reduction Practices for Discretionary Development
The County shall encourage applicants for discretionary development to employ practices that reduce the quantities of wastes generated and engage in recycling activities to further reduce the volume of waste disposed of in landfills. (RDR, SO) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.4.2.6]

**5.6 Flood Control and Drainage Facilities**

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

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

**PFS-6** To provide adequate surface drainage and flood control facilities to protect public health and safety. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 2.10.1.2 and Goal 4.6.1, modified]

**PFS-6.1** Flood Control and Drainage Facilities Required for Discretionary Development
The County shall require discretionary development to provide flood control and drainage facilities, as deemed necessary by the County Public Works Agency and Watershed Protection District. The County shall also require discretionary development to fund improvements to existing flood control facilities necessitated by or required by the development. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.6.2.2, modified]

**PFS-6.2** Multi-Purpose Flood Control Projects
The County shall encourage the integration of design features into flood control projects, when feasible: to address resource conservation and restoration and preservation of natural riparian habitats, to provide groundwater recharge, to enhance water quality, to protect scenic vistas, and to incorporate recreational areas or opportunities. (RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy]
5. Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element

PFS-6.3 Climate Change Impacts on Flood Control and Drainage Facilities - Capacity
The County shall monitor projected climate change impacts, and coordinate with local, regional, state, and federal agencies to identify existing and potential projected impacts and develop strategies to maintain and improve flood control facilities accordingly. (SO, IGC) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-6.4 Climate Change Impacts on Flood Control and Drainage Facilities - Retention
The County shall coordinate with local, regional, state, and federal agencies to identify existing and potential infrastructure improvements to increase water retention to respond to drought conditions. (SO, IGC) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-6.5 Stormwater Drainage Facilities
The County shall require that stormwater drainage facilities are properly designed, sited, constructed, and maintained to efficiently capture and convey runoff for flood protection and groundwater recharge. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-6.6 Natural Drainage Courses
The County shall retain drainage courses in their natural state to the extent feasible. (SO) [Source: Existing Oak Park Area Plan Policy 2.2.2.3, modified]

PFS-6.7 Flood Control and Beach Sand Nourishment
The County shall include beach sand nourishment as an important factor in the design and maintenance of flood control facilities. (SO) [New Policy]

5.7 Public Utilities

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

PFS-7 To promote the efficient distribution of public utility facilities and transmission lines to ensure that public utilities are adequate to service existing and projected land uses and are sited and constructed to avoid hazards and land use incompatibility. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.5.1, Modified]

PFS-7.1 Accessible Public Utilities
The County shall work with utility companies and service providers to ensure that gas, electric, broadband, cellular mobile communications, cable television, and telephone utility transmission lines are located appropriately to provide for adequate services throughout the unincorporated area. (JP) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-7.2 Reduce Transmission Facility Fire Hazard Risk
The County shall work with utility companies to modernize and upgrade transmission lines and associated equipment to reduce the risk of fire in areas with a high wildfire hazard risk. (JP) [Source: New Policy]
Additional goals, policies, and implementation programs on fire hazards are in Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element.

PFS-7.3 Transmission Line Visual Impacts
The County shall work with utility companies to ensure that new gas, electric, cellular mobile communications, cable television, and telephone utility transmission lines use or parallel existing utility rights-of-way, where feasible. When existing right-of-way cannot be used, the County should encourage utility companies to design and locate transmission lines to avoid scenic areas and viewsheds, and to site in a manner that minimizes impacts on community character, the natural environment, and existing development. (JP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.5.2.1 and 4.5.2.4, modified]

PFS-7.4 Discretionary Development Utility Service Line Placement
The County shall require discretionary development to place new utility service lines underground if feasible. If undergrounding is determined by the County to be infeasible, then new utility service lines shall be placed in parallel to existing utility rights-of-way, if they exist, or sited to minimize their visual impact. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.5.2.3, modified]

PFS-7.5 Broadband Service Access
The County shall encourage broadband service providers to expand service areas and provide high quality access to broadband (high-speed internet) and cellular mobile communications services to residents and businesses, including unserved and underserved areas. (JP) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-7.6 Smart Grid Development
The County shall work with utility providers to implement smart grid technologies as part of new developments and infrastructure projects. (JP) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-7.7 Community Microgrids
The County shall collaborate with renewable energy developers, Clean Power Alliance, and local serving entities to develop solar generation plus energy storage at critical facilities and community microgrids for resilience during power outages with a priority in designated disadvantaged communities. (JP) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-7.8 Minimized Disruption of Natural Vegetation
The County shall encourage location and construction of all transmission lines in a manner which minimizes disruption of natural vegetation and agricultural activities and avoids unnecessary grading of slopes when not in conflict with the rules and regulations of the California Public Utilities Commission. (JP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.5.2.2, modified]
## 5.8 Community Facilities

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PFS-8</th>
<th>To promote public community facilities and services to provide robust educational, community and social engagement. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.9.1.1, modified]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### PFS-8.1 Collaboration on Maintenance of Community Facilities
The County shall work with cities, non-profit organizations, schools, and other community service providers to maintain and support public and private community facilities that are located throughout the county. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

### PFS-8.2 Community Facility Co-Location
The County shall promote the co-location and integration of parks, schools, civic facilities, health service providers, and other community-oriented facilities to support community cohesion and leverage limited resources. (IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.9.2.1, modified]

### PFS-8.3 Community Facility Design to Promote Health
The County shall encourage the integration of design features in community facilities that promote healthy activities, such as designing staircases to be visually prominent and attractive, providing secure bicycle parking, and providing connections to trails and outdoor activities. (SO, IGC) [Source: New Policy]

### PFS-8.4 Joint Use Facilities for Community Activities
The County shall work with school districts to provide joint use of County and school facilities. (IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.9.2.2, modified]
5.9 Library Facilities and Services

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

To provide individuals free access to library collections, resources, and services to help them be successful in their educational and work goals, and to serve as a social and cultural hub where community members can engage and collaborate to improve their overall quality of life. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.9.1.1, modified]

PFS-9.1 Library Programs, Services, and Resources

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

PFS-9.2 Location of New Libraries

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

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

(SO) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.9.2.3, modified]

PFS-9.3 Modern Library Facilities

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

PFS-9.4 Innovative Library Services

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

PFS-9.5 Library Facilities as Part of Affordable Housing Projects

The County shall consider opportunities to partner with affordable housing developers to leverage development or renovation of community library facilities as part of the housing development strategy. (IGC, JP, FB) [Source: New Policy]
5.10 Parks and Recreational Facilities

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

PFS-10 To develop and maintain a comprehensive system of parklands and recreational facilities that meet the active and passive recreational needs of residents and visitors, as funding is available. [Source: New Goal]

PFS-10.1 Trail Network
The County shall encourage the establishment of a countywide network of trails to meet the needs of equestrians, bicyclists, hikers, and other trail user groups. (SO) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.10.1.5, modified]

PFS-10.2 Recreational Use of Public Facilities
The County shall make public facilities, such as flood control channels and easements, available for recreational use, if feasible, safe, and appropriate for the site’s primary function. (SO) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.10.2.5]

PFS-10.3 Amenities at Public Parks and Recreational Facilities
The County shall provide a full range of amenities at public parks and recreational facilities including playgrounds, restrooms, drinking fountains, trees and landscaping, outdoor furniture, and lighting, to the maximum extent feasible. (SO) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-10.4 New Park and Recreational Facility Locations and Park Accessibility
Parks and recreational facilities shall be located and designed to be accessible and inclusive for all users, to the maximum extent feasible. (RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-10.5 Parkland Dedication Requirement
The County shall require discretionary development to provide new trails and/or parkland dedication, or equivalent in-lieu fees, based on a standard of five acres of local parkland per thousand population in accordance with the Quimby Act (Gov. Code, § 66477) and County Quimby Ordinance (contained in Ventura County Subdivision Ordinance). Any lands dedicated to meeting this requirement shall be accessible to the general public. (SO, RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.10.2.1, modified]

PFS-10.6 Additional Lands for Recreational Use
As part of subdivision development, the County shall encourage developers to set aside unused open space for active and passive recreational uses. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.10.2.3, modified]
PFS-10.7  
**Parkland Development, Operation, and Maintenance**
The County shall require discretionary projects to provide funding for development, operation, and maintenance of park facilities appropriate to serve the needs of the project. (SO, RDR)  
*Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.10.1.2, modified*

PFS-10.8  
**Discretionary Development near Trails**
The County shall require discretionary development near existing trails to mitigate or avoid adverse impacts to the existing trail system. (RDR)  
*Source: Existing Ojai Valley Policy 4.7.2.1, modified*

PFS-10.9  
**Partnerships for Recreational Programming**
The County shall develop partnerships with, and encourage efforts by, service clubs, civic groups, and individuals wishing to provide recreational programs in the county. (SO, IGC)  
*Source: Existing Ojai Valley Program 4.7.3.1, modified*

### 5.11 Law Enforcement and Emergency Services

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

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

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

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PFS-11  
To protect the public through effective law enforcement, disaster preparedness, and emergency services.  
*Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.7.1.1 and Existing Oak Park Area Plan Goal 4.5.1.1, modified*

PFS-11.1  
**Emergency Response**
The County shall maintain adequate staffing, equipment, and facilities to provide timely and effective responses to emergencies. (FB, SO)  
*Source: New Policy*

PFS-11.2  
**Mutual Training and Aid Agreements**
The County shall work with other public agencies and organizations to develop, maintain, and enhance mutual training and aid agreements to efficiently prevent and respond to regional emergencies. (SO, IGC)  
*Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.1.2.4 and Existing GPP Policy 4.7.2.5, modified*
PFS-11.3  Emergency Services Accessibility
The County shall work with cities, local and regional agencies, and organizations to identify and remove impediments to emergency services accessibility, particularly for residents facing systemic barriers, such as a disability, limited mobility, language barrier, or limited telecommunications. (IGC, SO) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-11.4  Emergency Vehicles Access
The County shall require all discretionary development to provide, and existing development to maintain, adequate access for emergency vehicles, including two points of access for subdivisions and multifamily developments. (RDR) [Source: Existing Oak Park Area Plan Goal 4.5.1.2, modified]

PFS-11.5  Individual Readiness Educational Programs
The County shall support educational programs that empower individuals to prepare for self-sufficiency in emergencies through an understanding of risk reduction, and emergency response protocols and procedures. (PI) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-11.6  Emergency Notifications
The County shall work with the Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services to provide effective and timely emergency notifications to the public in the event of an emergency or disaster. (SO, PI) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-11.7  Social Support Networks
The County shall support efforts to cultivate social support networks to improve community preparedness, response, and recovery from hazards and disasters to minimize injury and loss of life. (SO, PI) [Source: New Policy]

PFS-11.8  Avoidance of Surveillance Interference
The County shall condition discretionary development to avoid landscaping which interferes with police surveillance (e.g., landscaping must not cover any exterior door or window, landscaping at entrances and exits or at any parking lot intersection must not block or screen the view of a seated driver from another moving vehicle or pedestrian, trees must not be placed underneath any overhead light fixture which would cause a loss of light at ground level). (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.7.2.4, modified]
5.12 Fire Protection

This section focuses on fire protection services in the county. The Ventura County Fire Protection District (VCFPD or Fire Protection District) was established in 1928. VCFPD provides a wide range of programs and services designed to protect lives and property in Ventura County from the adverse effects of fires, sudden medical emergencies, exposure to hazardous materials, and other emergency situations. These programs and services include fire protection planning, fire prevention education, fire law and code enforcement, fire suppression and recovery, first responder level emergency medical services, and assistance and support for other non-fire emergencies such as floods, earthquakes, and similar disasters. Superior fire protection services are essential for protecting life and property in the county.

Goals, policies, and implementation programs concerning fire hazards can be found in Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PFS-12</th>
<th>To protect life and property through the efficient provision of fire prevention, suppression, and rescue services and facilities. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.8.1 and Existing Oak Park Area Plan Goal 4.5.1.1, modified]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| PFS-12.1 | Collaboration Among Partners  
The County shall encourage the Fire Protection District to continue to develop relationships with local, state, and federal agencies and non-profit organizations to collaboratively inform and prepare citizens for wildland fires. (IGC, PI) [Source: New Policy] |
| PFS-12.2 | Fire Station Locations  
The County shall work with the Fire Protection District to site fire stations in locations central to the area served and on or near arterial highways to minimize call response time. (IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.8.2.2, modified] |
| PFS-12.3 | Adequate Water Supply, Access, and Response Times for Firefighting Purposes  
The County shall prohibit discretionary development in areas that lack and cannot provide adequate water supplies, access, and response times for firefighting purposes. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP 4.8.2.1, modified and Existing Oak Park Area Plan Goal 4.5.1.2, modified] |
| PFS-12.4 | Consistent Fire Protection Standards for New Development  
The County, in coordination with local water agencies and the Fire Protection District, shall require new discretionary development to comply with applicable standards for fire flows and fire protection. (RDR, IGC) [Source: New Policy] |
## 5.13 Implementation Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Implements Which Policy(ies)</th>
<th>Responsible Supporting Department(s)</th>
<th>2020 – 2025</th>
<th>2026 – 2030</th>
<th>2031 – 2040</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Infrastructure Improvements and Funding</td>
<td>PFS-1.1, PFS-1.2, PFS-1.3, PFS-1.4, PFS-1.5, PFS-1.6, PFS-3.1, PFS-3.3</td>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>GSA</td>
<td>PWA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The County shall prepare, adopt, and periodically update capital improvement programs for all County-owned and operated facilities and services to maintain adequate levels of service and consistency with the General Plan.</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>Accessibility in General Services Agency Maintained County Owned Buildings</td>
<td>PFS-1.1, PFS-1.10</td>
<td>GSA</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The County shall continue the ongoing program to inventory General Services Agency (GSA) maintained County owned buildings for compliance with State and Federal Handicapped Accessibility laws, including the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as required by HUD for Block Grant Funds.</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>Climate Change Impacts Monitoring</td>
<td>PFS-1.2</td>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>RMA</td>
<td>GSA</td>
<td>PWA</td>
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<td>Programs</td>
<td>Implements Which Policy(ies)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>D Climate Change Adaptation Response</strong></td>
<td>PFS-1.2</td>
<td>CEO</td>
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<td>Based on findings from the Climate Change Impact Monitoring reports, in cases where existing County facilities are found to be vulnerable to sea-level rise or coastal flooding, the County shall identify funding and create an action plan to protect, accommodate, or manage the retreat of County facilities to areas of higher elevation or reduced flood exposure. For facilities operated by other entities, the County shall work with these entities to create an action plan to protect, accommodate, or manage the retreat of their facilities to areas of higher elevation or reduced flood exposure. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>E County Procurement Guide</strong></td>
<td>PFS-2.1, PFS-2.4</td>
<td>GSA</td>
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<td>The County shall update the County’s Procurement Guide to prioritize the procurement of products made from recycled materials (e.g., office products and equipment, recycled asphalt use in roads and bike paths) and for reusing or sharing equipment/resources, when feasible. [Source: New Program]</td>
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### Trip Reduction for County Staff

The County shall provide support for the following trip-reduction methods for County staff members:

- carpooling/vanpooling,
- active transportation options (e.g., pedestrian or biking),
- use of electric or alternative energy vehicles, and
- public transit use.

These will be accomplished through incentives, such as dedicated parking areas, electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at County facilities, carpool/vanpool coordination, and flexible work shifts.

[Source: New Program]

### Local Agency Management Program

The County shall review and update the Local Agency Management Program plan every five years consistent with the State Water Resources Control Board Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy.

[Source: New Program]

### Ventura County Sewer Policy

The County shall maintain a policy regarding the requirements and exemptions related to the connection to a wastewater treatment system. [Source: New Program, Ventura County Sewer Policy]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Implements Which Policy(ies)</th>
<th>Responsible Supporting Department(s)</th>
<th>2020 – 2025</th>
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<th>2031 – 2040</th>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Onsite Wastewater System for Commercial and Industrial Uses</td>
<td>PFS-4.2</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<td>Discretionary development for commercial or industrial facilities served by onsite wastewater treatment facilities shall be conditioned to grant an access easement to the applicable County Service Area. In addition, regular testing and monitoring of onsite wastewater treatment system shall be performed to the satisfaction of the County’s Environmental Health Division. [Source: Existing El Rio/Del Norte Goal 4.2.2.2, modified]</td>
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<td>J</td>
<td>Public Education of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Care</td>
<td>PFS-4.2</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<td>The County shall promote and support programs to educate homeowners on the care and maintenance of private onsite wastewater treatment systems and environmental implications of improper maintenance. [Source: New Program]</td>
<td>PFS-4.3</td>
<td>PWA</td>
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<td>K</td>
<td>Coordination on Large Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Repairs</td>
<td>PFS-4.2</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The County shall coordinate with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to address compliance and repair issues for large onsite wastewater treatment systems (over 5,000 gallons) and package treatment systems. [Source: New Program]</td>
<td>PFS-4.3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Food Waste Reduction</td>
<td>PFS-4.4</td>
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<td>The County shall provide educational and informational materials to restaurants, grocery stores, and other food providers, as part of food handler permitting, to support donation of safe, unused food to non-profit service agencies. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>M</strong> Joint Use Facilities</td>
<td>PFS-8.4</td>
<td>GSA</td>
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<td>The County General Services Agency will work with the cities, local civic groups, and public and private school districts throughout the county to establish cooperative agreements for use of each other’s facilities to provide parks and recreational opportunities for all residents of the Ventura County. [Source: Existing El Rio/Del Norte Program 4.7.3.1, modified]</td>
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</table>

| **N** Open Space Zone for Parks and Recreation | PFS-10.1, PFS-10.6, PFS-10.7 | RMA, GSA | | | | |
| The County shall amend the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance to create a new Open Space zone for public lands that will be limited to parks and recreational uses. [Source: New Program] | | | | | | |

| **O** Crime Prevention Programs           | PFS-11.1                    | VCSO                                  |             |             |             |        |         |
| The County shall continue to support efforts to organize neighborhood, rural, and industrial crime prevention programs. [Source Existing GPP Program 4.7.3.1, modified] | | n/a | | | | |

| **P** Adequate Fire Flow                  | PFS-12.3                    | FD, PWA                               |             |             |             |        |         |
| The County shall work with mutual water districts/companies to identify and address the capabilities of each entity to provide adequate fire flows to address existing and potential development (including the anticipated growth of accessory dwelling units), within their service areas. [Source: New Program] | | | | | | |
### Adequate Fire Flow

The County shall continue to review all new development to ensure that an adequate level of water for fire flow and fire protection can be provided. [Source Existing GPP Program 4.8.3.1, modified]

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
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<th>2031 – 2040</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Q</strong> Adequate Fire Flow</td>
<td>PFS-12.4</td>
<td>FD RMA</td>
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</table>
Conservation and Open Space Element
Please see the next page.
The Conservation and Open Space Element covers two key aspects of County planning:

- Provides guidance and programs for the conservation, management, development, and use of natural and cultural resources; and

- Provides guidance and programs for the long-term preservation and conservation of open space lands. This includes the preservation of natural resources and scenic resources, and the provision of land for outdoor recreation.

- Provides guidance and programs related to energy resources and planning for climate change impacts.

The Conservation and Open Space Element is coordinated with the Land Use and Community Character Element to guide and balance conservation and development within the unincorporated area. Goals, policies, and implementation programs in this element are organized under the following headings:

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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
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<td>6.1</td>
<td>Biological Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>Coastal Resources</td>
<td>6-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>Scenic Resources</td>
<td>6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>Cultural, Historical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Resources</td>
<td>6-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>Soil and Mineral Resources</td>
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<td>6.6</td>
<td>Oil and Gas Resources</td>
<td>6-12</td>
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<td>6.7</td>
<td>Energy Resource Conservation</td>
<td>6-13</td>
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<td>6.8</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>6-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.10</td>
<td>Implementation Programs</td>
<td>6-18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional topics related to state requirements for the Conservation and Open Space Element can be found in other elements, as follows:

- Water (Chapter 9, Water Element)
- Water, hydraulic force, flooding and fire (Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element)
6.1 Biological Resources

Ventura County lies within one of only five areas on earth characterized by the warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters known as Mediterranean climate. Mediterranean climates occur over only about two percent of the land area of the earth. Areas subject to such climate, however, support over 15 percent of the world’s plant species, including many species occurring nowhere else on earth (Rundel and Tiszler 2007). Ventura County contains a diverse range of elevations, biogeographic features and ecosystems. The County’s biological resources include plant and animal species, their habitats, plant communities and ecosystems that include habitat linkages and wildlife corridors. Numerous special-status species of plants and animals require special consideration and protection to federal, state and local law.

To identify, preserve, protect, and restore sensitive biological resources, including federal and state-designated endangered, threatened, rare, or candidate species and their supporting habitats; wetland and riparian habitats; coastal habitats; habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors; and habitats and species identified as “locally important” by the County. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.5.1.1, modified]

**COS-1.1 Protection of Sensitive Biological Resources**
The County shall ensure that discretionary development that could potentially impact sensitive biological resources be evaluated by a qualified biologist to assess impacts and, if necessary, develop mitigation measures that fully account for the impacted resource. When feasible, mitigation measures should adhere to the following priority: avoid impacts, minimize impacts, and compensate for impacts. If the impacts cannot be reduced to a less than significant level, findings of overriding considerations must be made by the decision-making body. (MPSP, IGC, RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.5.2.1 and 1.5.2.2 modified]

**COS-1.2 Consideration of Sensitive Biological Resources**
The County shall identify sensitive biological resources as part of any land use designation change to the General Plan Land Use Diagram or zone designation change to the Zoning Ordinance that would intensify the uses in a given area. The County shall prioritize conservation of areas with sensitive biological resources. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

**COS-1.3 Wildlife Corridor Crossing Structures**
Based on the review and recommendation of a qualified biologist, the design and maintenance of road and floodplain improvements, including culverts and bridges, shall incorporate all feasible measures to accommodate wildlife passage. (RDR, MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.5.2.6, modified pursuant to Wildlife Corridor Policy 3/19/19]

**COS-1.4 Consideration of Impacts to Wildlife Movement**
When considering proposed discretionary development, County decision-makers shall consider the development’s potential project-specific and cumulative impacts on the movement of wildlife at a range of spatial scales including local scales (e.g., hundreds of feet) and regional scales (e.g., tens of miles). (RDR) [Source: Wildlife Corridor Policy 3/19/19]

**COS-1.5 Development Within Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors**
Development within the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors overlay zone and Critical Wildlife Passage Areas overlay zone shall be subject to the applicable provisions and standards of these overlay zones as set forth in the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.5.2.8; Wildlife Corridor Policy 3/19/19]
COS-1.6 Discretionary Development on Hillsides and Slopes
The County shall require discretionary development on hillsides and slopes, which have an average natural slope of 20 percent or greater in the area where the proposed development would occur, to be sited and designed in a manner that will minimize grading, alteration of natural land forms, and vegetation removal to avoid significant impacts to sensitive biological resources to the extent feasible. (RDR, MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

COS-1.7 Balancing Resource Preservation and Flood Protection
The County shall require that discretionary development and County-initiated projects balance the preservation of streams, wetlands, and riparian habitats with the need to adequately protect public safety and property from flooding hazards by incorporating natural or nature-based flood control infrastructure, (e.g., wetland restoration, soil conservation, vegetated levees), when feasible. (MPSP) [Source: Existing Ojai Valley Area Plan Goal 1.4.1.2, modified]

COS-1.8 Bridge Crossing Design
The County shall require discretionary development that includes new or modified road crossings over streams, wetlands and riparian habitats to include bridging design features with bridge columns located outside the riparian habitat areas, when feasible. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

COS-1.9 Agency Consultation Regarding Biological Resources
The County shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Audubon Society, California Native Plant Society, National Park Service for development in the Santa Monica Mountains or Oak Park Area, and other resource management agencies, as applicable during the review of discretionary development applications to ensure that impacts to biological resources, including rare, threatened, or endangered species, are avoided or minimized. (MPSP, IGC, RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.5.2.5, modified]

COS-1.10 Evaluation of Potential Impacts of Discretionary Development on Wetlands
The County shall require discretionary development that is proposed to be located within 300 feet of a wetland to be evaluated by a County-approved biologist for potential impacts on the wetland and its associated habitats pursuant to the applicable provisions of the County’s Initial Study Assessment Guidelines. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.5.2.3 modified]

COS-1.11 Discretionary Development Sited Near Wetlands
The County shall require discretionary development to be sited 100 feet from wetland habitats, except as provided below. The 100-foot setback may be increased or decreased based upon an evaluation and recommendation by a qualified biologist and approval by the decision-making body based on factors that include, but may not be limited to, soil type, slope stability, drainage patterns, the potential for discharges that may impair water quality, presence or absence of endangered, threatened or rare plants or animals, direct and indirect effects to wildlife movement, and compatibility of the proposed development with use of the wetland habitat area by wildlife. Discretionary development that would have a significant impact on a wetland habitat shall be prohibited unless mitigation measures are approved that would reduce the impact to a less than significant level. Notwithstanding the foregoing, discretionary development that would have a significant impact on a wetland habitat on land within a designated Existing community may be approved in conjunction with the adoption of a statement of overriding considerations by the decision-making body. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policies 1.5.2.3 and 1.5.2.4, modified]
COS-1.12 Discretionary Development and Landscaping
The County shall require landscaping associated with discretionary development, or subject to the California Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO), to be water-efficient and include native, pollinator-friendly plants consistent with WELO guidelines, as applicable. The planting of invasive and watch list plants as inventoried by the California Invasive Plant Council shall be prohibited, unless planted as a commercial agricultural crop or grown as commercial nursery stock. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

COS-1.13 Partnerships for Protection of Natural and Biological Resources
The County shall continue to work in partnership with agencies, organizations, and entities responsible for the protection, management, and enhancement of the county's biological resources. (IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.1.1.3, modified]

COS-1.14 Ecological Information Programs
The County shall support programs that encourage awareness and respect for the natural environment. (PI) [Source: New Policy]

COS-1.15 Countywide Tree Planting
The County shall establish and support a countywide target for the County, cities in Ventura County, agencies, organizations, businesses, and citizens to plant two million trees throughout the county by 2040. (SO, JP, IGC) [Source: New Policy]

6.2 Coastal Resources

There are 42 miles of coastline in Ventura County. Coastal resources are significant scenic resources, home to endangered and threatened species and habitats, and contain areas with cultural, paleontological, and archeological resources.

Beaches add significant value to quality of life for both their aesthetic beauty, as well as free and safe access to leisure and recreational opportunities. Additionally, sections of State Route 1 and US Highway 101 along the coast are state eligible for official designation as “scenic” through the Caltrans California Scenic Highway Program. These scenic eligible highways offer outstanding views of the Pacific Ocean, as well as the foothills and mountainous areas on the inland side of coastal viewsheds.

Beaches also provide coastal habitats containing rich biodiversity. For example, the Mugu Lagoon has the richest biological diversity of all the coastal marsh areas in the county. It provides habitat for more than 30 “special-status species” and shelters the remnants of many plant, bird, fish, and insect populations that once inhabited preexisting lagoons. Ventura County is also home to several coastal wetlands including McGrath Lake, the Ormond Beach area, and the mouths of the Ventura and Santa Clara Rivers.

The coastal and interior zones of Ventura County contain areas with marine and terrestrial fossils that are among the best in Southern California. Paleontological resources are present in many of the geologic formations in the county.
6. Conservation and Open Space Element

Through the Coastal Act, the State mandates that coastal communities manage the conservation and development of coastal resources through creation and adoption of a Local Coastal Program. Ventura County’s Coastal Area Plan and the Coastal Zoning Ordinance together constitute the Local Coastal Program for unincorporated areas of the county. The primary goal of the Local Coastal Program is to ensure that the County’s land use plans, policies, and actions meet the requirements of and implement the provisions and policies of the Coastal Act within the county.

Policies related to coastal resources are contained in the Coastal Area Plan. The Coastal Area Plan covers the land within the Coastal Zone Boundary along the Pacific Coast. The Coastal Area Plan addresses shoreline access and public trails; development in scenic areas, coastal hazards, and coastal bluffs; environmentally sensitive habitat areas; cultural resources; transportation; and public services.

For policies concerning sea level rise, see Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element.

COS-2 To protect and conserve coastal beaches and sand dunes, proactively enhance coastal and marine resources, and respond to projected sea level rise. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.10.1, modified]

COS-2.1 Beach Erosion
The County shall strive to minimize the risk from the damaging effects of coastal wave hazards and beach erosion and reduce the rate of beach erosion. (MPSP, RDR, IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 2.12.1.1 and 2.12.1.2, combined]

COS-2.2 Beach Nourishment
The County shall support activities that trap or add sand through beach nourishment, dune restoration, and other adaptation strategies to enhance or create beaches in areas susceptible to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

COS-2.3 Coastal Regional Sediment Action Committee
The County should work with the Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON), Ventura Port District, Channel Islands Harbor, cities, and the Navy to identify issues and establish common goals and objectives regarding sediment management, as well as to identify resources to meet defined goals. (IGC) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy MAR-5A]

COS-2.4 Mining Activities
The County shall require discretionary development for all mining activities in County streams and rivers to incorporate all feasible measures to mitigate beach sand replenishment impacts. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.10.2.4, modified]

COS-2.5 Shoreline Protective Structure Design
The County shall require all shoreline protective structures which alter natural shoreline processes to be designed to eliminate or mitigate adverse impacts on local shoreline sand supplies. (MPSP, IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.10.2.3]

COS-2.6 Public Access
The County shall continue to plan for the preservation, conservation, efficient use of, enjoyment of, and access to resources, as appropriate, within Ventura County for present and future generations. (IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.1.1.2]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COS-2.7</th>
<th>Preserve Public Access</th>
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<td>The County shall work with federal, state, and local jurisdictions, agencies, and organizations to assess the vulnerability of public coastal access points and prioritize protection for those that provide the greatest benefits to residents and visitors. (PSR, IGC, JP) [Source: New Policy, OPR Sea-Level Rise Guidance]</td>
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<tr>
<th>COS-2.8</th>
<th>Coastal Fisheries</th>
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<td>The County shall encourage community programs that are designed to improve the quality of coastal fisheries and marine resources (PSR, IGC) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<th>COS-2.9</th>
<th>Estuarine Protections</th>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall support efforts by other agencies and organizations to maintain and enhance estuarine systems in order to protect and enhance coastal fisheries and other marine resources. (PSR, IGC) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<th>COS-2.10</th>
<th>Saltwater Intrusion</th>
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<td>The County shall work with Federal, State, and local jurisdictions, agencies, and organizations to monitor saltwater intrusion and take proactive steps to reduce intrusion, including:</td>
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<td>▪ working to maintain and restore coastal wetlands buffers;</td>
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<td>▪ enhancing groundwater management to prevent excessive pumping in order to restore groundwater levels needed to reduce saltwater intrusion; and</td>
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<td>▪ implementing mitigation measures to prevent saltwater intrusion into estuaries and groundwater basins including, but not limited to, implementation of reactive barriers and use of pumps to divert saltwater.</td>
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<td>(PSR, IGC, JP) [Source: New Policy, OPR Sea-Level Rise Guidance]</td>
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<th>COS-2.11</th>
<th>Dune Vegetation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discretionary development which would result in the removal of dune vegetation shall be conditioned to replace the vegetation. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.10.2.2]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Conservation and Open Space Element

6.3 Scenic Resources

Scenic resources improve quality of life. From the coastline to the forested mountains of the north, the county contains aesthetic features that continue to attract visitors and provide pleasure to residents. The County is dedicated to conservation of these resources and ensuring visual access to them. Conservation of aesthetic resources is most critical where they will frequently be viewed, such as in proximity to a highway or a residential area. From panoramic views of the Santa Monica Mountains in the south to northern vistas of the Topatopa mountain range in the Los Padres National Forest and scenic views of coastal beaches and cliffs in the west, Ventura County offers a variety of scenic resources.

Policies related to parks and recreational facilities are in Chapter 5, Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element.

To preserve, protect, and enhance the unique scenic resources in Ventura County, and ensure access to scenic resources within Ventura County for present and future generations. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.1.1.2, 1.7.1.1, and 1.7.1.2, modified]

COS-3 Scenic Roadways
The County shall protect the visual character of scenic resources visible from state or County designated scenic roadways. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.7.1.2, modified]

COS-3.1 Scenic Roadways
The County shall protect the visual character of scenic resources visible from state or County designated scenic roadways. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.7.1.2, modified]

COS-3.2 Tree Canopy
The County shall encourage the planting of trees and the protection of existing urban forests and native woodlands, savannahs, and tree canopy throughout the county, including along State or County designated scenic roadways and in residential and commercial zones throughout the county, especially those located within designated disadvantaged communities. (MPSP, RDR) [Source: New Policy]

COS-3.3 Utility Undergrounding Priority
The County shall give overhead utility undergrounding within high fire hazard areas and Scenic Resource Areas first priority when allocating County Utility Undergrounding Funds. (MPSP, FB) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.7.2.3, modified]

COS-3.4 Visual Impacts from Reservoirs
The County shall ensure that reservoirs are not sited on prominent ridgelines and that new reservoirs are well-screened with native vegetation and berms and, if possible, are undergrounded. (RDR) [Source: Existing Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley Area Plan Policy 2.5.2.3, Oak Park Area Plan Policy 1.4.2.3, and Thousand Oaks Area Plan Policy 1.4.2.7, modified]

COS-3.5 Ridgeline and Hilltop Preservation
The County shall ensure that ridgelines and major hilltops remain undeveloped and that discretionary development is sited and designed to remain below significant ridgelines, except as required for communication or similar facilities. (RDR) [Source: Ojai Valley Area Plan Goal 1.6.1.3, modified]
COS-3.6  Open Space Character
The County shall require discretionary development outside of Existing Communities be planned and designed to maintain the scenic open space character of the surrounding area, including view corridors from highways. Discretionary development should integrate design, construction, and maintenance techniques that minimize the visibility of structures from public viewing locations within scenic vistas. [Source: New Policy]

6.4  Cultural, Historical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Resources

Cultural resources are most frequently identified with prehistoric (archaeological) or historic resources. Cultural resources in Ventura County include prehistoric indigenous Native American sites, historic areas of occupation and activity, and features of the natural environment. Cultural resources also include non-renewable, nonmaterial resources such as cognitive systems (including meanings and values attached to items of material culture, biota, and the physical environment), religion and world views, traditional or customary behavior patterns, kinship and social organization, and folklore.

Historical resources refer to the material and nonmaterial expressions of human adaptations that characterized the post-contact (historic) period. These resources include historic event or activity sites, historic archaeological sites, standing architecture and other significant properties, and documents and other sources of historical information, and objects of material culture. Also, more nonmaterial cultural qualities, such as folklore, social organization, and value systems, can be associated with these properties.

Paleontological resources refer to the fossilized remains of plant and animal life. In Ventura County, paleontological remains include examples from most of geological history, including the Paleozoic (542 to 251 million years ago), the Mesozoic (251 to 65.5 million years ago), and the Cenozoic (65.5 million years ago to the present). Careful scientific study of fossilized life forms preserved in the sedimentary and metamorphic rocks of the Ventura County region can lead to identification of local paleo-environmental conditions and biological evolutionary trends. In addition, certain fossil remains are only found in isolated outcrops in Ventura County and are therefore of unique scientific interest.

Archaeological resources refer to the material remains (e.g., artifacts, structures) produced by human beings, whether intentionally or accidentally. The scientific study of these remains can lead to identification of activities, types of adaptation to the environment, and changes in activities and organization that groups of people in the past experienced. Furthermore, these remains often have special significance to Native Americans, ethnic groups, special interest groups (e.g., avocational archaeologists), as well as the general public.

COS-4  To preserve and protect cultural, historical, paleontological, and archaeological resources in Ventura County, including Native American resources, for their scientific, educational, and cultural value. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.8.1.1, modified]

COS-4.1  Cultural, Historical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Resources Inventory
The County shall maintain an inventory of cultural, historical, paleontological, and archaeological resources in Ventura County based on project studies and secondary resources. (MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.1.1.1, modified]
COS-4.2 Cooperation for Cultural, Historical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Resource Preservation
The County shall cooperate with cities, special districts, other appropriate organizations, and private landowners to identify and preserve the county's cultural, historical, paleontological, and archaeological resources (IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.8.1.2, modified]

COS-4.3 Historical Landmarks Preservation
The County shall require all structures and sites that are designated, or being considered for designation, as County Historical Landmarks to be preserved as a condition of discretionary development, in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior Standards, unless a structure is unsafe or deteriorated beyond repair. The property owner shall place an appropriate marker on the site to describe the historical significance of the structure, site or event. (RDR) [Source: Existing Oak Park Area Plan Policy 1.5.2.2, Ojai Valley Area Plan Policy 1.7.2.2, and Thousand Oaks Area Plan Policy 1.5.2.2, modified]

COS-4.4 Discretionary Development and Cultural, Historical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Resource Preservation
The County shall require discretionary development be assessed for potential cultural, historical, paleontological, and archaeological resources by a qualified professional and be designed to avoid impacts to these resources whenever to the maximum extent feasible. Unavoidable impacts, whenever possible shall be reduced to a less than significant level and/or shall be mitigated by extracting maximum recoverable data. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.8.2.1, GPP Policy 1.8.2.2, Ojai Valley Area Plan Goal 1.7.1.2 and Policy 1.7.2.1, Thousand Oaks Area Plan Goal 1.5.1.4 and Policy 1.5.2.1, Oak Park Area Plan Policy 1.5.2.1, and Piru Area Plan Policy 1.4.2.2, modified]

COS-4.5 Adaptive Reuse of Historic Structures
The County shall encourage discretionary development to adaptively reuse architecturally or historically significant buildings if the original use of the structure is no longer feasible and the new use is allowed by the underlying land use designation and zoning district. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

COS-4.6 Architectural Design to Reflect Historic and Cultural Traditions
The County shall encourage discretionary development to incorporate architectural designs and features that reflect the historical and cultural traditions characteristic to the area or community. (RDR) [Source: Existing Piru Area Plan Policy 1.4.2.3, modified]

COS-4.7 Cultural Heritage Board Review
Prior to environmental review of discretionary development, the County shall determine whether a site has potential archaeological, architectural or historical significance and provide this information to the County Cultural Heritage Board for evaluation and recommendation to the appropriate decision-making body. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.8.2.5]
6.5 Soil and Mineral Resources

Approximately 65 percent of the soil associations in the county have the capacity to produce varying amounts and types of agricultural commodities. Typically, gentler slopes can produce the largest crop variety including strawberries, irrigated vegetables, row crops, and citrus. The steeper the elevation, the more rooted the crops must be, which tends to favor tree nuts, avocados, and citrus crops. The remaining 35 percent of soil associations in the county either cannot support agricultural production due to slope, soil composition, access to water, elevation, or the capacity for production is minimal.

Mineral Resources are defined as naturally occurring inorganic materials in the earth’s crust that are of economic value and can be extracted. Mineral resources in Ventura County consist primarily of aggregate resources, more commonly known as construction grade sand, gravel, and stone. Other mineral resources within the County include clay, shale, gypsum, silica sand, limestone, and phosphate.

To preserve and protect soil resources in the county from erosion and for agricultural productivity. [Source: New Goal]

COS-5.1 Soil Protection
The County shall strive to protect soil resources from erosion, contamination, and other effects that substantially reduce their value or lead to the creation of hazards. (RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy]

COS-5.2 Erosion Control
The County shall encourage the planting of vegetation on soils exposed by grading activities, not related to agricultural production, to decrease soil erosion. (RDR, PSR) [Source: New Policy]

COS-5.3 Soil Productivity
The County shall encourage landowners to participate in voluntary programs that reduce soil erosion and increase soil productivity. To this end, the County shall promote coordination between the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ventura County Resource Conservation District, University of California Cooperative Extension, and other similar agencies and organizations. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

To manage mineral resources in a manner that identifies economically significant mineral deposits and plans for and protects access to, extraction, and long-term conservation of mineral resources for existing and future generations. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.4.1.1 and GPP Goal 1.4.1.2, modified]

COS-6.1 Balanced Mineral Resource Production and Conservation
The County shall balance the development and conservation of mineral resources with economic, health, safety, and social and environmental protection values. (MPSP, IGC, RDR) [Source: New Policy]
6. Conservation and Open Space Element

**COS-6.2 Significant Mineral Resource Deposits**
The County shall maintain maps of mineral resources deposits as identified by the California State Geologist as having regional or statewide significance and any additional deposits as may be identified by the County. The County shall provide notice to landowners and the general public on the location of significant mineral resource deposits. (MPSP, PI) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.4.1.2, modified]

**COS-6.3 Mineral Extraction Location Priority**
The County shall promote the extraction of mineral resources locally to minimize economic costs and environmental effects associated with transporting these resources. (IGC, JP) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.4.1.3, modified]

**COS-6.4 Mineral Resource Area Protection**
Discretionary development within Mineral Resource Zones identified by the California Division of Mines and Geology shall be subject to the Mineral Resource Protection (MRP) Overlay Zone and is prohibited if the use will significantly hamper or preclude access to or the extraction of mineral resources. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.4.2.8, modified]

**COS-6.5 Mineral Resource Land Use Compatibility**
The County shall ensure that discretionary development is compatible with mineral resources extraction and processing if the development is to be located in areas identified on the Mineral Resource Zone Maps prepared by the California Geological Survey or in County identified mineral resource areas. The County shall:

1. Require an evaluation to ascertain the significance of the mineral resources deposit located in the area of a discretionary development and to determine if the use would significantly hamper or preclude access to or the extraction of mineral resources.

2. Require discretionary development proposed to be located adjacent to existing mining operations to provide a buffer between the development and mining operations to minimize land use incompatibility and avoid nuisance complaints.

3. Establish a buffer distance based on an evaluation of noise, community character, compatibility, scenic resources, drainage, operating conditions, biological resources, topography, lighting, traffic, operating hours, and air quality.

(RDR) [Source: New Policy]

**COS-6.6 In-River Mining**
The County shall require discretionary development for in-river mining to incorporate all feasible measures to mitigate water, biological resource, flooding, and erosion impacts. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.4.2.3, modified]
6.6  Oil and Gas Resources

Oil and gas are major energy resources in Ventura County. There are currently (2018) 57 oil companies operating in Ventura County under the authority of 135 conditional use permits granted by the County to authorize oil and gas activities. Oil and gas are produced in Ventura County using both traditional and enhanced recovery techniques. While there is significant oil and gas production in Ventura County, no new offshore oil and gas development is anticipated in the county or nearby Federal waters because of regulation and opposition from the California State Lands Commission.

### COS-7 To effectively and safely manage the exploration, production, and drilling of oil and gas resources in Ventura County. [Source: New Goal]

#### COS-7.1 Minimum Site Area
The County shall only approve discretionary development for oil and gas development if the area of ground disturbance constitutes the minimum necessary to accomplish the project objectives. (RDR) [Source: Existing El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan Policy 1.3.2.4 and Ojai Valley Area Plan Policy 1.3.2.8, modified]

#### COS-7.2 Oil Well Distance Criteria
The County shall require new discretionary oil wells to be located a minimum of 1,500 feet from residential dwellings and 2,500 from any school. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

#### COS-7.3 Compliance with Current Policies, Standards, and Conditions
The County shall require new or modified discretionary development permits for oil and gas exploration, production, drilling, and related operations be subject to current State and County policies, standards, and conditions. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.4.2.5, and Ojai Valley Area Plan Policy 1.3.2.9, modified]

#### COS-7.4 Electrically-Powered Equipment for Oil and Gas Exploration and Production
The County shall require discretionary development for oil and gas exploration and production to use electrically-powered equipment from 100 percent renewable sources and cogeneration, where feasible, to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from internal combustion engines and equipment. (RDR) [Source: Existing Ojai Valley Area Plan Policy 1.3.2.3 and Piru Area Plan Policy 1.2.2.3, modified]

#### COS-7.5 Restoration and Revegetation of Sites Used for Oil and Gas Exploration, Extraction, and Production
The County shall require that discretionary development for oil and gas exploration activities be conditioned to require the restoration and revegetation of the site if the exploration does not result in oil and gas production facilities. (RDR) [Source: Ojai Valley Area Plan Policy 1.3.2.5, modified]

#### COS-7.6 Abandoned Oil and Gas Well Identification
The County shall evaluate discretionary development to identify any abandoned oil and gas wells on the project site. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Program 1.4.3.2, modified]

#### COS-7.7 Conveyance for Oil and Produced Water
The County shall require new discretionary oil wells to use pipelines to convey oil and produced water; oil and produced water shall not be trucked. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]
6. Conservation and Open Space Element

COS-7.8 Gas Collection, Use, and Disposal
The County shall require that gases emitted from all new discretionary oil and gas wells shall be collected and used or removed for sale or proper disposal. Flaring or venting shall only be allowed in cases of emergency or for testing purposes. (RDR) [Source: Existing Ojai Valley Policy 1.3.2.2, modified]

6.7 Energy Resource Conservation

Energy resources are important natural resources that support the expansion of the region’s economic base, its agricultural sector, and infrastructure capacity. As traditional sources of energy are depleted, there is a need to reduce energy consumption and develop alternate methods of power generation. California has made it a priority over the past decade to reduce energy demand through energy conservation and efficiency. As such, there has been an increasing investment in a range of energy efficiency and conservation programs. In line with statewide requirements and best practices, this section focuses on promoting energy conservation and supporting a diversity of energy resource development in the county.

Additional policies related to climate change monitoring and adaptation are in Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element.

COS-8 To minimize energy consumption and increase the use of renewable energy. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.9.1.1 and GPP Goal 1.9.1.2, modified]

COS-8.1 Reduce Reliance on Fossil Fuels
The County shall promote the development and use of renewable energy resources (e.g., solar, thermal, wind, tidal, bioenergy, hydroelectricity) to reduce dependency on petroleum-based energy sources. (IGC, RDR) [Source: New Policy]

COS-8.2 Incentives for Energy Efficiency
The County shall encourage the State and energy utility companies to provide programs, rebates, and incentives for energy efficiency installation and retrofit projects. (IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.9.1.3, modified]

COS-8.3 Coordinate Climate Action Plan with Cities and Organizations
The County shall facilitate the coordination of its Climate Action Plan implementation and maintenance with the cities in the county, the Air Pollution Control District, and other organizations to promote countywide collaboration on addressing climate change. (SO, IGC) [Source: New Policy]

COS-8.4 Clean Power Alliance
The County, as a signatory to a legal entity created under a Joint Powers Authority with neighboring communities, shall continue to serve as an active member of the Clean Power Alliance or similar organization providing local customer access to electricity generated from low carbon renewable energy sources in excess of State requirements. (SO, IGC) [Source: New Policy]
COS-8.5  **Decarbonize Communitywide Electricity Supplies**
The County shall work with utility providers to offer residents options to purchase and use renewable energy resources. (SO, IGC, JP) [Source: New Policy]

COS-8.6  **Zero Net Energy and Zero Net Carbon Buildings**
The County shall support the transition to zero net energy and zero net carbon buildings, including electrification of new buildings. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

COS-8.7  **Sustainable Building Practices**
The County shall promote sustainable building practices that incorporate a “whole systems” approach for design and construction that consumes less energy, water, and other non-renewable resources, such as by facilitating passive ventilation and effective use of daylight. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

COS-8.8  **Renewable Energy Features in Discretionary Development**
The County shall encourage the integration of features that support the generation, transmission, efficient use, and storage of renewable energy sources in discretionary development (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.9.1.2, modified]

COS-8.9  **Urban Tree Canopy Improvements for Energy Conservation**
The County shall encourage discretionary development to include the planting of shade trees on each property and within parking areas to reduce radiation heat production. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

COS-8.10  **Battery Energy Storage Systems**
The County shall encourage battery energy storage systems as an option for optimizing the management of electricity generated by renewable resources. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

COS-8.11  **Energy Conservation in Area Plan Land Use Policies**
Land use policies in area plans should be developed to promote energy conservation and should include the following:

1. The pattern of residential, commercial and industrial land use should be compact, relate to transit routes and centers and minimize vehicular travel.

2. The infill of vacant lots should be encouraged over step-out developments

(RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.9.2.2]

### 6.8 Open Space

There are approximately 640,000 acres of open space in Ventura County that are managed by federal, state, county, special district, local, and non-profit agencies and organizations. A portion of these open spaces are accessible to the public and offer a variety of recreational opportunities in different settings.

The United States Forest Service (USFS) manages 87 percent, or 561,000 acres, of open space lands in Ventura County, which makes up almost all of north Ventura County. However, access to USFS lands is limited in part due to the wildlife conservation areas for the California condor and the existence of private lands near the southern forest boundary, which often do not have easements for public access. Non-USFS lands in Ventura County (other
federal, state, and local lands) totaling approximately 79,000 acres, are mostly clustered near Ventura County’s southeastern border.

Although Ventura County residents have a wide array of open space and recreational opportunities, distance to open space, and access, varies substantially throughout the county. Thus, some Ventura County residents do not have access to open space/park resources within walking distance, or a half mile of their residence.

To develop and maintain a comprehensive system of parks, recreation, and natural open space lands that meet the active and passive recreation and open space needs of Ventura County residents and visitors. [Source: New Goal]

COS-9

COS-9.1 Open Space Preservation

The County shall preserve natural open space resources through:

- the concentration of development in Urban Areas andExisting Communities;
- use of cluster or compact development techniques in discretionary development adjacent to natural open space resources;
- maintaining large lot sizes in agricultural areas, rural and open space areas;
- discouraging conversion of lands currently used for agricultural production or grazing;
- limiting development in areas constrained by natural hazards; and
- encouraging agricultural and ranching interests to maintain natural habitat in open space areas where the terrain or soil is not conducive to agricultural production or grazing.

(RDR) [Source: New Policy]

COS-9.2 Public Open Space

The County shall explore possible resources for public acquisition of permanent open space for public use. (IGC, JP) [Source: New Policy]

COS-9.3 Open Space Preservation

The County shall place a high priority on preserving open space lands for recreation, habitat protection, wildlife movement, flood hazard management, public safety, water resource protection, and overall community benefit. (PSP) [Source: New Policy]
Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction

Climate change is a global problem caused by the cumulative warming effects of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Governments at all levels, non-governmental agencies, and private citizens and businesses are now acting to mitigate GHG emissions as quickly as possible to reduce or avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change.

This section contains policy components of the County’s approach to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and is a key part of the County’s overall Climate Action Plan (CAP). As noted in the General Plan introduction, the County developed an integrated approach to addressing climate change in the General Plan by incorporating policies and programs that address climate change throughout the General Plan elements. These policy components are designated with the CAP icon next to applicable CAP policies. As such, the General Plan will serve as the County’s CAP.

Details on the purpose of the CAP, details regarding the General Plan’s integrated climate action strategy, and a summary of results of key technical analyses used to develop the CAP strategy are contained in Appendix B. Section B.1 of this Appendix includes the components of the County’s GHG emissions reduction strategy, while Section B.2 of this Appendix documents the County’s vulnerability to climate change and Climate Adaptation strategy.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Strategy

The current inventory of GHG emissions is organized by the following seven sectors, presented in decreasing order by level of contribution. Information on the detailed activity data, assumptions, and calculations used to develop the County’s GHG inventory are included in Attachment 1 to Appendix B.

- Transportation
- Building Energy
- Solid Waste
- Stationary Sources
- Agriculture
- Water and Wastewater
- Off-Road Equipment

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Strategy

In accordance with the requirements of SB 379 (2015), codified in Government Code section 65302(g)(4), climate change adaptation and resilience must be addressed in the safety element of all general plans in California. Appendix B contains a section that summarizes the County’s vulnerability assessment and a list of all CAP policies within the General Plan. Chapter 12, “Climate Change,” of the General Plan Background Report, released in January of 2018, summarizes the County’s vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change over the coming century. The key findings of Chapter 12 of the General Plan Background Report include:

- a rise of three to six degrees Fahrenheit (°F) by 2090 in the County;
- coastal erosion of up to 1.36 meters (4.46 feet) by 2100 due to sea-level rise;
more frequent flooding events and more extensive and longer duration of flooding;

- elevated groundwater levels and salinity intrusion due to sea-level rise;

- the exposure of approximately 23,300 people countywide to inundation from a 100-year flood event combined with a 1.4-meter (4.6-foot) rise in sea level, many of whom are low income or especially vulnerable;

- the exposure of approximately 170 miles of roads and railways, hospitals, schools, emergency facilities, wastewater treatment plants, three power plants, and a naval base from a 100-year flood event combined with a 1.4-meter (4.6-foot) rise in sea level;

- habitat fragmentation due to changes in precipitation, increased temperatures, and rising sea levels;

- an increase of up to 79 extreme heat days per year by 2099; and

- a 15 percent increase countywide in the potential amount of area burned by wildfire between 2020 and 2085 as compared to historical trends.

This background information is further summarized in Appendix Section B.2.1, along with the specific goals, policies and implementation programs contained in the General Plan elements that address climate vulnerability and adaptation.

**COS-10**

To improve the long-term sustainability of the community through local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. [Source: New Goal]

**COS-10.1 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Strategy**

The County shall maintain and refer to the General Plan and its integrated greenhouse gas (GHG) Reduction Strategy as the County’s comprehensive plan for reducing community-wide GHG emissions in the unincorporated County. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

**COS-10.2 Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Target for 2030**

The County shall achieve a community-wide GHG emissions reduction target of 41 percent below 2015 levels by 2030. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

**COS-10.3 Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goals for 2040 and 2050**

The County shall work towards achieving longer-term, post-2030 community-wide GHG emissions reduction goals, as follows:

- 61 percent below 2015 levels by 2040, and
- 80 percent below 2015 levels by 2050.

(RDR) [Source: New Policy]
**COS-10.4 Greenhouse Gas Reductions in Existing and New Development**

The County shall reduce GHG emissions in both existing and new development through a combination of measures included in the GHG Strategy, which includes new and modified regulations, financing and incentive-based programs, community outreach and education programs, partnerships with local or regional agencies, and other related actions. (RDR)  
(Source: New Policy)

### 6.10 Implementation Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Implements Which Policy(ies)</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Supporting Department(s)</th>
<th>2020 – 2025</th>
<th>2026 – 2030</th>
<th>2031 – 2040</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Standards for Compact Development</td>
<td>COS-1.1 COS-1.2</td>
<td>RMA</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>B Update Initial Study Assessment Guidelines</td>
<td>COS-1.1 COS-1.2 COS-1.6 COS-1.10 COS-1.11</td>
<td>RMA</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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replacement plan to describe and implement such compensatory mitigation shall be developed in consultation with all agencies that have jurisdiction over the resource.” [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.5.2.4, modified]

**C Update Tree Protection Ordinance**
The County shall update existing Tree Protection Regulations in the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance to further enhance conservation of our urban forests and the preservation of the County’s oak woodland resources. Updates shall include incorporation of Board-adopted recommendations from the Ventura County Oak Woodlands Management Plan (2007), which include tree replacement offsets for ministerial development projects that remove protected trees, revisiting mitigation ratios for tree removal and oak woodland impacts for discretionary development projects. The update shall also evaluate existing protections for invasive, non-native trees and consider the degree to which they provide habitat for a species during critical life stages (e.g., colonial roost sites, breeding sites, etc.). In addition, the evaluation shall also include anticipated effects of climate change on the urban forest environment [Source: New Program]

**D Research Feasibility of Updating Vegetation Maps**
In partnership with other natural resource agencies and organizations, the County shall explore the feasibility of updating vegetation maps for unincorporated areas to facilitate the accurate analysis of potential impacts of development on vegetation communities and other sensitive biological resources. If necessary, the
Public Review Draft Policy Document

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Country shall develop or modify regulations and development standards to ensure adequate protections for vegetation communities. [Source: New Program]</td>
<td>COS-1.1, COS-1.6, COS-1.10, COS-1.11</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>E</strong> Update Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance Standards for Vegetation Communities</td>
<td>Based on the results of Implementation Program COS-D, (updated vegetation mapping), the County shall develop or modify regulations and development standards to ensure adequate protections for vegetation mapping, if necessary.</td>
<td>COS-1.1, COS-1.6, COS-1.10, COS-1.11</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<td><strong>F</strong> Evaluate Increase to Standard Setback from Wetland</td>
<td>The County shall evaluate whether a standards 200-foot setback from wetlands should apply to development in order to improve water quality, reduce the impacts of flooding and provide adequate protection for sensitive biological resources [Source: New Program]</td>
<td>COS-1.1, COS-1.2, COS-1.10, COS-1.11</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<td><strong>G</strong> Identification of Critical Habitats</td>
<td>The County shall continue to partner with state and federal agencies to identify those areas of the County that are considered to be critical habitats of endangered, threatened or rare species as well as for other significant biological resources. [Source: Existing GPP Program 1.5.3.1, modified]</td>
<td>COS-1.9, COS-1.10, COS-1.11</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<td><strong>H</strong> County Tree Planting Program</td>
<td>The County shall plant at least one thousand trees annually. [Source: New Program]</td>
<td>COS-1.15</td>
<td>CEO, GSA, RMA</td>
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### Programs

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<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Implements Which Policy(ies)</th>
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<th>Supporting Department(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Grants for Climate Change Adaptation Activities</td>
<td>COS-2.1 COS-2.2</td>
<td>PWA</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>The County shall apply for grants through the California Coastal Commission and other organizations for beach nourishment, dune restoration, and other adaptation activities to improve the resilience of county beaches to sea-level rise and coastal flooding.</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td>J</td>
<td>Scenic Highway Designations</td>
<td>COS-3.1</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<td>The County shall seek official State Scenic Highway designations for County designated Scenic Highways.</td>
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<td>K</td>
<td>Preservation Guidelines for Significant Cultural, Historical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Resources</td>
<td>COS-4.1 COS-4.2 COS-4.3 COS-4.4</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The County shall prepare, and regularly update, specific guidelines for the preservation of significant cultural, historical, paleontological, and archaeological resources.</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td>L</td>
<td>Oil and Gas Well Stimulation Treatment</td>
<td>COS-7.4</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The County shall require discretionary projects that include fracking, well stimulation treatment, cyclic steaming, and/or steam flooding be evaluated for potential effects on ground water contamination, exacerbation of seismic activity, water use, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and other impacts.</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Oil and Gas Tax</td>
<td>COS-8.1</td>
<td>CEO</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The County shall evaluate the feasibility of establishing a local tax on new oil and gas operations located in the unincorporated county.</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Sustainable Building, Siting, and Landscaping Practice Guidelines</td>
<td>COS-8.7 COS-8.8</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The County shall prepare sustainable building, siting, and landscaping practice guidelines that promote a whole systems approach to building designs and construction techniques that reduce consumption of non-renewable resources such as oil, gas and water and promote renewable energy use.</td>
<td>GSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>Assessment of Land Near Electrical Transmission and Distribution Lines</td>
<td>COS-8.1 COS-8.5</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The County shall conduct a study and prepare a publicly available assessment of suitable undeveloped lands near electrical transmission and distribution lines that serve as priority areas for the development of utility-scale solar energy generation and storage projects. If suitable locations are identified, the County shall establish a new zone, called a Renewable Energy Priority Zone, for these sites in the County’s Coastal and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinances.</td>
<td>REA</td>
<td>C</td>
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</table>
# 6. Conservation and Open Space Element

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<th>Ongoing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>P</strong> Study to Demonstrate Energy and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Savings</td>
<td>COS-8.1 COS-8.6</td>
<td>CEO RMA REA</td>
<td>☑️</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall conduct a study that demonstrates the energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) savings of the options identified in Implementation Program COS-L using modeled building prototypes. To satisfy state regulatory requirements for Energy Reach Code adoption, the study shall also demonstrate long-term cost savings of the options through a life-cycle cost analysis that considers the initial costs of efficiency improvements offset by utility bill cost savings and other relevant factors. [Source: New Program]</td>
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</table>

| **Q** Incentives for Development in the Renewable Energy Priority Zone | COS-8.5 | CEO RMA REA | ☑️ | | | | |
| To incentivize the development of the Renewable Energy Priority Zone sites, the County shall consider waiving permit fees and providing a reduction on the annual property tax assessment for the portion of land used for renewable energy generation or storage. [Source: New Program] |

| **R** Performance-Based Building Code for Green Building | COS-8.6 COS-8.7 COS-8.8 | RMA REA | ☑️ | | | | |
| The County shall update the Building Code to establish performance-based standards that incentivize green building techniques. [Source: New Program] |

| **S** Building Code Update | COS-8.6 COS-8.7 | RMA REA | ☑️ | | | | |
| The County shall update the Building Code to include a mandatory Energy Reach Code. [Source: New Program] |
Energy Consumption Performance

The County shall continue to review its energy consumption performance and implement programs designed to increase energy efficiency in County-owned buildings, including, but not limited to:

- reduced operating hours for heating, ventilating and lighting systems,
- installation of weather stripping on all openable doors and windows,
- development of energy audit and energy management programs,
- implementation of operation and maintenance programs which contribute to energy conservation,
- develop energy audits and energy management programs for all County-owned facilities,
- develop a plan to re-invest utility company rebates and utility savings into a long-range funding program for on-going conservation projects,
- implement operational and maintenance programs which contribute to energy conservation,
- investigate and implement new energy technologies such as solar and fuel cells,
- install energy management systems in all County-owned facilities to control air conditioning and lighting systems where beneficial,
- install ceiling, wall, and roof insulation whenever feasible,
- install plumbing flow restrictors in toilets, lavatories and showers, and
- provide energy conservation training and literature to all County agencies.

[Source: Existing GPP Program 1.9.3.1, modified]
### Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U Solar Canopies in Non-Residential Projects</td>
<td>COS-8.8, COS-8-9</td>
<td>RMA, PWA</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<td>V Improve Energy Conservation Awareness</td>
<td>COS-8.1, COS-8.6, COS-8.7</td>
<td>CEO, REA</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<tr>
<td>W Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program</td>
<td>COS-Goal 8</td>
<td>CEO, REA</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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</table>

**U Solar Canopies in Non-Residential Projects**
The County shall amend the County’s Coastal and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinances to require parking lots for new non-residential construction projects, with floor area of greater than 50,000 square feet, to include solar canopies. *[Source: New Program]*

**V Improve Energy Conservation Awareness**
The County shall encourage community members to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase awareness about energy efficiency and climate change and adaptation, to conduct targeted outreach to homeowners and contractors to encourage installation of electric appliances upon routine replacement of natural gas appliances and heaters and provide information regarding financial incentives. *[Source: New Program]*

**W Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program**
The County shall develop a behavior change program for energy efficiency and conservation. This program would provide energy literacy training for low-income customers on buying energy-efficient products or using energy more efficiently; develop and offer digital applications offering real-time energy use information to residents and businesses; offer anonymized data on community energy use for residents to compare performance; and provide rewards or rebates for improved energy conservation. *[Source: New Program]*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Implementation</td>
<td>See all policies and programs tagged with a <a href="#">CAP</a> symbol in General Plan</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Varies (see descriptions for individual components or GHG reduction measures)</td>
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<td>Y Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Monitoring</td>
<td>COS-10.1, COS-10.2, COS-10.3, COS-10.4</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<td>PWA, GSA, AGC, FD</td>
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</table>
### 6. Conservation and Open Space Element

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Z</strong> Public Reporting on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Progress</td>
<td>COS-10.1, COS-10.2, COS-10.3, COS-10.4</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall prepare public reports on the results of GHG Strategy implementation and monitoring and present these reports to the Board of Supervisors. The first report shall be submitted to the Board of Supervisors two years after the approval of the General Plan, after which the Board of Supervisors will determine the appropriate future reporting interval. The County shall also present a more detailed progress report to the Board of Supervisors, including results of the latest GHG inventory update, every five years.</td>
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<td>CEO</td>
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</table>

**Source:** New Program

| AA Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Updates | COS-10.1, COS-10.2, COS-10.3, COS-10.4 | RMA | | | | | |
| The County shall update the County’s GHG emissions inventory at least every five years. | | CEO | | | | | |

**Source:** New Program

| BB Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Amendments | COS-10.1, COS-10.2, COS-10.3, COS-10.4 | RMA | | | | | |
| The County may amend the GHG Strategy to ensure that the County is on track to achieve its 2030 target and making substantial progress towards achieving its longer-term, post-2030 goals. | | CEO | | | | | |

**Source:** New Program

| CC Climate Emergency Council | See all policies and programs tagged with a CAP symbol in General Plan | CEO | | | | | |
| The County shall establish a Climate Emergency Council to advise the Board of Supervisors on climate action planning and implementation of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) goals, policies, and programs. | | RMA | | | | | |

**Source:** New Program

See all policies and programs tagged with a CAP symbol in General Plan.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Implements Which Policy(ies)</th>
<th>Responsible Supporting Department(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DD</strong> Budget and Staffing Plan for CAP</td>
<td>COS-10.1, COS-10.2, COS-10.3, COS-10.4</td>
<td>CEO</td>
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<td>Implementation</td>
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<td>The CEO shall, within six months from the</td>
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<td>adoption of the General Plan Update and</td>
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<td>Climate Action Plan, present to the Board</td>
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<td>of Supervisors a proposed budget and staffing</td>
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<td>plan (including qualified technical</td>
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<td>consultants) to implement the Climate</td>
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<td>Action Plan, and shall update the budget</td>
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<td>and staffing plan each year. [Source: New</td>
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| **EE** Streamlining Greenhouse Gas (GHG)    | COS-10.1, COS-10.2, COS-10.3, COS-10.4 | RMA                                |             |             |             |        |         |
| Analysis for Projects Consistent with the   |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| General Plan                                |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| Projects subject to environmental review     |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| under CEQA may be eligible for tiering and   |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| streamlining the analysis of GHG emissions,  |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5,|                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| provided they incorporate applicable GHG    |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| reduction measures included in the GHG      |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| Strategy contained in the General Plan and   |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| Program EIR. The County shall review such   |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| projects to determine whether the following  |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| criteria are met:                            |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| - Proposed project is consistent with       |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| the current General Plan land use           |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| designation and applicable zoning           |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| designations for the project site;          |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| - Proposed project incorporates all          |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| applicable GHG reduction measures            |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| (as documented in Appendix B to the General |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| Plan and analyzed in the GHG Section of the |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| Program EIR) into project design and/or as  |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| binding and enforceable mitigation measures  |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| in the project-specific CEQA document       |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |
| prepared for the project; and,              |                              |                                     |             |             |             |        |         |

Varies (see descriptions for individual components or GHG reduction measures)
### Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed project clearly demonstrates the method, timing and process for which the project will comply with applicable GHG reduction measures and/or conditions of approval.</th>
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</table>

The County may develop more specific tiering and streamlining tools or procedures, such as a consistency review checklist, or more detailed guidance for determining consistency with the GHG Strategy.

Similarly, the County may incorporate appropriate elements of such guidance and procedures into the County’s Initial Study Assessment Guidelines (ISAGs).

[Source: New Program]
Please see the next page.
Hazard and Safety Element
Please see the next page.
Ventura County is in a region that is prone to a variety of natural disasters, including wildfires, coastal flooding and flood hazards, and debris flows. Flood, wildfire, and sea level rise events associated with climate change are likely to increase in frequency and severity in the region. In addition to natural hazards, Ventura County also has a number of transportation facilities and military installations that increase risks for human-induced hazards, such as aircraft accidents, hazardous material spills, and exposure to excessive noise. While it is impossible to completely avoid natural and human-induced hazards, this Element establishes goals and policies to protect life, minimize property damage, and maintain or restore services during future disasters and emergencies. This policy framework will help to reduce hazards and ensure public safety in Ventura County.

This Element, along with other Elements in the General Plan, includes policies and programs that will help the County adapt to climate change impacts and increase the County’s resilience. A detailed discussion of the County’s vulnerability to climate change, along with a summary of which policies and programs in various Elements are part of the County’s adaptation strategy in response to such effects, is included in Appendix B, Climate Change.

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

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<td>7.2</td>
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<td>Coastal Flooding</td>
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<td>Geologic and Seismic Hazards</td>
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<td>Hazardous Materials</td>
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<td>7.6</td>
<td>Transportation Related Hazards</td>
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<td>Oil and Gas Production and Transportation Incidents</td>
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<td>Noise</td>
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<td>Air Quality</td>
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<td>7.11</td>
<td>Increasing Temperatures</td>
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<td>7.12</td>
<td>Emergency Response</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.13</td>
<td>Implementation Programs</td>
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</table>
The Hazards and Safety Element includes a series of diagrams (i.e., maps) to depict applicable hazard areas described in the policies. These are as follows:

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<td>Figure 7-1</td>
<td>Hazards Protection Map</td>
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<tr>
<td>Figure 7-2</td>
<td>Hazards Protection Map Southern Half</td>
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<tr>
<td>Figure 7-3</td>
<td>Fire Hazard Severity Zones</td>
<td>7-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 7-4</td>
<td>Fire Hazard Severity Zones Southern Half</td>
<td>7-9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 7.1 Wildfire Hazards

Portions of Ventura County are at very high risk for wildfire with high concentrations on the northern coast leading inland between Santa Paula and Ojai. Additional high fire Hazard Severity Zones, as designated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), occur along the southern coast and continue inland toward Simi Valley. Figures 7-3 and 7-4 show areas of significant fire hazards based on fuels, terrain, weather, and other relevant factors. The maps distinguish these Fire Hazard Severity Zones based on local or State responsibility. Local responsibility areas generally include cities, cultivated agriculture lands, and portions of the desert. Local responsibility area fire protection is typically provided by city fire departments, fire protection districts, counties, and by Cal FIRE under contract to the local government. State responsibility area is a legal term defining the area where the state has financial responsibility for wildfire protection. Incorporated cities and federal ownership are not included. The prevention and suppression of fires in all areas that are not state responsibility areas are primarily the responsibility of federal or local agencies. Additional fire hazard areas are identified on the Ventura County Fire Department Hazardous Fire Areas maps.

Given rising temperatures combined with changes in precipitation patterns, the county may continue to experience an increase in wildfire frequency and intensity as fuel loads become drier and more flammable. Wildfire also presents other health-related impacts associated with emissions of air pollutants during the combustion of organic fuels and other materials, such as particulates (soot and smoke), carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and other substances that can be widely dispersed through a region and degrade air quality. Exposure to these air pollutants can cause acute (short-term) and exacerbate chronic (long-term) respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, especially in vulnerable populations such as the elderly, children, and agricultural and outdoor workers.

Additionally, wildfire can cause direct and indirect damage to utilities and communication infrastructure, roads, and other public infrastructure. Direct exposure to fire can sever transmission lines, and heat and smoke can affect transmission capacity. Furthermore, fires can cause acute damage to soil structure and moisture retention thus increasing susceptibility to erosion or landslides. Following the Thomas Fire in December 2017, Santa Barbara County, which is located directly northwest of Ventura County, experienced powerful debris flows following a severe rain event. The level of precipitation coupled with the exposed landscape resulted in debris flows that caused the deaths of 22 people.

This section focuses on protecting against and preparing for potential wildfire hazards as well as restoration efforts for previously burned areas.

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Goals, policies, and implementation programs focusing on access and evacuation during a wildfire disaster are in Section 7.12, Emergency Response of this Element, and fire protection are in Chapter 5, Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element.
Figure 7-1: Hazards Protection Map

Map Date: April 08, 2019

- Ventura County Boundary
- Cities
- Major Roadways
- Major Waterways
- 100-Year Floodplain Areas
- Fault Zones
- Military Comatibility Area (MCA)
Figure 7-2: Hazards Protection Map Southern Half

Map Date: April 08, 2019

Legend:
- Ventura County Boundary
- Cities
- Major Roadways
- Major Waterways
- 100-Year Floodplain Areas
- Fault Zones
- Military Compatibility Area (MCA)
Please see the next page.
Figure 7-3: Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Map Date: September 03, 2019
Please see the next page.
Figure 7-4: Fire Hazard Severity Zones Southern Half

Map Date: September 03, 2019

- Ventura County Boundary
- Cities
- Major Roadways
- Major Waterways
- Water Bodies
- Local Responsibility Area (LRA) - Very High
- State Responsibility Area (SRA) - Very High
- State Responsibility Area (SRA) - High
- State Responsibility Area (SRA) - Moderate
Please see the next page.
To improve the resilience of the County to wildfire risk by locating, designing, and constructing development in a manner that minimizes the risk, and by providing effective fire prevention, suppression, and rescue services and facilities. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.8.1.1 and Goal 2.13.1.2, modified]

HAZ-1.1 Fire Prevention Design and Practices
The County shall continue to require development to incorporate design measures that enhance fire protection in areas of high fire risk. This shall include but is not limited to incorporation of fire-resistant structural design, use of fire-resistant landscaping, and fuel modification around the perimeter of structures. (RDR, PI) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.13.2.2]

HAZ-1.2 Defensible Space Clear Zones
The County shall require adherence to defensible space standards, or vegetation “clear zones,” for all existing and new structures in areas that are designated as Hazardous Fire Areas by the Ventura County Fire Protection District and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. (IGC, PI, RDR) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-1.3 Controlled Burns and Other Fire Prevention Measures
The County shall continue to recognize the role of fire in local ecosystems by supporting controlled burns and other fire prevention measures. (IGC) [Source: Existing Ojai Valley Area Plan Goal 1.4.1.3, Ojai Valley Area Plan Goal 2.3.1.3, Ojai Valley Area Plan Program 2.3.3.1, Piru Area Plan Goal 2.3.1.3, and Thousand Oaks Area Plan Goal 1.3.1.8]

HAZ-1.4 Development in High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and Hazardous Fire Areas
The County shall require the recordation of a Notice of Fire Hazard with the County Recorder for all new discretionary entitlements (including subdivisions and land use permits) within areas designated as Hazardous Fire Areas by the Ventura County Fire Department or High Fire Hazard Severity Zones by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE). (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-1.5 Discouragement of Home-Building in Very High Fire Severity Zones
The County should discourage the building of homes in Very High Fire Severity Zones. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-1.6 Wildfire Risk Education
The County shall continue to develop and distribute educational materials and conduct educational outreach activities informing the public about wildfire risk and protection strategies. (PSR, IGC, PI) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-1.7 Post-Fire Community and Natural Resource Recovery
The County shall assemble an interagency team as needed to maintain response plans and coordinate the management of resources following wildfire events. (PSR, IGC) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-1.8 Federal Fire Risk Management
The County should collaborate with the federal agencies to better manage fuel loads on federally-owned or managed lands. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]
7.2 Flood Hazards

A flood occurs when the existing channel of a stream, river, canyon, or other watercourse cannot contain excess water runoff from natural processes such as heavy or sustained rainfall events as well as human-induced incidents such as dam, pipe, or water tank failures that result in overflows onto adjacent lands. In coastal areas, flooding may also occur when large waves, high winds, or tides cause seawater to surge into areas that are above the normal high tide line.

Wildfires are a common occurrence in the hills and mountainous regions of Ventura County. By reducing or destroying vegetative cover and altering surface soil characteristics, fires often result in conditions that can significantly increase runoff and erosion during rainfall events. These conditions may also result in a debris flows (also referred to as mud flow) where a mixture of water-laden rock and sediment can funnel into stream channels and pose additional safety threats.

The focus of this section is to address all potential flood hazards by maintaining and improving the flood protection infrastructure, requiring all new developments provide adequate flood protection, and by continuing effective emergency response efforts in response to flooding events.

A goal and associated policies and implementation programs addressing flood control and drainage facilities are located in Chapter 5, Public Facilities and Services Element.

HAZ-2 To minimize the loss of life, injury, property damage, and economic and social dislocations resulting from flooding, dam failure, seismic-induced flooding, post-fire debris flow, tsunamis, or other water inundation hazard. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 2.10.1.1, modified]

HAZ-2.1 Principal Floodway Purpose
The County should limit land use in the regulatory floodway, as identified in the Ventura County Flood Plain Management Ordinance, limited to open space, agriculture, or passive to low intensity recreational uses, subject to the approval of the County Public Works Agency. The floodway’s principal use should be maintained for safely conveying floodwater away from people and property while protecting ecological functions of the river. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.10.2.1, modified]

HAZ-2.2 Best Available Flood Hazard Information
The County shall continue to use the best available flood hazard information from local, regional, State, and Federal agencies to inform decision-making on appropriate land uses, discretionary development, and infrastructure investments. (SO, MPSP, RDR) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-2.3 Incompatible Land Uses in Floodplains
The County shall prohibit incompatible land uses and limit discretionary development within floodplains. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 2.10.1.3 and Policy 2.10.2.1, modified]

HAZ-2.4 Low Impact Development Upstream of Military Installations
The County shall encourage discretionary development upstream of military installations to incorporate low impact designs that reduce the risk of flooding downstream. (RDR) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy BIO-1A, modified]
HAZ-2.5 Recordation of a Notice of Flood Hazard
The County shall require the recordation of a Notice of Flood Hazard with the County Recorder for all new discretionary entitlements (including subdivisions and land use permits) within areas subject to flooding as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on the latest available Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs). (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.10.2.2, modified]

HAZ-2.6 Recordation of a Notice of Dam Inundation Hazard
The County shall require the recordation of a Notice of Dam Inundation Hazard with the County Recorder for new discretionary entitlements (including subdivisions and land use permits) within areas subject to flooding from a dam breach as identified by the California Department of Water Resources Dam Inundation Maps. Evidence of a federally held flowage easement can be used as well. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-2.7 Tsunami Hazard Areas – Planning
The County shall strive to locate essential facilities, special occupancy structures and hazardous materials storage facilities outside of tsunami hazard areas. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.6.2]

HAZ-2.8 Natural Flood Protection Solutions
The County shall consider natural, or nature-based flood protection measures for discretionary development or County-initiated development, when feasible. (PSR, IGC) [Source: New Policy, OPR Sea-Level Rise Guidance]

7.3 Coastal Flooding
California’s coastline, which includes more than 2,000 miles of open coast and enclosed bays, is vulnerable to a range of natural hazards, including storms, extreme high tides, tsunamis, and rising sea levels related to climate change. Sea level rise will increase the threat of coastal flooding. Along the central and southern California coast, the sea has risen by more than 5.9 inches over the 20th Century. Climate change modeling, as reported in the Ocean Protection Council’s Sea Level Rise Guidance document (Natural Resources Agency, State of California, 2018), provides sea level rise guidance that projects up to 85.2 inches of increase by 2100.

Popular coastal recreational resources, critical transportation infrastructure, facilities associated with Naval Base Ventura County, as well as residential and commercial properties along the coast are vulnerable to five or more feet of sea level rise within Ventura County, particularly in conjunction with one hundred year storm events along the coast (one percent annual chance). Open space uses such as beaches, sand dunes, agriculture, and estuaries are also highly vulnerable. By the year 2040, prominent sea level models predict that beach widths will noticeably decrease. By 2100, narrow beaches on the north and south coasts of the County will disappear, and the expansive central coast beaches will be reduced by half.

Additionally, areas close to the ocean with high groundwater could become flooded as rising tides infiltrate through soils and pond in low-lying areas. Along coastal highways, increasing forces of erosion may expose and damage buried infrastructure and roadway structures. Groundwater quality is likely to degrade due to increased saltwater intrusion.

Sea level rise will also have an impact on Ventura County’s coastal ecosystems. Aquatic ecosystems located in creeks, streams, and estuaries along the coast, many containing a range of sensitive species of plants and animals, will need to adapt to changes in water quality from saltwater intrusion/incursion further upstream. The
beneficial services that coastal ecosystems provide, such as flood protection, water filtration, and support for fisheries will be threatened as rising sea levels expose beach, dune, estuarine, and freshwater habitats. Finally, natural resources, such as cobble, sand, and dunes that have been overlooked for coastal planning will be increasingly necessary to hold and maintain the County’s beaches for sea level rise adaptation.

For policies concerning coastal resources, see Chapter 6, Conservation and Open Space Element.

HAZ-3 To improve resilience to sea level rise and coastal flooding. [Source: New Goal]

HAZ-3.1 Sea Level Rise Planning and Adaptation
The County shall continue to actively plan for sea level rise by using the best available science to analyze critical vulnerabilities, identify measures to conserve coastal resources, minimize impacts on residents and businesses, maintain public services, and strengthen resiliency. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-3.2 County Infrastructure Projects and Sea Level Rise
County-initiated infrastructure projects sited along or seaward of Highway 101, such as bridges and levees, that will provide 100 years or more of service, shall be planned with the potential to be easily modified to accommodate 100-years of projected sea level rise in accordance with the H++ extreme risk aversion sea level rise scenario. (PSR, IGC) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-3.3 Sea Level Rise Educational Outreach
To the extent feasible, the County shall incorporate education elements into coastal adaptation projects to inform the public about the risks of sea level rise and options for adaptation. (RDR, SO, JP) [Source: New Policy]

7.4 Geologic and Seismic Hazards
Consistent with the 2015 Ventura County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, this section focuses on geologic and seismic hazards in Ventura County, which include the following areas of concern:

- Earthquake Faults
- Seismic Hazards -Liquefaction/Earthquake Induced Landslides
- Landslides
- Soil Erosion
- Expansive Soils
- Seiche
- Subsidence

It is important to note that there are several earthquake faults in the county that have a status of “Active” or “Potentially Active,” according to the California Geological Survey’s Regional Geologic Hazards and Mapping Program. Areas throughout the county are also susceptible to liquefaction, with the most vulnerable locations being along the Santa Clara River and the Oxnard Plain.
# 7. Hazards and Safety Element

**HAZ-4**

To minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, collapse of habitable structures, and economic and social dislocations resulting from geologic and seismic hazards. *(Source: Existing GPP Goal 2.2.1.1, 2.3.1.1, 2.4.1.1, 2.5.1.1, 2.7.1.1, and 2.8.1.1, modified)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>HAZ-4.1</strong></th>
<th>Discretionary Development in Earthquake Fault-Rupture Hazard Areas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EJ</strong></td>
<td>The County shall prohibit habitable discretionary development in Earthquake Fault-Rupture Hazard Zones unless a geologic investigation is performed and appropriate and sufficient safeguards, based on this investigation, are incorporated into the project design. <em>(RDR)</em> <em>(Source: Existing Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley Area Plan Policy 3.1.2.2, Oak Park Area Plan Policy 2.1.2.2, Ojai Valley Area Plan Policy 2.1.2.2, and Piru Area Plan Policy 2.1.2.2, modified)</em></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>HAZ-4.2</strong></th>
<th>Linear Project Intersection with Active Faults</th>
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<td>The County shall require that linear projects, including roads, streets, highways, utility conduits, water transmission facilities, and oil and gas pipelines, avoid intersecting active faults to the extent possible. When such locations are unavoidable, the project design shall include measures to minimize the effects of any fault movement. <em>(RDR)</em> <em>(Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.2.2.5, modified)</em></td>
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<th><strong>HAZ-4.3</strong></th>
<th>Structural Design</th>
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<td>The County shall require that all structures designed for human occupancy incorporate engineering measures to reduce the risk of and mitigate against collapse from ground shaking. <em>(RDR)</em> <em>(Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.3.2.1, modified)</em></td>
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<th><strong>HAZ-4.4</strong></th>
<th>Discretionary Development Below Rocky Outcrops</th>
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<td>The County shall require discretionary development below rocky outcrops to evaluate and mitigate potential rockfall hazards including but not limited to by avoiding placement of structures that could be impacted by rockfall hazards, rock removal, rock anchoring, walls, fence barriers, or other similar systems. <em>(RDR)</em> <em>(Source: Existing Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley Area Plan Policy 3.1.2.3, modified)</em></td>
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<th><strong>HAZ-4.5</strong></th>
<th>Soil Erosion and Pollution Prevention</th>
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<td></td>
<td>The County shall require discretionary development be designed to prevent soil erosion and downstream sedimentation and pollution. <em>(RDR)</em> <em>(Source: Existing Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley Area Plan Policy 2.4.2.1 and Piru Area Plan Goal 1.8.1.2, modified)</em></td>
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<th><strong>HAZ-4.6</strong></th>
<th>Vegetative Resource Protection</th>
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<td></td>
<td>The County shall require discretionary development to minimize the removal of vegetation to protect against soil erosion, rockslides, and landslides. <em>(SO)</em> <em>(Source: New Policy)</em></td>
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<th><strong>HAZ-4.7</strong></th>
<th>Temporary Revegetation on Graded Areas</th>
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<td>The County shall require, as necessary, the use of soil stabilization methods on graded areas to reduce the potential for erosion, particularly during the construction phase. <em>(RDR)</em> <em>(Source: Existing Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley Area Plan Policy 2.4.2.2 and 2.4.2.3, modified)</em></td>
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<th><strong>HAZ-4.8</strong></th>
<th>Seismic Hazards</th>
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<td>The County shall not allow development of habitable structures or hazardous materials storage facilities within areas prone to the effects of strong ground shaking, such as liquefaction, landslides, or other ground failures, unless a geotechnical engineering investigation is performed and appropriate and sufficient safeguards, based on this investigation, are incorporated into the project design. <em>(RDR)</em> <em>(Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.4.2.1)</em></td>
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HAZ-4.9 Slope Development
The County shall require geotechnical reports that demonstrate adequate slope stability and construction methods for building and road construction on slopes greater than 50 percent pursuant to the California Building Code Appendix J Section 108.6. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-4.10 Development in Landslide/Debris Flow Hazard Areas
The County shall not allow development in mapped landslide/debris flow hazard areas unless a geologic and geotechnical engineering investigation is performed and appropriate and sufficient safeguards, based on this investigation, are incorporated into the project design. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.7.2., modified]

HAZ-4.11 Alteration of Land in Landslide/Debris Flow Hazard Areas
The County shall not allow alteration of land in landslide/debris flow hazard areas, including concentration of water through drainage, irrigation or septic systems, removal of vegetative cover, and undercutting of the bases of slopes or other grading activity unless demonstrated by geologic, geotechnical, and civil engineering analysis that the project will not increase the landslide/debris flow hazard. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.7.2.2]

HAZ-4.12 Slope Drainage
Drainage plans that direct runoff and drainage away from slopes shall be required for construction in hillside areas. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.7.2.3]

HAZ-4.13 Design for Expansive Soils
The County shall not allow habitable structures or individual sewage disposal systems to be placed on or in expansive soils unless suitable and appropriate safeguards are incorporated into the project design to prevent adverse effects. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.8.2.3, modified]

HAZ-4.14 Development in Seiche Hazard Areas
The County shall not allow development in potential seiche hazard areas unless a geotechnical engineering investigation is performed and appropriate and sufficient safeguards, based on this investigation, are incorporated into the project design. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.5.2.2, modified]

HAZ-4.15 Subsidence Hazard – Extraction Wells
The County shall require that potential ground surface subsidence be evaluated prior to approval of new oil, gas, water or other extraction well drilling permits and appropriate and sufficient safeguards are incorporated into the project design and facility operation. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.9.2.1, modified]

HAZ-4.16 Subsidence and Hydroconsolidation Hazard – Structural Design
Structural design of buildings and other structures shall recognize the potential for subsidence and hydroconsolidation and provide mitigation recommendations for structures that may be affected. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.9.2.2, modified]

HAZ-4.17 Earthquake Fault Hazard Zones
The County should, where feasible, require that land in Earthquake Fault Hazard Zones and potentially active fault areas be designated Open Space or Agriculture on the General Land Use Diagram. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.2.2.4, modified]
7. Hazards and Safety Element

HAZ-4.18 Preparation of Plans in Seiche Hazard Areas
The County shall consider Seiche Hazard Areas during the preparation of regional and area plans and special studies and be used to guide future investigations of the hazard. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.5.2.1, modified]

7.5 Hazardous Materials

This section addresses hazardous materials, which include any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant existing or potential hazard. Hazardous materials include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material that is potentially injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released or encountered.

HAZ-5 To minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, serious illness, damage to property, and economic and social dislocations resulting from the use, transport, treatment and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 2.15.1.1, modified]

HAZ-5.1 Hazardous Materials and Waste Management
The County shall manage hazardous materials and wastes produced by County facilities and operations in such a way that waste reduction through alternative technology is the County’s first priority. When not possible, the County’s priorities will progress from recycling and reuse, then on-site treatment, and finally disposal as the last resort. (SO) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.15.2.1, modified]

HAZ-5.2 Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Facilities
The County shall require discretionary development involving facilities and operations which may potentially utilize, store, and/or generate hazardous materials and/or wastes be located in areas that would not expose the public to a significant risk of injury, loss of life, or property damage and would not disproportionally impact Designated Disadvantaged Communities. (SO) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.15.1.2, modified]

HAZ-5.3 Preventing Contamination of Natural Resources
The County shall strive to locate and control sources of hazardous materials to prevent contamination of air, water, soil, and other natural resources. (SO) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-5.4 Household Hazardous Waste
The County shall continue to develop and distribute educational materials and conduct educational outreach to inform the public about household hazardous waste and the proper disposal methods. (PI) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-5.5 Hazardous Waste Reduction at the Source
The County shall, as part of the discretionary review process, require that hazardous wastes and hazardous materials be managed in such a way that waste reduction through alternative technology is the first priority, followed by recycling and on-site treatment, with disposal as the last resort. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.15.1.1, modified]
HAZ-5.6 Hazardous Materials – County Regulatory Oversight
The County shall continue to provide regulatory oversight for all facilities or activities that store, use, or handle hazardous materials. (SO) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.15.2.3, modified]

HAZ-5.7 Presence of Hazardous Wastes
Applicants shall provide a statement indicating the presence of any hazardous wastes on a site, prior to discretionary development. The applicant must demonstrate that the waste site is properly closed, or will be closed, pursuant to all applicable state and federal laws, before the project is inaugurated. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.15.2.4, modified]

HAZ-5.8 Siting Criteria for Hazardous Waste Generators
The County shall require commercial or industrial uses which generate, store, or handle hazardous waste and/or hazardous materials to locate, operate, and maintain hazardous waste and/or hazardous materials in a manner that does not endanger public health and safety and is located based on objective criteria that do not disproportionately impact Designated Disadvantaged Communities. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.15.2.5, modified]

7.6 Transportation Related Hazards
Hazards associated with movement of goods and people or conveyance of hazardous materials have been grouped together and are addressed below. These include incidents related to aviation, vehicles, and railroad operations.

Policies concerning hazards related to oil and gas transportation can be found in Section 7.7, Oil and Gas Production and Transportation Incidents.

Although airplane crashes can occur anywhere, crashes that affect life and property on the ground occur most frequently in airport approach and departure zones. Residences, schools, and other buildings occupied by people that are located in such zones are subject to an ever-present risk from airplane accidents. Hazard zones have been identified for the four airports within the county: 1) Ventura County Airport at Oxnard; 2) Ventura County Airport at Camarillo; 3) Santa Paula Airport; and 4) Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu.

Ground-based transportation also poses risks associated with potential incidents. A major train derailment that occurs in a heavily populated area can result in loss of life and considerable property damage. Potential hazards could be overturned rail cars and direct impact into adjacent buildings. With similar results, a major truck incident that occurs in a heavily populated industrial area or residential area can also result in loss of life and property damage. In addition to more routine traffic incidents, more significant hazards could include spills or other leaks from overturned tank trailers.
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HAZ-6 To minimize the loss of life, injury, damage to structures, and economic and social dislocations resulting from hazards created by proximity to airports, railroads and truck routes. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 2.14.1.1]

HAZ-6.1 Airport Land Use Plan
The County shall regulate land use types, density, and intensity using guidance from the Ventura County Comprehensive Airport Land Use Plan, Point Mugu Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) study, State Aeronautics Act, and California Airport Land Use Planning Handbook guidelines. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-6.2 Airport Safety Zones
The County shall require density and allowed uses within the Airport Safety Zones to be as defined in the Ventura County Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan (ACLUP) and the current Point Mugu Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) study, as applicable to the project location. The County shall require any overrides of a determination of inconsistency with the ACLUP to be done in accordance with state law. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-6.3 Airspace Protection
The County shall use the current Ventura County Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan (ACLUP) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) airport design standards and Part 77 surfaces to keep the airspace surrounding each airport or airfield free of objects affecting navigable airspace where required by the FAA or shall limit the height of objects as required by the FAA. The County shall also ensure obstruction clearance is provided for all enroute and terminal (airport) instrument procedures as per the United States Standard for Terminal Instrument Procedures (TERPS) to avert modifications to any planned or published instrument approach or instrument departure procedures at the affected airport or airfield. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.14.2.2(2), modified]

HAZ-6.4 Private Airstrips and Agricultural Landing Fields
The County shall require private airstrips and agricultural landing fields be sited so as not to conflict with the flight paths of existing airports and outside of areas that would present significant hazard or an annoyance to existing or planned land uses. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.14.2.2(3), modified]

HAZ-6.5 Review by Ventura County Transportation Commission
The County shall require discretionary development within the Airport Safety Zones, as defined in the Ventura County Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan (ACLUP), shall be reviewed by the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) for consistency with the ACLUP. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.14.2.2(4), modified]

HAZ-6.6 Recordation of a Notice of Aviation Hazard
The County shall require the recordation of a Notice of Aviation Hazard with the County Recorder for new discretionary entitlements (including subdivisions and land use permits) within the Airport Safety Zones identified in the Ventura County Comprehensive Airport Land Use Plan. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-6.7 Risk Reduction for Railroad and Trucking Hazards
The County shall condition discretionary development to minimize, to the maximum extent practical through site design or setbacks, the risk for exposure to railroad and trucking hazards. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.14.2.3]
HAZ-6.8 Airport Safety Zones

the County shall designate land located within the Airport Safety Zones, as defined in the current Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan, as Agricultural or Open Space on the General Plan Land Use Diagram, and limit such land to the following uses:

- Agriculture and agricultural operations;
- Cemeteries;
- Energy production from renewable resources;
- Mineral resource development;
- Public utility facilities;
- Temporary storage of building materials;
- Waste treatment and disposal; or
- Water production and distribution facilities.

(RDR, MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.14.2.2(1), modified]

7.7 Oil and Gas Production and Transportation Incidents

The potential exists for offshore oil accidents and spills in Ventura County involving petroleum products due to oil and gas development, transportation of liquid bulk products by tanker, and other vessel traffic carrying petroleum products for fuel. An offshore spill can result in oil-contaminated beaches. The major potential sources of offshore spills are separated into the following categories:

- **Oil Platform Production.** There are four platforms in federal waters offshore Ventura County. They are Chevron's Platforms Grace and Gail and Unocal's Platforms Gina and Gilda. There are no platforms in state waters (i.e., within three miles of shore). Rincon Island contains 68 inactive well ports is being decommissioned. There are additional platforms in state and federal waters offshore Santa Barbara County. The probability of an oil spill from a platform is small but possible. As a result of the Santa Barbara Oil well blowout in 1969, operating and safety requirements were substantially strengthened. During drilling, all offshore wells are equipped with redundant blowout protectors that can be closed hydraulically from a remote-control station in the event of a blowout.

- **Vessel Traffic.** The number of liquid bulk carriers presently transiting the Santa Barbara Channel is estimated to be between one and three per day. The Alaskan tankers may each carry as much as 1.5 million barrels of oil although the average is about 675,000 barrels. The other tankers are much smaller carrying 100,000 to 300,000 barrels. Although the probability of a tanker spill is low, it is possible. Potential causes of spills include collisions, rammings, groundings, and structural failures. The other commercial vessels transiting the channel carry fuel (bunkers), which can be released in the event of an accident.

- **Subsea Pipelines.** All of the platforms listed in the oil platform production section ship their oil to shore via subsea pipelines. Potential causes of pipeline spills include corrosion, mechanical defects, and ruptures caused by events such as anchor dragging or earthquakes. Oil pipelines are normally equipped with various sensors and/or valves that will allow the pipeline to be shut down rapidly and automatically in the event of a rupture.
7. Hazards and Safety Element

- **Marine Terminals.** Fuel is off-loaded at the Port of Hueneme for the Ormond Beach power plant. Spills from marine terminals can be caused by operation errors or a rupture or leak in the loading/unloading lines.

- **Onshore Oil Pipeline Spill.** Similar to a marine oil spill, an onshore oil pipeline spill can be a serious hazard to surface and groundwater resources, property, animals and human life. Oil and gas transport lines have been mapped on the County’s Geographic Information System (GIS) to allow improved response to spills in the event of pipeline system failure or a seismic event. Although available to emergency responders and planners, GIS information on the location of these transport lines is proprietary and contact must be first made with the California State Fire Marshall.

**HAZ-7** To reduce or mitigate the effects of marine oil spills or onshore oil pipeline spills upon the population and environment. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 2.14.1.2]

**HAZ-7.1** **Oil Spill Prevention**

The County shall review and analyze all proposed oil and gas exploration and production projects, and shall condition all County discretionary permits for such projects, to require compliance with local, state, and federal oil spill prevention regulations. The County shall also provide input and comments on permit applications that are under the purview of an outside agency. (RDR, IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.14.2.4, modified]

*This topic is highly regulated by Federal and State agencies; therefore, policy is limited to topics covered by the County directly.*

7.8 **Military Compatibility**

Ventura County is home to several significant military installations and operations areas. These facilities are not only critical to the nation’s defense, but also provide significant economic benefits and land use challenges.

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

Compatibility between military installations, adjacent land uses, and local communities is essential to protect military missions, the health of local economies and industries, and the quality of life for county residents. In order to achieve compatibility, the military and local governments must be collaborative and cooperative in their planning efforts. The policies in this section are intended to support that collaboration.
Further information on Military Compatibility can be found in Chapter 2, Land Use Element and in these documents:

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

HAZ-8.1 Enhancing Military Facility Security
The County shall educate and encourage community members to assist in reporting suspicious activities near Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) facilities to help enhance the security. (IGC) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS AT-1D]

HAZ-8.2 Emergency Drills
The County, in coordination with Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), shall continue to conduct planned emergency drill exercises with local public safety responders to test how communications are relayed to the public during an emergency. (SO) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy COM-8B]

HAZ-8.3 Military Compatibility and Renewable Energy Development
The County shall require that new larger-scale commercial renewable energy development is consistent with Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) policies and regulations and that Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) and the Department of Defense (DOD) Siting Clearinghouse are included in the development review process. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy ED-1A, ED-1C, modified]

HAZ-8.4 Frequency Spectrum Encroachment Review
For discretionary development within 10 miles of Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), Point Mugu that includes transmission facilities operating near military spectrum, the County shall submit project applications to NBVC for review and comment to determine appropriate coordination and review. (SO, IGC) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy FRQ-2C, FRQ-2B, modified]

HAZ-8.5 Light and Glare Control
The County shall coordinate and consult with Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) when reviewing applications for commercial alternative energy facilities (e.g., wind, solar, tidal) to ensure the systems do not impact flight or test operations. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]
7. Hazards and Safety Element

7.9 Noise

The predominant sources of noise in the county include traffic noise on major roadways, transit and freight trains, and aircraft.

Noise-sensitive land uses are generally considered to include those uses where noise exposure could result in health-related risks to individuals, as well as places where quiet is an essential element of their intended purpose. These uses include: residences; schools; historic sites; cemeteries; parks, recreation, and open space areas; hospitals and care facilities; sensitive wildlife habitats, including the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered species; hotels and other short-term lodging (e.g., bed and breakfasts, and motels); places of worship; and libraries.

HAZ-9  To protect the health, safety, and general welfare of county residents by striving to eliminate or avoid the adverse noise impacts on existing and future noise sensitive uses. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 2.16.1.1]

HAZ-9.1 Limiting Unwanted Noise
The County shall prohibit discretionary development which would be impacted by noise or generate project-related noise which cannot be reduced to meet the standards prescribed in Policy Haz-9.2. This policy does not apply to noise generated during the construction phase of a project. (SO) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.16.2.2]

HAZ-9.2 Noise Compatibility Standards
The County shall review discretionary development for noise compatibility with surrounding uses. The County shall determine noise based on the following standards:

1. New noise sensitive uses proposed to be located near highways, truck routes, heavy industrial activities and other relatively continuous noise sources shall incorporate noise control measures so that indoor noise levels in habitable rooms do not exceed Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) 45 and outdoor noise levels do not exceed CNEL 60 or Leq1H of 65 dB(A) during any hour.

2. New noise sensitive uses proposed to be located near railroads shall incorporate noise control measures so that indoor noise levels in habitable rooms do not exceed Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) 45 and outdoor noise levels do not exceed L10 of 60 dB(A)

3. New noise sensitive uses proposed to be located near airports:
   a. Shall be prohibited if they are in a Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) 65 or greater, noise contour; or
   b. Shall be permitted in the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) 60 to CNEL 65 noise contour area only if means will be taken to ensure interior noise levels of CNEL 45 or less.
4. New noise generators, proposed to be located near any noise sensitive use, shall incorporate noise control measures so that ongoing outdoor noise levels received by the noise sensitive receptor, measured at the exterior wall of the building, does not exceed any of the following standards:

   a. $\text{Leq}_{1H}$ of 55dB(A) or ambient noise level plus 3dB(A), whichever is greater, during any hour from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.;

   b. $\text{Leq}_{1H}$ of 50dB(A) or ambient noise level plus 3dB(A), whichever is greater, during any hour from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; and

   c. $\text{Leq}_{1H}$ of 45dB(A) or ambient noise level plus 3dB(A), whichever is greater, during any hour from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

5. Construction noise shall be evaluated and, if necessary, mitigated in accordance with the Construction Noise Threshold Criteria and Control Measures (Advanced Engineering Acoustics, November 2005).

(RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.16.2.1, modified]

HAZ-9.3 Development Along Travel Routes
The County shall evaluate discretionary development for noise generated by project-related traffic along the travel route to the nearest intersection which allows for movement of traffic in multiple directions. In all cases, the evaluation of project-related roadway noise shall be evaluated along the travel route(s) within 1,600 feet of the project site. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-9.4 Acoustical Analysis Required
The County shall require an acoustical analysis by a qualified acoustical engineer for discretionary development involving noise exposure or noise generation in excess of the established standards. The analysis shall provide documentation of existing and projected noise levels at on-site and off-site receptors and shall recommend noise control measures for mitigating adverse impacts. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.16.2.1, modified]

HAZ-9.5 Site and Building Design
The County shall require discretionary development and County-initiated projects to comply with adopted noise standards through proper site and building design features, such as building location and orientation, setbacks, natural barriers and vegetation, and building construction. The County shall only consider sound walls if noise mitigation measures have been evaluated or integrated into the project and found infeasible. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-9.6 Airport Noise Compatibility
The County shall use the aircraft noise analysis prepared for local airports or the noise contours from the current Point Mugu Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) study, as most appropriate for a project location, as an accurate mapping of the long-term noise impact of the airport’s aviation activity. The County shall restrict new discretionary residential land uses to areas outside of the 60 decibel Community Noise Equivalence Level (dB CNEL) aircraft noise contour unless interior noise levels can be mitigated to meet a maximum 45 dB CNEL. (RDR) [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS]
HAZ-9.7 **Noise Control Priorities**
The priorities for noise control for discretionary development shall be as follows:

1. Reduction of noise emissions at the source.
2. Attenuation of sound transmission along its path, using barriers, landform modification, dense plantings, building orientation and placement, and the like.
3. Rejection of noise at the reception point using noise control building construction, hearing protection or other means.

(RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.16.2.3, modified]

### 7.10 Air Quality

Air quality is the concentration of various pollutants in the atmosphere for a specific location or area. Air quality conditions at a particular location are a function of the type and amount of air pollutants emitted into the atmosphere, the size and topography of the regional air basin, and the prevailing weather conditions. Air quality is an important natural resource that influences public health and welfare, the economy, and quality of life. Air pollutants have the potential to adversely impact public health, the production and quality of agricultural crops, native vegetation, visibility, buildings, and other structures and materials.

The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD), the local lead air quality regulatory agency for Ventura County, maintains air quality conditions through comprehensive programs of planning, regulation, enforcement, technical innovation, incentive programs and promotion of the understanding of air quality issues. The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) adopted the 2016 Ventura County Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) to outline the county’s strategy for attaining the 2008 Federal 8-hour ozone standard by 2020, as required by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and applicable United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) clean air regulations.

**Goals, policies, and implementations addressing reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other climate change topics are addressed in Chapter 6, Conservation and Open Space Element.**

**HAZ-10** To promote a high level of air quality in order to protect public health, safety, and welfare, and mitigate any adverse air quality impacts to the maximum extent feasible. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.2.1.1 and 1.2.1.2, modified]

**HAZ-10.1 Air Pollutant Reduction**
The County shall strive to reduce air pollutants from stationary and mobile sources to protect human health and welfare, focusing efforts on shifting patterns and practices that contribute to the areas with the highest pollution exposures and health impacts. (MPSP, RDR, SO, IGC, PI, JP) [Source: New Policy]
HAZ-10.2 **Air Quality Management Plan Consistency**
The County shall prohibit discretionary development that is inconsistent with the most recent adopted Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), unless the Board of Supervisors adopts a statement of overriding considerations. (RDR) *[Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.2.2.1, modified]*

HAZ-10.3 **Air Pollution Control District Rule and Permit Compliance**
The County shall ensure that discretionary development subject to Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) permit authority complies with all applicable APCD rules and permit requirements, including the use of Best Available Control Technology (BACT) as determined by the VCAPCD. (RDR) *[Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.2.2.5, modified]*

HAZ-10.4 **Engagement with Air Quality Management Plan**
When the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) updates the Air Quality Management Plan, the County shall actively engage continuously and throughout the process. (IGC) *[Source: Existing Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley Program 2.3.3.1, modified]*

HAZ-10.5 **Air Pollution Impact Mitigation Measures for Discretionary Development**
The County shall work with applicants for discretionary development projects to incorporate bike facilities, solar water heating, solar space heating, incorporation of electric appliances and equipment, and the use of zero and/or near zero emission vehicles and other measures to reduce air pollution impacts and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. (RDR) *[Source: Existing Piru Area Plan Policy 1.7.2.4, modified]*

HAZ-10.6 **Transportation Control Measures Programs**
The County shall continue to work with the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to develop and implement Transportation Control Measures (TCM) programs consistent with the APCD’s Air Quality Management Program (AQMP) to facilitate public transit and alternative transportation modes within the county. (IGC, FB) *[Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.2.2.4 and Existing El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan Program 1.1.3.1, modified]*

HAZ-10.7 **Fuel Efficient County Vehicles**
When purchasing new County vehicles, the County shall give strong preference to fuel efficient vehicles, including the use of zero emission vehicles when feasible. (SO, FB) *[Source: New Policy]*

HAZ-10.8 **Alternative Transportation Modes**
The County shall promote alternative modes of transportation that reduce single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) travel and enhance “last-mile” transportation options to improve air quality. (IGC, JP, PI) *[Source: El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan Goal 1.1.1.2, modified]*

HAZ-10.9 **Mitigation of Objectionable Odors**
The County shall require that discretionary development which will create objectionable odors that could affect a substantial number of people are appropriately mitigated. The project, pursuant to state law, shall be required to operate in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD), with emphasis on Rule 51, Nuisance throughout the life of the permit. (RDR) *[Source: Existing El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan Policy 1.1.2.3, modified]*

HAZ-10.10 **Smoke-Free Environments**
The County shall continue to designate, promote, and enforce smoke-free environments to reduce toxins in the air and exposure to second-hand smoke. (PI, SO) *[Source: New Policy]*
# 7. Hazards and Safety Element

**HAZ-10.11 Air Quality Assessment Guidelines**

In evaluating air quality impacts, the County shall consider total emissions from both stationary and mobile sources, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. The County shall evaluate discretionary development for air quality impacts using the Air Quality Assessment Guidelines as adopted by the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (APCD), except that emissions from APCD-permitted sources shall also be included in the analysis. The County shall revise the Initial Study Assessment Guides to implement this policy. (RDR) \[Source \ Existing \ GPP \ Policy \ 1.2.2.2, \ modified\]

**HAZ-10.12 Conditions for Air Quality Impacts**

The County shall require that discretionary development that would have a significant adverse air quality impact shall only be approved if it is conditioned with all reasonable mitigation measures to avoid, minimize or compensate (offset) for the air quality impact. The use of innovative methods and technologies to minimize air pollution impacts shall be encourage in project design. (RDR) \[Source \ Existing \ GPP \ Policy \ 1.2.2.3, \ modified\]

## 7.11 Increasing Temperatures

Temperature-related impacts from anthropogenic climate change are likely to affect the county in several ways. Increased average temperatures, along with more frequent extreme heat days and waves, will likely exacerbate existing high temperatures in developed areas that experience the phenomenon known as the urban heat island effect (UHIE). In built-up areas, vegetation is sparse, and roofs and pavement dominate the landscape, absorbing and retaining heat during daytime hours and releasing heat at night. Other human activities that contribute to the UHIE include combustion-engine vehicles and air conditioning. To help curb the UHIE in developed areas, the County will need to incorporate “green” and “cool” infrastructure into new and existing development. Examples of green infrastructure include trees and climate-appropriate landscaping for increased shade and reduced surface area of pavement. Ventura County will also need to incorporate cool pavement and cool roofs in new and existing development while also planting more shade trees in parking lots.

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**HAZ-11 To improve resilience to increasing temperatures resulting from climate change. \[Source: \ New \ Goal\]**

**HAZ-11.1 Critical Vulnerable Infrastructure**

The County shall identify and protect critical infrastructure locations that are vulnerable to damage from extreme heat. (SO, FB, PSR, IGC) \[Source: \ New \ Policy\]

**HAZ-11.2 Climate Change-Related Partnerships**

The County shall partner with Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), utilities, nonprofit organizations and other entities to implement future and ongoing heat-related climate change initiatives. The County’s partnership in ongoing programs and future initiatives could include helping other organizations increase participation in existing programs through education and promotion, and by using and integrating them in County programs and activities, where feasible. (JP) \[Source: \ New \ Policy\]
HAZ-11.3 Limit Impacts of Climate Change on Designated Disadvantaged Communities
The County shall work with public, private, and nonprofit partners to limit impacts of climate change on Designated Disadvantaged Communities by focusing planning efforts and interventions on communities with the highest need and ensuring representatives of these communities have a role in the decision-making process for directing climate change response. (MPSP, SO) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-11.4 Education and Outreach on Effects of Climate Change
The County shall support efforts of agencies and organizations that provide effective education and outreach to Designated Disadvantaged Communities on the effects of climate change, including increasing temperatures, wildfires, flooding, sea level rise, poor air quality, extreme weather events, disease prevention, and other public health effects. (PI) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-11.5 Outdoor Worker Protection
The County shall work with State and County health agencies and local organizations to provide educational programs and resources targeted at reducing the impacts of exposure to sun and heat. (ICG, JP, PI) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-11.6 Accessible Cooling Centers
The County shall expand partnerships with local governments, non-government organizations, churches, and businesses to provide additional cooling centers, particularly in designated disadvantaged communities. (SO, IGC, JP, PI) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-11.7 Green Building Design Features
The County shall encourage development to include retrofits to improve building performance and market value through strategic building design features, including insulation and strategic orientation of buildings to reduce energy usage, solar-reflective white roofs, solar panels, green roofs (vegetation on roofs), and battery storage for energy. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-11.8 Undergrounding Utilities
The County shall work with utility providers to underground overhead power lines (both existing and as part of discretionary development) to increase the resilience of the energy grid and reduce wildfire potential, especially in Existing Communities. (JP) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-11.9 Urban Greening
The County shall promote the use of urban greening techniques, such as cool pavement technology, parking lot shading, landscaping, and other methods to offset climate change impacts and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for discretionary development and County-initiated projects. (RDR, FB, SO) [Source: New Policy]

HAZ-11.10 Solar Photovoltaic Carports
The County shall promote the use of solar photovoltaic carports for discretionary development and County-initiated projects. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]
7. Hazards and Safety Element

7.12 Emergency Response

As demonstrated by several natural disasters in California in recent years, planning for access and evacuation is a key to protecting public health and safety and providing efficient access for first responders. In Ventura County, evacuation planning is an important aspect of preparing for a range of potential natural disasters, including wildfire, flooding, seismic, tsunami events.

In addition to policy on evacuation, this section covers the planning and placement of essential facilities. This is necessary to ensure that the first responders for the county are available and able to respond when disaster strikes.

Goals, policies, and implementation programs concerning public safety service provision can be found in Chapter 5, Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element.

HAZ-12 To provide for the safe and efficient evacuation of residents in times of need.  
(Source: New Goal)

HAZ-12.1 Access Points for New Subdivisions
The County shall require new residential subdivisions to provide not less than two means of access for emergency vehicles and resident evacuation. A deviation from this policy is only allowed if a single proposed access road conforms to the County Road Standards, Ventura County Fire Department Access Standards, and when the County Fire Chief approves the proposed deviation. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.13.2.3, modified]

HAZ-12.2 Countywide Hazard Mitigation Planning
The County shall continue to maintain and periodically update the Ventura County Emergency Operations Plan and the Ventura County Hazard Mitigation Plan covering hazards in the county. (MPSP, IGC, PI) [Source: Existing GPP Program 2.1.3.5, modified]

HAZ-12.3 Siting of Essential Facilities
The County should not site essential facilities, public safety or emergency service facilities, special occupancy structures, or hazardous materials storage facilities in areas subject to the following hazard areas, as defined in the County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services), unless the structure is designed to mitigate the hazard:

- in tsunami hazard areas, as defined in the Operational Area Tsunami Evacuation Plan (Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services);
- geologic or seismic hazard areas;
- areas subject to liquefaction, landslide, or seiche hazards; and
- subsidence or hydroconsolidation.

(RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.6.2.1, Existing GPP Policy 2.9.2.3, modified]
HAZ-12.4 **Emergency Water and Sanitation Education**
The County shall determine best practices for water and sanitation and other measures for coping with emergencies of multiple days’ duration and shall provide guidance to the public based on the findings. (SO, PI) [Source: New Policy]

### 7.13 Implementation Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Implements Which Policy(ies)</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Supporting Department(s)</th>
<th>2020 – 2025</th>
<th>2026 – 2030</th>
<th>2031 – 2040</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Develop and Implement Educational Programs for Wildfire Resilience</td>
<td>HAZ-1.1, HAZ-1.2, HAZ-1.6</td>
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<td>In coordination with federal, state, and local partners (e.g., CAL FIRE), the County shall update and maintain educational programs related to such issues as:</td>
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<td>- Learning how to recognize the first signs of fire and take appropriate action;</td>
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<td>- Living with the risks of fire within the wildland/urban interface; and</td>
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<td>- Methods of improving the resilience of homes and other structures.</td>
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| B | Wildfire Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping | HAZ-1.6, HAZ-1.8, HAZ-12.2 | RMA | IT | FD | PWA |  |  |
|   | In collaboration with the federal, state, and local partners (e.g., CAL FIRE), U.S. Forest Service, other agencies involved in wildfire response planning), the County shall update and map new locations that may be vulnerable to wildfire hazards including: damage to electrical, transportation, and communication infrastructure; increased rates of erosion, landslide, and water quality degradation; loss of residential, commercial, and industrial structures; and ecological disturbance. [Source: New Program] | | | | | |  |  |
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<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Implements Which Policy(ies)</th>
<th>Responsible Supporting Department(s)</th>
<th>2020 – 2025</th>
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<th>2031 – 2040</th>
<th>Annual</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong> Post-Fire Assessments</td>
<td>HAZ-1.7</td>
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<td>Directly following a wildfire disaster, the County shall conduct a post-fire assessment to identify vulnerabilities and projects that address vulnerabilities. The goal of the post-fire assessment shall be to protect public safety, enhance access and evacuation, and reestablish essential functional needs to communities and ecosystems to minimize flooding, protect water quality, reduce landslide and debris flow occurrence, and limit pollution.</td>
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<td><strong>D</strong> Dam Failure Contingency Plans</td>
<td>HAZ-2.6, HAZ-12.2</td>
<td>VCSO</td>
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<td>The County Sheriff's Department, Office of Emergency Services shall review and revise the Dam Failure Contingency section of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years and continue to provide public information on dam failure preparedness and response.</td>
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<td><strong>E</strong> Update Tsunami Information</td>
<td>HAZ-2.7, HAZ-12.2</td>
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<td>The County shall update planning documents, maps, and the Operational Area Tsunami Evacuation Plan, when necessary to reflect the most current tsunami information, and identify actions necessary to mitigate property damage, and maintain evacuation readiness. (MPSP, SO)</td>
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### Programs

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<tr>
<td><strong>F</strong> Develop Climate Change Impact Assessment</td>
<td>HAZ-3.1 HAZ-3.2 HAZ-11.1</td>
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<td><strong>G</strong> Communication Program for Property Owners at Risk from Sea Level Rise</td>
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<td><strong>H</strong> Sea Level Rise Analysis in Siting and Design of New Development</td>
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**F** Develop Climate Change Impact Assessment

The County shall work with the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), other jurisdictions, the Oxnard Harbor District (OHD), California Department of Conservation, and the Department of Defense (DOD) to develop a Climate Change Impact Assessment that addresses issues related to climate change and military installations, including sea level rise, wildfires, and stormwater runoff intensities. *[Source: New Program, NBVC JLUS Strategy CC-1A]*

**G** Communication Program for Property Owners at Risk from Sea Level Rise

The County shall seek funding to prepare and implement a communication program that periodically provides updates to the Board of Supervisors, and other stakeholders regarding impacts from sea level rise and planning decisions to address those impacts.

**H** Sea Level Rise Analysis in Siting and Design of New Development

The County shall consider the feasibility of amending the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance and Coastal Zoning Ordinance to require technical analysis of projected sea level rise exposure for the siting and design of new discretionary development. *[Source: New Program]*
## 7. Hazards and Safety Element

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<td>I</td>
<td><strong>Estuaries, Wetlands, and Groundwater Basins Resilience</strong>&lt;br&gt;The County shall coordinate with regional stakeholders to assess vulnerabilities from the effects of, and opportunities to enhance the resiliency to, sea level rise on estuaries, wetlands, and groundwater basins. This assessment should consider factors that influence the conditions of an estuary or wetland, including sea level rise, rainfall, surface heat budget, wind, and ocean acidification. [<em>Source: New Program</em>]</td>
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<td>J</td>
<td><strong>Hazardous Materials Business Plan and Hazardous Materials Response Plans</strong>&lt;br&gt;The County shall continue to require Hazardous Materials Business Plans and Hazardous Materials Response Plans for any business which handles hazardous material to ensure that plans for emergency response to a release or threatened release of a hazardous material and/or waste are maintained and monitored. [<em>Source: New Program</em>]</td>
<td>HAZ-5.1, HAZ-5.2, HAZ-5.3, HAZ-5.5, HAZ-5.6, HAZ-5.7, HAZ-5.8</td>
<td>RMA(EHD)</td>
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<td>K</td>
<td><strong>Marine Oil Spill Response Planning</strong>&lt;br&gt;County facilities that could potentially be the source of a marine oil spill and onshore oil spill shall develop, exercise, review, and share their prevention and response plans with regulatory and emergency agencies. [<em>Source: Existing Program 2.14.3.5</em>]</td>
<td>HAZ-7.1</td>
<td>VCSO, FD</td>
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<td>L</td>
<td><strong>Marine Oil Spill Response Plan</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services shall annually review the County’s Marine Oil Spill Response Plan. The County shall continue to participate in the U.S. Coast Guard Area Contingency Plan process. [<em>Source: Existing Program 2.14.3.4</em>]</td>
<td>HAZ-7.1</td>
<td>VCSO, FD</td>
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<td><strong>M</strong> Update Coastal Area Signage</td>
<td>HAZ-8.1</td>
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<td>The County shall update coastal and beach signage, when necessary, to identify appropriate public access locations to the beach, coastal areas, and wetlands near Point Mugu so as not to breach military security. [Source: New Policy, NBVC JLUS Strategy LSA-8B, PT-2B]</td>
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<td><strong>N</strong> Frequency Spectrum Areas of Concern</td>
<td>HAZ-8.4</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<td>The County shall work with Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) to define criteria that can be used to determine when a discretionary project involving the use of the radio frequency spectrum that are close to military channels require review and coordination with the Navy to ensure that radio frequencies do not disrupt NBVC communications with aircraft. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>O</strong> Solar Concentration Restriction</td>
<td>HAZ-8.5</td>
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<td>The County shall modify the NCZO and CZO, if necessary, to prohibit the placement and use of facilities that use solar concentration for generation of commercial power that could generate glare and potential to disable pilots and impact flight or test operations at Naval Base Ventura County. [Source: JLUS Strategies ED-1A, LG-1A, and LG-1D]</td>
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<td><strong>P</strong> Identify Critical Infrastructure Vulnerable to Extreme Heat</td>
<td>HAZ-11.1</td>
<td>PWA</td>
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<td>The County shall map locations of county-owned facilities and infrastructure that may be vulnerable to the effects of extreme heat. When necessary, the County will develop a plan to upgrade such infrastructure to be more resilient to periods of high heat, which may include the use of heat-tolerant, reflective, or other resilient types of materials. [Source: New Program]</td>
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## 7. Hazards and Safety Element

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<td><strong>Q</strong> Standards for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Carports in County Lots</td>
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<td>The County shall establish standards for inclusion of solar PV carports in County-owned parking lots. <strong>[Source: New Program]</strong></td>
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<td><strong>R</strong> Adaptation Grant Funding</td>
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<td>The County shall apply for grant funding for climate change adaptation planning efforts from available private and public sources. <strong>[Source: New Program]</strong></td>
<td>HAZ-11.3</td>
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<td><strong>S</strong> Extreme Heat Education and Outreach</td>
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<td>HSA</td>
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<td>The County shall provide multilingual education and outreach to residents and businesses to publicize the symptoms and dangers of heat-related illness, cooling center locations, how to sign up for the Ready Ventura County VC Alert Program, worker-related protections, and practical methods for preventing heat-related illness during periods of high heat. <strong>[Source: New Policy]</strong></td>
<td>HAZ-11.4</td>
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<td><strong>T</strong> Cool Roof Ordinance</td>
<td>HAZ-11.6</td>
<td>RMA</td>
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<td>The County shall adopt a Cool Roof Ordinance that exceeds the prescriptive cool roof requirements of the 2019 California Building Energy Efficiency Standard for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings by 25 percent (California Energy Code). Under a Cool Roof Ordinance, the County would require new construction to replace or re-coat 2,500 square feet for nonresidential and 1,250 square feet of roof space for residential buildings, or 72.5 percent or more of roofs. <strong>[Source: New Program]</strong></td>
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<td><strong>U</strong> Incentive Program for Passive Solar Home Design and Use of Green Roofs and Rooftop Gardens</td>
<td>HAZ-11.6, HAZ-11.8</td>
<td>RMA, CEO</td>
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<td>The County shall develop incentive programs to promote passive solar home design and the use of green roofs and rooftop gardens. The program shall include but may not be limited to, permit streamlining and permit fee reductions to apply passive solar home design to future residential buildings.</td>
<td>[Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>V</strong> Cool Pavements Standards</td>
<td>HAZ-11.6, HAZ-11.7</td>
<td>PWA, RMA, GSA</td>
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<td>The County shall incorporate cool pavement standards into the County’s development standards for County and private development projects, in both new construction and changes to existing on-site paved surface areas (e.g., parking lots, private roadways, other hardscapes).</td>
<td>[Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>W</strong> Incentive Programs for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Carports</td>
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<td>The County shall establish incentive programs, which may include rebate programs, permit fee reductions, and tax deductions, to incentivize the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) carports in existing and future parking lots.</td>
<td>[Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>X Countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan</td>
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The County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Services (OES) shall continue to maintain and update the Ventura County Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years and periodically update the Ventura County Emergency Operations Plan. Updates will include including mitigation measures and preparedness, response, and recovery strategies for hazards identified in this Element. To the extent feasible, County agencies shall, and other public agencies are encouraged to, participate in joint emergency planning and response training, and cooperatively respond to emergencies when they occur. [*Source: Existing GPP Program 2.1.3.5, modified*]
Please see the next page.
8 Agriculture Element
Please see the next page.
Ventura County’s temperate climate with warm, wet winters and hot, dry summers coupled with fertile soils, supports the cultivation of a diversity of agricultural commodities, including strawberries, celery, lemons, raspberries, avocados, nursery stock, tomatoes, peppers, cut flowers, cabbage, and kale. According to the State of California, Ventura County ranked eighth among California counties in total crop value in 2017 based on data from the County Agricultural Commissioner’s Annual Crop and Livestock Report.

The areas that sustain agricultural commodity growth have a broad range of characteristics. For example, berry production requires a temperate moist climate, so most strawberry production is found close to the coast, surrounding the cities of Ventura, Oxnard, Camarillo, and Port Hueneme. The climate tends to be dryer and warmer further from the coast, favoring citrus crops. Specifically, the Highway 126 and 150 corridors are prime areas for citrus growth. The fertile soil combined with ideal temperate seasonal temperatures allow lemons, oranges, and mandarins to thrive. Some commodity types, such as avocados, can grow in a variety of climate regions, allowing them to flourish countywide.

The 2017 Crop and Livestock Report indicates that much of the county’s agricultural production occurred on 95,850 acres of irrigated cropland out of a total farmed acreage of approximately 294,000 acres. Of the total farmed acreage, approximately 198,000 acres are considered rangeland.

As with other agricultural regions in California, organic farming is an expanding economic growth opportunity. In Ventura County, organic farms specialize in vegetables and herbs, fruits and nuts, field and seed crops, and cut flowers and nursery production.

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

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<td>Agricultural and Urban Area Compatibility</td>
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<td>8.7</td>
<td>Implementation Programs</td>
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Farmworker and Farm Family Housing
A sustainable labor force is central to success of the county’s agricultural sector, and access to affordable housing is a key factor. Housing is becoming even more important as the county’s agriculture shifts to more labor-intensive crops and more of the farm/ranch labor in the county works year-round. Goals, policies, and implementation programs related to farmworker and farm family housing are included in Chapter 3, Housing Element.

Agricultural Economics
Goals, policies, and implementation programs related to agricultural economics are in Chapter 10, Economic Vitality Element.

8.1 Agricultural Land Preservation
This section focuses on reinforcing the County’s commitment to agricultural land preservation. Ventura County is a leader in effectively preserving agricultural land through land use policies, intergovernmental agreements, conservation programs, and voter initiatives. The County has taken several actions to direct growth away from agricultural and open space lands including the development of, and adherence to, the Guidelines for Orderly Development, greenbelt agreements, Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources measures, the California Land Conservation Act, and the County’s Initial Study Assessment Guidelines for implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Guidelines for Orderly Development
Ventura County’s “Guidelines for Orderly Development” (Guidelines) were originally adopted by the Board of Supervisors, all city councils within Ventura County, and the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) in 1969. The County revised and readopted the Guidelines in December 1996. The intent of the Guidelines is threefold: (1) clarify the relationship between the cities and the County with respect to urban planning; (2) facilitate a better understanding regarding development standards and fees; and (3) identify the appropriate governmental agency responsible for making determinations on land use change requests. These Guidelines represent a unique, collaborative commitment to encourage urban development within cities whenever and wherever practical; enhance the regional responsibility of County government; and facilitate orderly planning and development in Ventura County. General Plan goals, policies, and implementation programs that integrate the Guidelines are primarily contained in the Land Use and Community Character Element.

Greenbelt Agreements
Beginning in 1967, several cities and the County began adopting greenbelt agreements. These are voluntary agreements between the County and one or more cities to limit development of agricultural and/or open space areas within the unincorporated county. Through greenbelt agreements, cities commit to not annex any property within a greenbelt while the County agrees to restrict development to uses consistent with existing agricultural or open space zoning. There are seven greenbelts in Ventura County covering approximately 164,000 acres collectively.

California Land Conservation Act
The state adopted the California Land Conservation Act in 1965, set forth at Government Code section 51200 et seq. (LCA, also known as the Williamson Act), to provide tax incentives to encourage the protection of agricultural and open space land. In 1969, the County adopted, and has subsequently revised, its “Guidelines for Implementation of the Land Conservation Act of 1965/the Williamson Act” (LCA Guidelines). All land with an Agricultural land use designation in the General Plan is considered an Agricultural Preserve under the LCA. The LCA is implemented through three contract types: LCA Contract, the Farmland Security Zone Area Contract
Agriculture

(FSZA/LCA), and the Open Space Contract (OS/LCA). These contracts intend to preserve agricultural land and discourage its premature conversion to non-agricultural uses. Among other things, the LCA Guidelines establish eligibility criteria for these contracts. In exchange for the preservation of agricultural land, participating property owners receive a reduction of property taxes that are limited to the agricultural value of the property.

Initial Study Assessment Guidelines
The County adopted the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines (ISAGs) in 1992, and comprehensively revised them in April 2011. The ISAGs are intended to inform the public, project applicants, consultants, and County staff of the threshold criteria and standard methodology used in determining whether a project could have significant effects on the environment under CEQA. Regarding impacts to agricultural soils, the ISAGs state that any project that would result in the direct and/or indirect loss of soils designated Prime, Statewide Importance, Unique, or Local Importance on the State's Important Farmland Inventory will have a significant impact. Furthermore, any project that would result in the direct or indirect loss of agricultural soils exceeding certain acreage-loss thresholds identified in the ISAGs will be considered to have a significant impact.

Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR)
Ventura County voters first approved the countywide SOAR initiative measure in 1998. The County SOAR initiative requires countywide voter approval (i.e., approval by voters in both the unincorporated county and incorporated cities) of most changes to the General Plan involving the Agricultural, Open Space, or Rural land use designations, and most changes to a General Plan goal or policy related to those land use designations. In November 2016 by countywide vote, SOAR was renewed and extended through 2050. Goals, policies, and implementation programs from the 1988 General Plan that were referenced in the 2016 SOAR initiative are included in this General Plan, with only minor non-substantive revisions.

The policies in this section seek to continue the protection of the County’s agricultural lands and capabilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AG-1</th>
<th>To preserve and protect agricultural lands as a nonrenewable resource to assure the continued availability of such lands to produce food, fiber, and ornamentals. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.6.1.1, modified, SOAR]</th>
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| AG-1.1 | **Agricultural Land Protection and Preservation**  
The County shall continue to protect and preserve agricultural land by directing growth away from productive agricultural lands into cities, unincorporated urban areas, or existing communities and by supporting the acquisition or voluntary dedication of agriculture conservation easements. (RDR, MPSP) [Source: New Policy] |
| AG-1.2 | **Agricultural Land Use Designation**  
The County shall ensure that discretionary development located on land designated as Agricultural on the General Plan Land Use Diagram and identified as Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance on the State’s Important Farmland Inventory is planned and designed to remove as little land as possible from potential agricultural production and to minimize impacts on topsoil. (RDR, MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.6.2.1, modified, SOAR] |
| AG-1.3 | **Greenbelt Agreements**  
The County shall preserve agricultural land by retaining and expanding existing Greenbelt Agreements and encouraging the formation of additional Greenbelt Agreements. (MPSP, IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.6.2.5, SOAR] |
AG-1.4  Land Conservation Act Contracts
The County shall encourage Land Conservation Act (LCA) contracts on irrigated farmlands and Open Space lands. (MPSP, IGC, PI) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.6.2.3, SOAR]

AG-1.5  Facilities and Programs to Support Local Agriculture
The County shall encourage the continuation and development of facilities and programs that support agricultural production and enhance the marketing of county grown agricultural products. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.6.1.2, modified; SOAR]

AG-1.6  Support Economic Viability of Agriculture
The County shall improve the economic viability of agriculture through policies that support agriculture as an integral business to the County. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.6.1.3, modified; SOAR]

AG-1.7  Encourage Purchase of Local Agricultural Products
The County shall encourage opportunities for Ventura County residents to buy local agricultural products. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.6.1.1, modified, SOAR]

8.2  Agricultural and Urban Area Compatibility

The County has measures in place to minimize conflicts between agricultural and urban land uses to ensure the long-term productivity of the agricultural sector, namely the Agricultural/Urban Buffer Policy and the Right-to-Farm Ordinance.

Agricultural/Urban Buffer Policy
The County’s Agricultural/Urban Buffer Policy provides policy direction to prevent and/or mitigate conflicts that may arise at the agricultural/urban interface. This policy is intended to protect the economic viability and long-term sustainability of the county’s agricultural industry. It applies where urban structures or ongoing non-farming activities are permitted adjacent to land in crop or orchard production or classified by the California Department of Conservation Important Farmland Inventory as Prime, Statewide Importance, Unique or Local Importance farmland. These guidelines apply to projects requiring discretionary approval by the County or a city where the proposed non-farming activity is abutting or on land zoned “Agriculture Exclusive,” “Open Space,” or “Rural Agriculture,” and the farming activity is located outside a Sphere of Influence.

Right-to-Farm Ordinance
The County adopted the Right-to-Farm Ordinance in the late 1970s. It is administered by both the Planning Division through the Zoning Ordinance and by the County Agricultural Commissioner. The Right-to-Farm Ordinance is intended to support and provide a safeguard for existing agricultural and farming operations that could be threatened by encroaching residential development. This is achieved through mandatory disclosure notifications provided to property owners who will be developing residential uses adjacent or near existing agricultural operations. The disclosure informs people seeking to develop or purchase homes of the Right-to-Farm Ordinance and the potential impacts that may be generated by nearby farming operations. The Ordinance also protects farms from nuisance complaints associated with customary farming practices.

The policies in this section seek to enhance compatibility protections that will enhance the long-term viability of agricultural in Ventura County.
To minimize conflicts between agricultural operations and urban land uses. [Source: New Goal]

AG-2.1 Discretionary Development Adjacent to Agriculturally Designated Lands
The County shall ensure that discretionary development adjacent to Agriculturally designated lands does not conflict with agricultural use of those lands. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.6.2.6, SOAR]

AG-2.2 Impacts from Transportation Capital Improvements
The County shall plan transportation and other County capital improvements so as to avoid or mitigate impacts to important farmland to the extent feasible. (SO) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.6.2.4, modified, SOAR]

AG-2.3 Right-to-Farm Ordinance
The County’s Right-to-Farm Ordinance shall be maintained and updated as needed to protect agricultural land uses from conflicts with non-agricultural uses, as well as to help land purchasers and residents understand the potential for nuisance, (e.g., dust, noise, odors) that may occur as the natural result of living in or near agricultural areas. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

AG-2.4 Hillside Erosion Control Ordinance
The County shall regulate hillside agricultural grading through the Hillside Erosion Control Ordinance and its oversight by the Public Works Agency. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.6.2.2, modified, SOAR]

8.3 Innovative Specialty Agriculture

Ventura County’s agricultural sector is a leading economic driver. The County has an opportunity to continue to support innovation and vitality in this sector through increased production of specialty agriculture, and utilization of Integrated Pest Management Strategies.

Ventura County’s Mediterranean-type climate allows for tremendous diversity of production with over 60 different crops that each generate over $1 million in gross receipts annually. The mild climate allows for significant crop production year-round allowing farmers to grow three and four crops annually in the same field. With that diversity, county farmers primarily grow “specialty crops,” defined as “fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture” by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Organic farming is a specialty agricultural sector regulated by the USDA and the Agricultural Commissioner. According to the USDA, organic operations must demonstrate that they are protecting natural resources, conserving biodiversity, and using only approved substances. In addition to increasing economic competitiveness, organic farming practices can result in fewer environmental impacts and help to maintain soil health. Organic farming emphasizes sustainable practices, including mixed-cropping patterns and crop rotation, which reduces water usage and maintains the soil structure.

Integrated Pest Management is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant crop varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism.
Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and nontarget organisms, and the environment.

While Ventura County has a successful agricultural economic sector, the County’s agricultural lands can also be used to grow specialty agricultural crops, especially those aimed at the growing popularity of locally grown crops and animal products.

**AG-3**

To promote the expansion of agricultural activities to include new and innovative specialty agricultural practices and products. [Source: New Goal]

**AG-3.1**

Locally-Owned Farms and Specialty Products
The County should encourage locally owned (Ventura County) farms and ranches, the growing of specialty products and innovative and high-value crops, and specialized animal facilities and rearing methods. (RDR, JP) [Source: New Policy]

**AG-3.2**

Integrated Pest Management Practices
The County shall encourage and support the use of Integrated Pest Management practices to reduce pesticide use and human health risks. (JP, PI) [Source: New Policy]

**AG-3.3**

Public Education for Agricultural Products and Integrated Pest Management
The County shall collaborate with the agricultural community to provide information on Integrated Pest Management and agricultural products and practices in Ventura County. (JP, PI) [Source: New Policy]

### 8.4 Food Security

A policy framework that supports agriculture is not only beneficial to economic development but is also central to the social well-being of county residents. Food security is based on the notion that everyone has adequate and consistent access to safe and healthy foods, which is a key component to a healthy lifestyle. Lack of access to adequate food sources creates food insecurity, which has numerous social, economic, and health implications. Ventura County’s prime agricultural location and robust agricultural economy have created an environment where food insecurity is on the decline compared to statewide and nationwide trends. The increase in food security for all residents is attributed to the prioritization of County programs that focus on awareness of healthy food options and access to food, as well as programs that protect food sources from invasive pests and species that have the potential to disrupt the ability to supply locally produced food. A secure food future ensures that Ventura County communities can continue to flourish, and all residents have access to healthy food options.

The policies in this section seek to protect access to local agricultural products and protection of agricultural resources.

**AG-4**

To ensure equitable access to fresh, locally grown, and healthy agricultural products for residents throughout the county. [Source: New Goal]

**AG-4.1**

Connections to Local Produce
The County shall strive to enhance access to and consumption of fresh, local produce by encouraging direct connections between local farmers/ranchers and markets, restaurants, institutions, schools, hospitals, food banks, and other businesses. (JP) [Source: New Policy]
8. Agriculture

AG-4.2 Growing Food on Public Land
The County shall work with other agencies and institutions to encourage the use of available public land for community gardens, including on college campuses, schools, parks, and public easements, subject to applicable regulations intended to control and manage for unintended pest and disease impacts to commercial agriculture and suitable plans for ongoing operations and maintenance. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

AG-4.3 Technological Innovation
The County shall encourage the use of technology that supports agricultural production, while enhancing environmental sustainability and natural resource conservation. (JP) [Source: New Policy]

AG-4.4 Pest Management
The County shall continue to monitor leading research findings on methods and technologies for reducing harm to the agricultural sector from invasive plants, pests, and diseases and modify and expand agricultural practices when appropriate and feasible. (SO) [Source: New Policy]

AG-4.5 Certified Farmers’ Markets and Community Supported Agriculture
The County shall support certified farmers’ markets, community supported agriculture (CSAs) operations, and other similar activities, by working with local communities, local agricultural groups, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Certified Farmers Market Program, particularly in communities that are underserved by healthy food purveyors. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

8.5 Sustainable Farming and Ranching
Sustainable farming and ranching practices ensure that the viability of the land for future agricultural use can continue into the future. The use of fertilizer in Ventura County accounted for approximately 60 percent of countywide agricultural greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2015. Fertilizers commonly used in commercial agriculture decompose over time in soil to produce nitrous oxide (N\textsubscript{2}O) gasses, which are harmful GHGs. The addition of these GHGs contribute to the overall pollution emissions in the County.

Truly sustainable farming and ranching also requires agricultural practices and operations that are less dependent on fossil fuels, an energy source that is typically used to run most agricultural related equipment. In 2015, gasoline- and diesel-powered off-road agricultural equipment other than irrigation pumps accounted for 27 percent of countywide agricultural GHG emissions. For existing diesel equipment, renewable diesel is a cost-effective alternative fuel option. This reduces the need for equipment modifications or replacements. Although the supply of renewable diesel is currently far exceeded by that of conventional diesel, the state is already making efforts to increase the supply of renewable diesel in the short- and long-term through the Low Emission Diesel regulation and the Low Carbon Fuels Standard.

The policies in this section seek to enhance the sustainability of agriculture in the county by transitioning away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.
To encourage sustainable and regenerative farming and ranching practices that promote resource conservation and reduce greenhouse gases. [Source: New Goal]

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>AG-5.1</th>
<th><strong>Inorganic Nitrogen Based Fertilizers</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HC CAP</td>
<td>The County shall encourage farmers to reduce fertilizer application and transition to products that reduce or avoid nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions, such as organic composting and enhanced efficiency fertilizers. (MPSP) [Source: Source: Existing El Rio/Del Norte Program 1.2.3.1, modified]</td>
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<tr>
<th>AG-5.2</th>
<th><strong>Electric- or Renewable-Powered Agricultural Equipment</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>CAP</td>
<td>The County shall encourage and support the transition to electric- or renewable-powered or lower emission agricultural equipment in place of fossil fuel-powered equipment, when feasible. (PI, JP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<th>AG-5.3</th>
<th><strong>Electric- or Renewable-Powered Irrigation Pumps</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>CAP</td>
<td>The County shall encourage farmers to convert fossil fuel-powered irrigation pumps to systems powered by electric or renewable energy sources, such as solar-power, and encourage electric utilities to eliminate or reduce stand-by charges. (SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<th>AG-5.4</th>
<th><strong>Alternative Irrigation Techniques</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>CAP</td>
<td>The County shall encourage farmers to continue and enhance the water-saving irrigation techniques designed to reduce water consumption. (RDR, JP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<th>AG-5.5</th>
<th><strong>Carbon Farming Practices</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>CAP</td>
<td>The County shall encourage and support the efforts of resource conservation districts, farmers, and other stakeholders to expand carbon farming practices, such as reduced tilling, cover-cropping, composting, biochar, and other activities that both reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increase carbon sequestration and storage, when feasible. (JP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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</table>
8.6 Agricultural Resilience

A resilient agricultural sector is key to the longevity of agricultural production in Ventura County. Recent shifts in weather patterns and surface temperatures because of climate change have created vulnerabilities that can affect the success of agricultural production. An agricultural sector that is resilient and adapts to anticipated climatic changes has a greater potential to continue to remain a primary economic driver for the County. The policies in this section seek to enhance the resilience of agriculture in Ventura County to changes in the environment.

AG-6 To increase the resilience of the agricultural sector. [Source: New Goal]

AG-6.1 Monitor Climate Change Research
The County shall support and monitor research on the effects of a changing climate on the agricultural industry within Ventura County. (PSR) [Source: New Policy]

AG-6.2 Crop Resiliency
The County shall engage the agricultural sector to understand the tolerance of current crop mixes to withstand the impacts of climate change, including increased temperatures, disease, and pests, and explore options to diversify crops. (JP) [Source: New Policy]

Additional goals and policies related to agricultural resiliency are included in:
- Chapter 6, Conservation and Open Space Element,
- Chapter 7, Hazard and Safety Element, and
- Chapter 9, Water Resources Element.
## 8.7 Implementation Programs

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| A  
Right-to-Farm Ordinance  
The County shall periodically review and update the Right-to-Farm Ordinance when necessary to raise public awareness (including within the local real estate industry) of the Right-to-Farm provisions. |
| AG-2.3 | AGC |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Regionally-Grown Products Sales Incentives  
The County shall develop a program that encourages sales and distribution of regionally-grown (in Ventura County or neighboring counties of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, or Kern) produce to local retailers, restaurants, and markets, and encourage chain stores to develop local distribution centers. The program will encourage residents to select locally grown food products for freshness, local economic development benefits, and reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. |
| AG-3.1  
AG-4.1  
AG-4.2  
AG-4.5 | AGC  
CEO |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| County Procurement  
The County shall develop a program to identify opportunities to continue to provide organic and locally grown foods into cafeteria services, the jail, Ventura County Medical Center, and other County-sponsored services and events that provide food service, to the extent feasible. |
| AG-3.1  
AG-4.1 | AGC  
GSA |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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<tr>
<td><strong>D</strong> <em>Agricultural Tourism Development Standards</em></td>
<td>AG-3.1 AG-4.1 AG-4.2 AG-4.5</td>
<td>RMA AGC</td>
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<td>The County shall revise the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance to include regulations and development standards for agricultural tourism while protecting both the grower and the public. Ordinance revisions may also include additional development standards for agricultural promotional uses, if necessary. <em>[Source: New Program]</em></td>
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<td><strong>E</strong> <em>Specialty Farming Education</em></td>
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<td>AGC n/a</td>
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<td>The County shall continue to collaborate with and support the UC Cooperative Extension Office on education programs that inform and assist local farmers, ranchers, and agricultural managers in diversifying and establishing expertise in specialty agricultural products. <em>[Source: New Program]</em></td>
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<td><strong>F</strong> <em>Enhanced Access to Locally Grown Products</em></td>
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<td>RMA AGC</td>
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<td>The County shall conduct a study to identify barriers to local farm stands and take action to remove these barriers as part of the next update to the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance. <em>[Source: New Program]</em></td>
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<td><strong>G</strong> <em>Farm-to-Front Door</em></td>
<td>AG-4.1 AG-4.2 AG-4.5</td>
<td>RMA AGC</td>
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<td>The County shall study the feasibility of encouraging “Farm-to-Front Door” business model and its potential benefits to businesses and residents in Ventura County. <em>[Source: New Program]</em></td>
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<td>H</td>
<td>Nutrient Management Plans</td>
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<td>AGC</td>
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<td>The County shall continue to collaborate with the UC Cooperative Extension Office and UC Agriculture and Natural Resources to implement Nutrient Management Plans for commonly grown local crops featuring best management practices for nitrous oxide (N₂O) emission reductions. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>I</td>
<td>Fossil Fuel-Powered Equipment Replacement</td>
<td>AG-5.2 AG-5.3</td>
<td>AGC CEO PWA</td>
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<td>The County shall coordinate with the Air Pollution Control District and electric utilities to develop a program to establish a countywide fossil fuel-powered equipment conversion target, track progress on conversions to renewable energy sourced electric powered systems and provide technical assistance to users considering replacement of pumps. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>J</td>
<td>Alternative Fuel Funding for Agricultural Operations</td>
<td>AG-5.2 AG-5.3</td>
<td>AGC CEO</td>
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<td>The County shall coordinate with the Air Pollution Control District to develop a program to identify funding sources or develop financial or regulatory incentives to encourage the switch to electric or alternatively fueled agricultural equipment, when feasible. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>K Water-Saving Irrigation Techniques Program</td>
<td>AG-5.4</td>
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<td>The County shall continue to collaborate with and support the UC Cooperative Extension Office on educational programs on irrigation techniques to maximize water use efficiency, when feasible. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<td>L Encourage and Facilitate Carbon Farming</td>
<td>AG-5.1, AG-5.5, AG-6.2</td>
<td>AGC, RMA</td>
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<td>The County shall develop a program to encourage and facilitate carbon farming projects, including development of demonstration projects and site-specific carbon farm plans, to guide implementation of carbon farming practices throughout the county, when feasible. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>M Biogas Control Systems</td>
<td>AG-5.5</td>
<td>AGC, CEO</td>
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<td>The County shall review and update regulations to allow the development of appropriate biogas facilities near the source of organic waste materials and develop a program to coordinate public-private local investment in biogas control systems to encourage their development. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>N</strong> Research on Effects of Climate Change</td>
<td>AG-6.1 AG-6.2</td>
<td>AGC RMA</td>
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<td>The County shall research the potential effects of climate change on the county’s existing agricultural industry as well as the resulting challenges and opportunities associated with these changes. Research partners may include the California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN), University of California Cooperative Extension, Ventura County Farm Bureau, and the Agricultural Commissioner’s Office. The research shall address, but may not be limited to, loss of chill hours, increased populations of or new species of pests, higher rates of evapotranspiration, and opportunities created by warmer climate to grow crops that were previously unsuitable based on historic climate conditions. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>O</strong> Subsidies for Resilient Crop Production</td>
<td>AG-6.2</td>
<td>AGC CEO</td>
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<td>The County should encourage programs and obtain grants to seek funding to subsidize efforts to breed crops that are resilient to high heat, shade crops and installation of light reflectors, and reduce rates of tilling to promote soil health and combat increased temperatures as recommended by federal, state, and local agencies. [Source: New Program]</td>
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9. Water Resources Element

The purpose of this element is to provide a policy framework to preserve and enhance water availability and quality. It is a County priority for water resources to be effectively managed to provide for the long-term viability and availability of this precious resource. The goals of the Water Resources Element recognize that the County has an important role to play in water management. The County’s land use decisions, and resulting water demand and wastewater generation, affect the quality and availability of water in the county. Details on water resources in Ventura County are provided in the Background Report prepared for the 2040 General Plan and summarized here.

The framework for water management is complex and is comprised of federal and state laws, as well as local ordinances. There are laws governing water rights, protection of water quality, protection of beneficial uses of water, laws to ensure adequate provision of water for new development, and regulations that regulate the manner of development to minimize negative impacts to water quality and quantity.

Ventura County has a wide range of water resources, including imported water, surface water, groundwater, and recycled water. Within the unincorporated area, the predominant water supply is groundwater. The heavy reliance on groundwater, which increases during drought, has led to falling groundwater levels in some groundwater basins, putting some areas at risk of subsidence, and exacerbating seawater intrusion into groundwater basins in the coastal area.

Ventura County has a wide range of water purveyors. Most urban areas receive water through larger special districts, city utilities, private companies regulated by the state Public Utilities Commission, and mutual water companies. There are a total of 162 individual water suppliers and irrigation districts in the county, not including individual users on private well systems. This means the unincorporated area depends on an extensive array of water suppliers and systems that are not necessarily coordinated with one another.

Climate change adds complexity to water resources planning by affecting water supplies and water demands. Climate change increases the frequency and intensity of precipitation and is associated with extreme weather including devastating wildfires and extended severe drought. As reported by the California Environmental Protection Agency in Indicators of Climate Change in California (EPA, 2018), “From record temperatures to proliferating wildfires and rising seas, climate change poses an immediate and escalating threat to California’s environment, public health, and economic vitality.”
Goals, policies, and implementation programs in this element are organized under the following headings:

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9.1 Water Supply

An adequate and dependable water supply is essential for residents, businesses, agriculture, and environmental resources in Ventura County. Ensuring an adequate water supply is an ongoing concern in Ventura County, particularly because of climate change and drought, the related declines in river flows and reservoir levels, historic overdraft of several local groundwater basins, new groundwater well prohibitions, and seasonal and annual differences in the amount of imported water available. The policies in this section seek to improve and protect the county’s long-term water supply.

WR-1 To effectively manage water supply by adequately planning for the development, conservation, and protection of water resources for present and future generations. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.3.1.2 and Goal 4.3.1.1, modified]

WR-1.1 Sustainable Water Supply

The County should encourage water suppliers, groundwater management agencies, and groundwater sustainability agencies to inventory and monitor the quantity and quality of the county’s water resources, and to identify and implement measures to ensure a sustainable water supply to serve all existing and future residents, businesses, agriculture, government, and the environment. (IGC, SO) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.3.1.1 and Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley Area Plan Goal 4.2.1.1, modified]

WR-1.2 Watershed Planning

The County shall consider the location of a discretionary project within a watershed to determine whether or not it could negatively impact a water source. As part of discretionary project review, the County shall also consider local watershed management plans when considering land use development. (MPSP, RDR) [Source: New Policy]

WR-1.3 Portfolio of Water Sources

The County shall support the use of, conveyance of, and seek to secure water from varied sources that contribute to a diverse water supply portfolio. The water supply portfolio may include, but is not limited to, imported water, surface water, groundwater, treated brackish groundwater, desalinated seawater, recycled water, and stormwater where economically feasible and protective of the environmental and public health. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]
WR-1.4 State Water Sources
The County shall continue to support the conveyance of, and seek to secure water from, state sources. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

WR-1.5 Agency Collaboration
The County shall participate in regional committees to coordinate planning efforts for water and land use that is consistent with the Urban Water Management Planning Act, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the local Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, and the Countywide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (stormwater and runoff management and reuse). (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

WR-1.6 Water Supplier Cooperation
The County shall encourage the continued cooperation among water suppliers in the county, through entities such as the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County and the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, to ensure immediate and long-term water needs are met efficiently. (IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.3.1.3, modified]

WR-1.7 Water Supply Inter-Ties
The County shall encourage the continued cooperation among water suppliers in the county, through entities such as Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County and the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, to establish and maintain emergency inter-tie projects among water suppliers. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

WR-1.8 Water Supplier Consolidation
The County shall encourage the consolidation of water suppliers where necessary to ensure all residents are receiving water of adequate quality and quantity, to promote management efficiencies, and to encourage sharing of local resources and enhancement of managerial and technical expertise and capacity. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

WR-1.9 Groundwater Basin Use for Water Storage
Where technically feasible, the County shall support the use of groundwater basins for water storage. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

WR-1.10 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
The County shall continue to support and participate with the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County in implementing and regularly updating the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

WR-1.11 Adequate Water for Discretionary Development
The County shall require all discretionary development to demonstrate an adequate long-term supply of water. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.3.2.1, modified]

WR-1.12 Water Quality Protection for Discretionary Development
The County shall evaluate the potential for discretionary development to cause deposition and discharge of sediment, debris, waste and other pollutants into surface runoff, drainage systems, surface water bodies, and groundwater. The County shall require discretionary development to minimize potential deposition and discharge through point source controls, storm water treatment, runoff reduction measures, best management practices, and low impact development. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]
WR-1.13  **Water Pumping**  
The County shall require that all County-owned water pumps use 100 percent renewable-sourced electricity for water pumping, when feasible, and shall encourage private entities to use 100 percent renewable-sourced electricity when feasible. [Source: New Policy]

WR-1.14  **Discretionary Development and Conditions of Approval – Golf Course Irrigation**  
The County shall require that discretionary development for new golf courses shall be subject to conditions of approval that prohibit landscape irrigation with water from groundwater basins or inland surface waters identified as Municipal and Domestic Supply or Agricultural Supply in the California Regional Water Quality Control Board's Water Quality Control Plan unless:

1. The existing and planned water supplies for a Hydrologic Area, including interrelated Hydrologic Areas and Subareas, are shown to be adequate to meet the projected demands for existing uses as well as reasonably foreseeable probable future uses within the area; and

2. It is demonstrated that the total groundwater extraction/recharge for the golf course will be equal to or less than the historic groundwater extraction/recharge for the site as defined in the County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines.

Further, where feasible, reclaimed water shall be utilized for new golf courses. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.3.2.10, modified]

9.2  **Water Quality**  
Water quality is affected by geology, climate, and human-caused factors, such as wastewater effluent, runoff from roads and urbanized areas, agricultural practices, and atmospheric contaminants. Poor water quality limits the beneficial use of a water source for drinking water supply, irrigation, industrial water supply, recreation, and support of habitat and the natural environment.

WR-2  
To implement practices and designs that improve and protect water resources.  
[Source: New Goal]

WR-2.1  **Identify and Eliminate of Sources of Water Pollution**  
The County shall cooperate with Federal, State and local agencies in identifying and eliminating or minimizing all sources of existing and potential point and non-point sources of pollution to ground and surface waters, including leaking fuel tanks, discharges from storm drains, dump sites, sanitary waste systems, parking lots, roadways, and mining operations. (IGC)  
[Source: New Policy]

WR-2.2  **Water Quality Protection for Discretionary Development**  
The County shall evaluate the potential for discretionary development to cause deposition and discharge of sediment, debris, waste, and other contaminants into surface runoff, drainage systems, surface water bodies, and groundwater. In addition, the County shall evaluate the potential for discretionary development to limit or otherwise impair later reuse or reclamation of wastewater or stormwater. The County shall require discretionary development to minimize potential deposition and discharge through point source controls, storm water treatment, runoff
9. Water Resources

reduction measures, best management practices, and low impact development. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

WR-2.3 Discretionary Development Subject to CEQA Statement of Overriding Considerations – Water Quality and Quantity
The County shall require that discretionary development not significantly impact the quality or quantity of water resources within watersheds, groundwater recharge areas or groundwater basins. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.3.2.4, modified]

WR-2.4 Out-of-River Mining
The County shall require discretionary development for out-of-river mining below the historic or predicted high groundwater level in the Del Norte/El Rio (Oxnard Forebay Basin) to demonstrate that exaction activities will not interfere with or affect water quality and quantity pursuant to the County’s Initial Study Assessment Guidelines. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.3.2.7, modified]

9.3 Water Conservation and Reuse

Existing water supply is extended by water conservation and re-use. Because it is costly and difficult to develop new water supplies, water conservation is an essential method for ensuring quality water resources while reducing net demand. Water use efficiency benefits the environment, economy, and overall community. Water can be conserved through reduction programs (e.g. drought tolerant landscaping) and supplies augmented through the re-use of agricultural wastewater, rainwater capture, and domestic graywater. Through a series of wastewater treatments and filtration techniques, recycled water can be safely used for agricultural and domestic purposes. This section focuses on conserving water resources through increased efficiency and reuse.

WR-3 To promote efficient use of water resources through water conservation, protection, and restoration. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.3.1.7, modified]

WR-3.1 Non-Potable Water Use
The County shall encourage the use of non-potable water, such as tertiary treated wastewater and household graywater, for industrial, agricultural, environmental, and landscaping needs consistent with appropriate regulations. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.3.1.6, modified]

WR-3.2 Water Use Efficiency for Discretionary Development
The County shall require the use of water conservation techniques for discretionary development, as appropriate. Such techniques include low-flow plumbing fixtures in new construction that meet or exceed the state Plumbing Code, use of graywater or reclaimed water for landscaping, retention of stormwater runoff for direct use and/or groundwater recharge, and landscape water efficiency standards that meet or exceed the standards in the California Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance. (IGC, RDR) [Source: New Policy]

WR-3.3 Low-Impact Development
The County shall require discretionary development to incorporate low impact development design features and best management practices, including integration of stormwater capture facilities, consistent with County’s Stormwater Permit. (RDR) [Source: NBVC JLUS, Strategy BIO-1A]
**WR-3.4 Reduce Potable Water Use**
The County shall strive for efficient use of potable water in County buildings and facilities through conservation measures, and technological advancements. (SO) [Source: New Policy]

**9.4 Groundwater**

Groundwater is estimated to provide 67 percent of the local water supply. Sustaining this water source is both a local and statewide priority. In 2014, the state enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to provide a framework for sustainable management of groundwater supplies at the local level by local agencies, with the potential for state intervention if necessary. The aim of the legislation is to ensure the management of groundwater basins within their sustainable yield. SGMA empowers local agencies to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to manage basins sustainably and requires those GSAs to adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for crucial groundwater basins. As defined by SGMA, several groundwater basins in the county are in critical overdraft condition (and some are experiencing seawater intrusion), which occurs when the “continuation of present water management practices would probably result in significant adverse overdraft-related environmental, social, or economic impacts.”

In 2018, the California Department of Water Resources identified the following groundwater basins in Ventura County as being in “critical overdraft”: Cuyama Valley, Oxnard Plain, and Pleasant Valley. (It is important to note that while the Cuyama Valley basin as a whole is considered to be in overdraft, the United States Geological Survey estimates the portion in Ventura County not to be in overdraft.) In addition to the critically overdraft basins, seven are designated as “high-priority”: Oxnard Plain, Pleasant Valley, Las Posas, Mound, Fillmore, Piru, and Cuyama Valley; and four basins are designated as “medium-priority”: Ojai Valley, Upper Ventura River, and Lower Ventura River. Consistent with SGMA, this section focuses on groundwater recharge.

**WR-4 To maintain and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity and quantity of groundwater resources. [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.3.1.3, modified]**

**WR-4.1 Groundwater Management**
The County shall work with water suppliers, water users, groundwater management agencies, and groundwater sustainability agencies to implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and manage groundwater resources within the sustainable yield of each basin to ensure that county residents, businesses, agriculture, government, and the environment have reliable, high-quality groundwater to serve existing and planned land uses during prolonged drought years. (IGC, RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy]

**WR-4.2 Important Groundwater Recharge Area Protection**
In areas identified as important recharge areas by the County or the applicable Groundwater Sustainability Agency, the County shall condition discretionary development to limit impervious surfaces where feasible and shall require mitigation in cases where there is the potential for discharge of harmful pollutants within important groundwater recharge areas. (IGC, RDR) [Source: New Policy]
WR-4.3  **Groundwater Recharge Projects**
The County shall support groundwater recharge and multi-benefit projects consistent with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan to ensure the long-term sustainability of groundwater. (IGC, RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy]

WR-4.4  **In-Stream and Recycled Water Use for Groundwater Recharge**
The County shall encourage the use of in-stream water flow and recycled water for groundwater recharge while balancing the needs of urban and agricultural uses, and healthy ecosystems, including in-stream waterflows needed for endangered species protection. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

WR-4.5  **Discretionary Development Subject to CEQA Statement of Overriding Considerations – Water Quantity and Quality**
The County shall require that discretionary development shall not significantly impact the quantity or quality of water resources within watersheds, groundwater recharge areas or groundwater basins. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.3.2.4, modified]

WR-4.6  **Out-of-River Mining and Groundwater**
The County shall require discretionary development for out-of-river mining below the historic or predicted high groundwater level in the Del Norte/El Rio (Oxnard Forebay Basin) to demonstrate that extraction activities will not interfere with or affect groundwater quality and quantity pursuant to the County’s Initial Study Assessment Guidelines. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.3.2.7, modified]

WR-4.7  **Discretionary Development and Conditions of Approval – Oil, Gas, and Water Wells**
The County shall require that discretionary development be subject to conditions of approval requiring proper drilling and construction of new oil, gas, and water wells and removal and plugging of all abandoned wells on-site. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.3.2.8, modified]

WR-4.8  **New Water Wells**
The County shall require all new water wells located within Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) boundaries to be compliant with GSAs and adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

WR-4.9  **New Water Wells in the Oxnard Plain Pressure Basin**
The County shall prohibit new water wells in the Oxnard Plain Pressure Basin if they would increase seawater intrusion in the Oxnard or Mugu aquifers. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.3.2.9, modified]
9.5  **Watershed Management**

In the past, different elements of the water system were managed separately from other elements. For example, groundwater was managed as a separate resource from stormwater and recycled water. The County continues to move toward managing and regulating water resources through a watershed-based approach. This approach integrates many facets of water resources management on a regional level, including water supply, water quality, flood management, sediment management, ecosystem health, and recreation through enhanced collaboration across geographic and political boundaries and diverse stakeholder groups.

Watershed management and integrated regional water management are critical elements to ensuring sustainable water resources in the county. While there are only two policies in this section, the County intends to consider many of the policies throughout this element in a watershed context.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WR-5</th>
<th>To protect and, where feasible, enhance watersheds and aquifer recharge areas through integration of multiple facets of watershed-based approaches. [<em>Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.3.1.5, modified</em>]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WR-5.1</td>
<td><strong>Integrated Watershed Management</strong>&lt;br&gt;The County shall work with water suppliers, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), wastewater utilities, and stormwater management entities to manage and enhance the shift toward integrated management of surface and groundwater, stormwater treatment and use, recycled water and conservation, and desalination. (IGC, SO) [<em>Source: New Policy</em>]</td>
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<td>WR-5.2</td>
<td><strong>Watershed Management Funding</strong>&lt;br&gt;The County shall continue to seek funding and support coordination of watershed planning and watershed-level project implementation to protect and enhance local watersheds. (FB) [<em>Source: New Policy</em>]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9.6 Water for Agriculture

Agriculture, water availability, economic vitality, and natural resource conservation are inextricably linked in enhancing the quality of life in Ventura County. According to the Ventura County 2013 Water Supply and Demand Report, agricultural water use accounts for nearly 60 percent of total water demand in the county. Water is essential to agricultural production, and its availability and supply source vary by location.

In addition to the need for a sustainable water supply for agricultural uses, the County must also ensure that agriculture does not negatively impact water quality. Tillage and irrigation are likely to alter the runoff and infiltration characteristics of the land, affecting groundwater recharge, and increasing erosion that can result in sediment deposit into surface-water bodies. This in turn could affect the interaction of groundwater and surface water. The policies in this section address the County’s role in balancing adequate water quality and a sufficient supply for agricultural uses in the county.

WR-6.1 Water for Agricultural Uses

The County should support the appropriate agencies in their efforts to effectively manage and enhance water quantity and quality to ensure long-term, adequate availability of high quality and economically viable water for agricultural uses, consistent with water use efficiency programs. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]

WR-6.2 Agricultural Water Efficiency

The County should support programs designed to increase agricultural water use efficiency and secure long-term water supplies for agriculture. (PI) [Source: New Policy]

WR-6.3 Reclaimed Water Use

The County should encourage the use of reclaimed irrigation water and treated urban wastewater for agricultural irrigation in accordance with federal and state requirements in order to conserve untreated groundwater and potable water supplies. (IGC, RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy]
Environmental quality and natural resource conservation are inextricably linked with the quality of life in Ventura County. A variety of upland, riparian, wetland, and coastal vegetation types exist in the county that are home to both common and sensitive species. To preserve, maintain, and improve the environment, water must be allocated and managed with the intent to improve the health of forests, upland areas, rivers, wetlands, and floodplains. The policies in this section address the County’s role in assuring adequate water supply for the environment.

To consider the water needs of the natural environment with other water uses in the county. [New Goal]

The County shall encourage the appropriate agencies to effectively manage water quantity and quality to address long-term adequate availability of water for environmental purposes, including maintenance of existing groundwater-dependent habitats and in-stream flows needed for riparian habitats and species protection. (IGC) [New Policy]
### 9.8 Implementation Programs

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[Source: New Program]

The County shall coordinate with the local groundwater management agencies and local groundwater sustainability agencies to update County of Ventura Ordinance 4468 and related guidelines on the location, construction, and abandonment of water wells, if necessary. [Source: New Program]

The County shall verify that all discretionary development proposals demonstrate an adequate long-term supply of water, adequate methods for sewage disposal, provide adequate drainage to avoid flooding, prevent erosion, and prevent contamination of local water. [Source: New Program]

The County shall work with the state and local water suppliers to educate County residents and offer incentives for water conservation features, including drought-tolerant landscaping, removal of turf, graywater, and water-saving plumbing technologies. [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.3.2.5 and Goal 4.3.1.2, modified]

The County shall review water usage at County-owned facilities and from County operations and develop recommendations for water saving practices and facility improvements, including turf removal to conserve water. [Source: New Program]
10 Economic Vitality Element
Please see the next page.
Economic vitality in Ventura County incorporates both economic advancement and quality of life, addressing both local and regional market demand, and planning for a future that reflects the needs and vision of Ventura County while enhancing social equity and economic opportunity. This includes channeling economic activity in such a way that it meets market needs while focusing urbanized development into the cities and preserving the open space and agricultural resources of the unincorporated area.

Ventura County’s economy is diverse, offering specific strengths in agriculture, manufacturing, health care, retail trade, hospitality, and public administration. These industries are where Ventura County has large concentrations of employment. However, economic growth and the distribution of economic benefits have not kept pace with other areas in the Southern California region or state. County economic activity totaled over $51.4 billion in 2017, which represents a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 1.3 percent since 2007. This is considerably slower than the state economy, which had a CAGR of 2.1 percent during this period. In part, this is because some of Ventura County’s larger economic sectors, such as financial services and construction, were particularly hard hit in the most recent recession (2007 – 2009). In addition, other large county economic sectors have experienced slower long-term growth, such as agriculture and manufacturing.

The economic development challenge is to ensure that traditional employment sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, retail, and construction can remain vibrant in the face of substantial cost pressures, changing consumer demands, and global competition. At the same time, it is important to encourage new types of businesses that reflect current technological and market opportunities and that are also aligned with the skills and creative abilities of the workforce. The Economic Vitality Element includes goals, policies, and programs intended to help retain and expand existing economic sectors, to help diversify the economy by developing new kinds of businesses, and to help improve economic resiliency.

While job opportunities will derive from the local and regional economy, economic vitality also depends on ensuring that the economic foundations that support prosperity remain robust. Water is essential to maintaining the viability of agriculture in the county and the transportation system is critical to move both goods and workers. Moreover, with aggressive renewable energy mandates in California and expanded public and private investments, Ventura County will need to ensure that its land use policies accommodate those investments and requirements. In addition, business today depends on ever increasing broadband capacities and speeds. The need for broadband is pervasive and is as critical to modern health care, one of the County’s largest job growth sectors, as it is to conventional technology sectors and emerging areas such as “Smart City” initiatives. These types of facilities and investments are critical foundations for economic prosperity.
The availability of affordable workforce housing is also an important foundation for economic vitality. The General Plan Housing Element addresses this need in detail, but from an economic development perspective, affordably priced workforce housing allows a full range of workers at all skill and experience levels to live and work in the community. The proximity of housing to job centers is an important consideration in reducing the costs and quality of life impacts associated with long commute times.

One of the county’s greatest assets is its workforce. Supportive housing and transportation policies help workers connect with employment opportunities. Workforce training is also a vital component for successful economic development. As technologies and skill requirements continue to evolve, both new and existing workers need access to education and training resources that can help the County remain a competitive location for business and job opportunities. In addition, investments in early childhood education can play a vital role in positioning our future workforce for success.

This Element includes references to the Economic Vitality Strategic Plan, which the County adopted in 2017. The Economic Vitality Strategic Plan provides a strategic framework for the County to achieve its long-term economic vitality goals. While the Economic Vitality Strategic Plan is likely to evolve during the lifetime of this General Plan, it is nonetheless the County’s primary implementation tool for this Element and for the County’s economic initiatives overall.

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

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</table>
10.1 Business and Employment

Ventura County is projected to have modest overall long-term job growth, consistent with long-term population growth. Projected growth will occur in most major industry groups, with the largest growth in health care, professional services, education, and hospitality. Economic opportunities will come from both locally generated growth and trade generated through national and global markets.

Ventura County’s economy has traditionally had high concentrations of jobs and economic activity in agriculture and manufacturing, while recent trends have shown more rapid growth occurring in other sectors. The manufacturing and agriculture sectors are projected to continue growing slowly over the long-term, but as discussed above, these industries have many issues to resolve in order to retain their strength within the local economy. Policies to support retention and expansion of manufacturing industries are addressed below in Section 10.2, Goal EV-4, which supports expansion and retention of industry clusters. Other existing sectors that could be expanded include tourism and defense technologies.

- **Tourism**: Ventura County has numerous scenic destinations that draw thousands of visitors to the area. Local businesses that serve the tourism market include hospitality (accommodations and food service), agriculture, and recreation. Accommodations in Ventura County represent an underserved market, and potential opportunity for expansion in certain unincorporated areas. In addition, agri-tourism is another area of potential expansion.

- **Military**: Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) supports over 18,000 military, civilian, and contractor jobs. These jobs include research, airborne operations, and over-water training. The base’s high-level operations and technological focus are anticipated to keep the base in the Navy’s long-term plans, recognizing, however, that defense priorities can change. Overall, NBVC generates about $2 billion in total economic benefit to Ventura County each year.

At a local level, population growth and increasing household income levels will support additional demand for local-serving businesses. The challenge in Ventura County will center on how new businesses and commercial developments address existing and future consumer needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EV-1</th>
<th>To foster a robust and diversified local economy that provides quality employment and attracts stable businesses in Existing Communities and unincorporated Urban Areas. [Source: New Policy]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EV-1.1</td>
<td><strong>Economic Vitality Strategic Plan</strong>&lt;br&gt;The County shall use the Ventura County Economic Vitality Strategic Plan, as updated, as an operational guide to implement the economic development goals, policies, and programs of the General Plan. (FB, SO, MPSP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<td>EV-1.2</td>
<td><strong>County Investment Priorities</strong>&lt;br&gt;The County shall prioritize investment in infrastructure, services, safety net programs and other assets that are critical to future economic vitality, including public safety, healthcare, library services, water supply and quality, transportation, energy, and environmental resources. This investment shall consider equity in investment opportunities to designated disadvantaged communities, including designated Opportunity Zones under the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. The focus of these efforts shall be to improve social equity and opportunity for all. (FB, SO) [Source: VCEVSP Policy A.3, E.1, modified]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EV-1.3  **Housing Affordability**
The County shall continue to work with cities and community organizations to implement best practices, pursue funding, and implement programs that reduce the cost of housing to retain and attract employers and employees. (MPSP, IGC) [Source: VCEVSP Policy F.1, modified]

EV-1.4  **Regulatory Environment**
The County shall promote business-friendliness in the regulatory and permitting environment throughout Ventura County through collaboration, exchange of ideas and best practices, improvement in clarity and efficiency in the permitting process, taking advantage of opportunities for streamlining in the development process, and promoting consistency in policy and practice among cities and the County. (RDR, IGC) [Source: VCEVSP Policy F.3, modified]

EV-1.5  **Supporting Tourism**
The County shall encourage the development of sustainable and innovative visitor-serving attractions that expand on the tourism market in Ventura County and add to the quality of life for residents. This would include identifying viable locations for new or expanded accommodations in the unincorporated areas of Ventura County and support for ecotourism associated with the Santa Monica Mountains, Los Padres Forest, the Channel Islands, and other natural areas. (MPSP, JP) [Source: New Policy]

EV-1.6  **Economic Expansion**
The County shall work with local chambers of commerce, countywide economic development organizations, and businesses to support the appropriate expansion of the local economy and job creation, particularly in Existing Communities and unincorporated Urban Areas where zoning allows. (MPSP, JP) [Source: New Policy]

EV-1.7  **Supporting Industries Fitting County Needs**
The County shall strive to attract industries based on existing and projected workforce demographics, educational attainment, skills, and commute patterns, and which provide opportunities to residents living in designated disadvantaged communities. (MPSP, JP) [Source: New Policy]

EV-1.8  **Encourage Development Efficiency**
The County shall coordinate and work with cities in the county to enhance the efficiency of development of remaining vacant commercial and industrial sites and encourage infill and revitalization of underutilized sites. (MPSP, IGC) [Source: VCEVSP A5]

EV-1.9  **Range of Commercial Services**
The County shall encourage the development of a range of commercial uses in urban areas and Existing Communities, where zoning allows, that fulfill the daily needs of residents and visitors. (MPSP, JP) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.4.1.1, modified]

EV-1.10  **Grocery Stores in Underserved Communities**
The County shall strive to attract and retain high-quality, full-service grocery stores and other healthy food purveyors in Existing Communities and adjacent urban areas, particularly in underserved areas. (MPSP, JP) [Source: New Policy]
10. Economic Vitality

To improve the economic viability of agriculture through policies that support agriculture as an integral business to the County. [Source: New Goal]

EV-2.1 Agricultural Diversification
The County should encourage the growth and expansion of new, innovative agricultural-related business opportunities, including technological advancements in irrigation, crop production and pest control, new crop types, and agritourism, and “farm-to-table” programs and events. (RDR, PI) [Source: VCEVSP Policy A.4, modified]

EV-2.2 Value-Added Agriculture
The County shall encourage the expansion of value-added agricultural products (e.g., processing, packaging, product development) within Existing Communities, where zoning allows, and on agricultural land consistent with SOAR policies. (RDR, MPSP, JP) [Source: New Policy]

Additional policies on the agricultural economy are located in Chapter 8, Agriculture Element.

10.2 Diversified Economy

Economic diversity can help create long-term stability and economic resilience. This resilience (the ability to recover from adverse changes in the economy or environment) is particularly important as the effects of climate change create economic disruptions through wildfire, drought, increasingly variable storm events, and sea level rise.

The market outlook for different industries with the potential to grow and thrive in Ventura County depends on local, national, and global factors. Projected long-term growth in sectors such as professional services, health care, arts, entertainment, and education will help to further diversify Ventura County’s economy. An important asset for the county is its education cluster, including higher education institutions. There are two universities in the county’s unincorporated areas, California State University, Channel Islands (CSUCI), and Thomas Aquinas College. CSUCI expects to expand its 2016 enrollment level by over 70 percent by 2025, which will generate growth in faculty and staff as well as supportive goods and services in the local economy. University-driven innovation can also be an important source of business diversification. In addition to education institutions, another unique asset to the county are Federally- and State-managed areas which are available for public use. The county is home to large portions of the Los Padres National Forest and the Channel Islands National Park, which bring parkland management, research, and tourism to the county.

Areas of economic diversification within Ventura County could focus on industry clusters. Industry clusters represent aggregations of interrelated industry sectors within a region. For Ventura County, the largest industry clusters (by employment) include business services, distribution, education, agriculture, information technology, biopharmaceuticals, financial services, health care services, and hospitality. According to the Ventura County Economic Vitality Strategic Plan, industry clusters in the county with the highest concentration of employment, relative to national trends, would also include agriculture and metal working technology. Projected industry cluster...
growth shows the highest percentages occurring with business services, construction, financial services, oil and gas production, video production and distribution, and education.\textsuperscript{1}

Other opportunities for diversification include environmental technologies (“green economy”) and the creative sector. The green economy includes business activities that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources. Ventura ranks 7th among California metro areas with green technology patents. For the foreseeable future, California laws and policies will continue to drive demand for these types of goods, services, and technologies. Demand will further increase as other states adopt similar standards that conserve natural resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigate environmental impacts.

The types of industries built around creativity encompass a diverse range of categories, such as architecture, design, entertainment, fashion, communications, digital media, publishing, and the arts. This includes film and recording industries. Creative enterprises are highly concentrated in Southern California. Ventura County has distinct elements of the creative economy but has significant room for growth in this area.

To facilitate the retention, expansion, and attraction of key industries and business clusters in the county. [Source: New Goal]

EV-3.1 Existing Business Retention
The County shall proactively focus on retention of existing businesses in key industry clusters. In the unincorporated areas, this would include prioritizing Naval Base Ventura County and agricultural activities. (MPSP, JP) [Source: EVSP Policy C.2]

EV-3.2 Small Business Promotion
The County should promote and expand existing small business development programs by identifying partnerships between industry and educational organizations, and identifying potential mentoring, job training, networking, and professional development opportunities between these organizations and supporting and promoting efforts of the Small Business Administration to provide technical assistance to small business owners and employees through classes and assistance in the areas of business management, marketing, and legal assistance. The County should consider allowing entrepreneurs to use government property or facilities to test new products and services that are beneficial to the public good for micro enterprises of five employees or fewer to encourage economic opportunities in low-income areas. (IGC, JP) [Source: New Policy]

EV-3.3 Facilitate Expansion of Key Economic Clusters
The County shall work proactively to retain and facilitate the expansion of firms in key industries, particularly those at risk of downsizing or relocation. (IGC, JP) [Source: VCEVSP Strategy C.2 and C.3, modified]

10. Economic Vitality

**EV-3.4 Expansion of Naval Base Ventura County and Port of Hueneme Support Businesses**
The County shall encourage expansion and attraction of businesses that can further support existing activities at Naval Base Ventura County and the Port of Hueneme including the strengthening of existing business relationships and establishing spin-off businesses that can transfer technologies used for military applications into other markets. (IGC, JP) [Source: EVSP Policies A.7 and A.8, modified]

**EV-3.5 Entrepreneurial Development and Key Industry Attraction**
The County shall support local efforts to attract firms in key industries from outside the county or support the entrepreneurial development of new firms within the county, as well as training to develop entrepreneurship and innovation in the local workforce. (IGC, JP) [Source: VCEVSP Strategy C, modified]

**EV-4 To diversify the economic base of Ventura County through the development and expansion of environmental, creative, and technology industries, including the non-profit sector. [Source: New Goal]**

**EV-4.1 Creative Economy**
The County shall encourage the expansion of the local creative economy, including arts businesses, creative and performing arts, and non-profit organizations, as well as professional service sectors built around the creative arts. (MPSP, JP) [Source: New Policy and EVSP Policy A.6]

**EV-4.2 Green Economy**
The County shall support the development of industries and businesses that promote and enhance environmental sustainability, greenhouse gas reductions, decarbonization, climate change adaptation, resiliency, and renewable energy generation, storage, and transmission, including solar power, wind power, wave energy and other appropriate renewable sources. The County shall promote the efforts of existing businesses that meet green business criteria; job training in green building techniques and regenerative farming; and strive to build green technologies into and decarbonize existing government buildings and facilities. (MPSP, JP) [Source: New Policy]

**EV-4.3 Sustainable Business Development**
The County shall encourage the development and expansion of businesses that advance social equity, environmental quality, and economic sustainability, as well as capitalize on key industry strengths. Economic sustainability includes planning and preparation for disaster response and long-term resiliency of businesses and economic assets in the county. (JP) [Source: New Policy]

**EV-4.4 Renewable Energy Facilities**
The County shall identify appropriate locations to allow for development of renewable energy generation and storage facilities and encourage the development of innovative approaches to renewable energy deployment, including solar power, wind power, wave energy, distributed power systems and micro-grids, and other appropriate renewable sources and storage and distribution systems. (MPSP, JP) [Source: New Policy]
10.3 Economic Foundations

Economic prosperity is dependent on critical infrastructure systems that provide adequate capacity, reliable service, and flexible functionality. Water is a critical resource for the agricultural industry, as is the freight distribution system through the county. The Port of Hueneme provides essential services not only for agricultural products and supplies but other high value industries including automobile imports. In addition, new technologies, particularly broadband capacity, need to be widely deployed through both public and private investments. Finally, adequate housing is a major foundation for economic vitality, helping to support a diverse labor force that is vital to business prosperity.

| EV-5 | To promote a strong local economy by improving critical infrastructure, including water, transportation, broadband, and renewable energy. [Source: EVSP Strategy Group E] |
| EV-5.1 | Transportation Infrastructure  
The County shall monitor and seek improvements to transportation infrastructure involving roads within County jurisdiction, particularly routes used for goods movement, to minimize the cost and inconvenience of traffic congestion. (FB, SO) [Source: VCEVSP Policy E.2] |
| EV-5.2 | Energy Infrastructure  
The County shall work to improve energy infrastructure to increase availability, reliability, sustainability, and use of renewable energy sources, with a focus on Existing Communities and equity in service to disadvantaged communities. (IGC, SO) [Source: EVSP Policy E.4] |
| EV-5.3 | Broadband  
The County should encourage efforts to equitably extend broadband capacity throughout the county, including to designated disadvantaged communities, and to encourage private sector investments in state-of-the-art high speed fiber optic infrastructure for both commercial and residential use. The County should use its franchise agreement powers, among others, whenever possible to secure improved services. (IGC, SO, JP) [Source: New Policy] |
| EV-5.4 | Port of Hueneme  
The County shall support the creation and enhancement of shipping, warehousing facilities at the Port of Hueneme as well as improvements to surface transportation connections to the supportive industries and businesses that are located outside of the Port. (IGC, SO) [Source: New Policy] |
| EV-5.5 | Water Availability and Cost  
The County shall support efforts to ensure that adequate water supplies are available for business use at reasonable cost recognizing that water is a vital resource not only for agricultural businesses but many other types of businesses in the county. [Source: New Policy] |

Housing is addressed in Chapter 3, Housing Element.  
Water infrastructure is addresses in Chapter 9, Water Resources Element.
10.4 Labor Force Development

The local labor force represents one of the most crucial competitive factors for economic vitality. Businesses depend on having a sufficient quantity of workers suited to the functions that their operations require. From a planning perspective, the skills, education levels, and other qualifications needed for local jobs should be matched to the characteristics of the local labor force. In addition, local institutions should be ready to prepare the labor force to work in the growing industries within the region.

The highest proportion of the county labor force works in retail, health care, and manufacturing industries. In addition, Ventura County has more resident workers in services industries, such as information, finance and insurance, real estate, and professional/scientific services, than it has jobs in these sectors. This would indicate that many residents commute out of Ventura County for those types of jobs. Compared to the cities, the unincorporated county area had a higher labor force representation in professional services, and saw the greatest growth in agriculture, professional services, educational services, and hospitality between 2006 and 2014.

Labor force development will remain a challenge and priority and will need to evolve alongside changes to the local and regional economies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EV-6</th>
<th>To improve labor force preparedness by providing the local workforce with the skills needed to meet the requirements of evolving business needs. [Source: New Goal]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| EV-6.1 | Workforce Readiness  
The County shall collaborate with the Workforce Development Board, the P-20 Council, job and career centers, and other organizations to maximize workforce readiness by promoting job opportunity readiness among unemployed or underemployed residents and students and coordinating with local employers to identify workforce readiness issues and education and training program needs. (IGC, JP) [Source: VCEVSP Strategy B, modified] |
| EV-6.2 | Workforce Development  
The County shall work with public and private universities, colleges, and technical schools in the county to support innovation and the development, retraining, and retention of a skilled workforce. (IGC, JP, PI) [Source: New Policy] |
| EV-6.3 | Job Training in Green Construction  
The County shall work with public, private, and non-profit entities to prepare workers for jobs in green construction, including solar panel installation, decarbonizing buildings and infrastructure, and green building retrofits. (MPSP, FB, JP) [Source: New Policy] |
| EV-6.4 | Local Graduate Retention  
The County shall actively support efforts to keep local high school and university graduates in the local workforce. (IGC, JP) [Source: New Policy] |
| EV-6.5 | County Hiring Practices  
The County shall leverage its status as the second-largest employer in the county to pursue best practices aimed at maximizing local hiring, with a focus on designated disadvantaged communities, in coordination with education and training providers. (SO, IGC) [Source: VCEVSP Policy B.5] |
**EV-6.6 Early Childhood Education**
The County shall support efforts to enhance early childhood education opportunities in Ventura County, by coordinating with the Local Planning Council of Ventura County and other educational and economic development partners to secure additional funding to ensure that all children have access to available programs. *(IGC)* *[Source: New Policy]*

### 10.5 Implementation Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Implements Which Policy(ies)</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>2020–2025</th>
<th>2026–2030</th>
<th>2031–2040</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A Economic Vitality Strategic Plan</strong></td>
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<td><strong>B Investment in Opportunity Zones</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall work with the Economic</td>
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<td>potential displacement. <em>(Source: New Program)</em></td>
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<td><strong>C Promote Infill and Revitalization</strong></td>
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<td>RMA</td>
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<td>The County shall prepare development</td>
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<td>of underutilized sites. <em>(Source: VCEVSP A.5)</em></td>
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<td><strong>D Ventura County Office of Economic</strong></td>
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<td>Development</td>
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<td>promote Ventura County as budgets allow.</td>
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<td>Programs</td>
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<td>Responsible Supporting Department(s)</td>
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<td><strong>E Business Retention and Expansion</strong></td>
<td>EV-3.1 EV-3.2 EV-3.3 EV-3.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall coordinate with the Economic Development Collaborative - Ventura County to focus on retention and expansion of existing businesses in key industry clusters, including Naval Base Ventura County and Port of Hueneme support businesses. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>F Broadband Capacity Development</strong></td>
<td>EV-5.3</td>
<td>CEO/ITSD</td>
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<td>The County shall identify the necessary policies, regulations, and development standards for critical broadband infrastructure, such as fiber optics, shadow conduit, vertical assets and dig once policies. Based on this work, the County shall develop a Broadband Master Plan in cooperation with service providers to identify how high-speed broadband infrastructure and services will be funded, developed and deployed. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>G Workforce Development</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall provide data and staff resources to support the Ventura County Workforce Development Board in the implementation of the Ventura County Regional Workforce Development Plan to address workforce readiness and development, and local graduate retention. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>H Evaluate County Hiring Practices</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall conduct an evaluation of its hiring practices, in coordination with education and training providers, to determine how the County can maximize local hiring. [Source: New Program]</td>
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Please see the next page.
Please see the next page.
Chapter 11 contains the Area Plans. The current General Plan includes the following nine area plans:

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

The 2040 General Plan Update includes an update of seven of the nine Area Plans. The acronyms following these Area Plan names are used in those Areas Plans to uniquely identify the goals and policies in each plan. The 2040 General Plan Update did not include an update of the Coastal Area Plan and the Saticoy Area Plan, although the General Plan incorporates these plans as adopted by the County.

Table 11-1 shows the compatibility between land use designations in the countywide General Plan and Area Plans. The solid squares indicate a directly compatible relationship between the two designations, and the empty square indicates limited compatibility because of a restriction from the development standards.
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<tr>
<td>El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan</td>
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### Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley Area Plan

- **Rural Residential 2-5 ac min.**
  - ECU-Rural
  - Agricultural
  - ECU-Agricultural
  - Open Space
  - ECU-Open Space
  - Very Low-Density Res.
  - Low Density Res.
  - Med.-Density Res.
  - High-Density Res.
  - Res. Planned Dev.
  - Coastal Res. Planned Dev.
  - Res. Beach
  - Mixed Use
  - Commercial Planned Dev.
  - Industrial
  - Parks & Rec.
  - State, Federal, Other Public Lands

- **Rural Residential 5-10 ac min.**
  - ECU-Rural
  - Agricultural
  - ECU-Agricultural
  - Open Space
  - ECU-Open Space
  - Very Low-Density Res.
  - Low Density Res.
  - Med.-Density Res.
  - High-Density Res.
  - Res. Planned Dev.
  - Coastal Res. Planned Dev.
  - Res. Beach
  - Mixed Use
  - Commercial Planned Dev.
  - Industrial
  - Parks & Rec.
  - State, Federal, Other Public Lands

- **Urban Residential 1 du/ac**
  - ECU-Rural
  - Agricultural
  - ECU-Agricultural
  - Open Space
  - ECU-Open Space
  - Very Low-Density Res.
  - Low Density Res.
  - Med.-Density Res.
  - High-Density Res.
  - Res. Planned Dev.
  - Coastal Res. Planned Dev.
  - Res. Beach
  - Mixed Use
  - Commercial Planned Dev.
  - Industrial
  - Parks & Rec.
  - State, Federal, Other Public Lands

- **Urban Residential 1-2 du/ac**
  - ECU-Rural
  - Agricultural
  - ECU-Agricultural
  - Open Space
  - ECU-Open Space
  - Very Low-Density Res.
  - Low Density Res.
  - Med.-Density Res.
  - High-Density Res.
  - Res. Planned Dev.
  - Coastal Res. Planned Dev.
  - Res. Beach
  - Mixed Use
  - Commercial Planned Dev.
  - Industrial
  - Parks & Rec.
  - State, Federal, Other Public Lands

- **Urban Residential 2-4 du/ac**
  - ECU-Rural
  - Agricultural
  - ECU-Agricultural
  - Open Space
  - ECU-Open Space
  - Very Low-Density Res.
  - Low Density Res.
  - Med.-Density Res.
  - High-Density Res.
  - Res. Planned Dev.
  - Coastal Res. Planned Dev.
  - Res. Beach
  - Mixed Use
  - Commercial Planned Dev.
  - Industrial
  - Parks & Rec.
  - State, Federal, Other Public Lands

- **Parks and Recreation**
  - ECU-Rural
  - Agricultural
  - ECU-Agricultural
  - Open Space
  - ECU-Open Space
  - Very Low-Density Res.
  - Low Density Res.
  - Med.-Density Res.
  - High-Density Res.
  - Res. Planned Dev.
  - Coastal Res. Planned Dev.
  - Res. Beach
  - Mixed Use
  - Commercial Planned Dev.
  - Industrial
  - Parks & Rec.
  - State, Federal, Other Public Lands

- **Lake**
  - ECU-Rural
  - Agricultural
  - ECU-Agricultural
  - Open Space
  - ECU-Open Space
  - Very Low-Density Res.
  - Low Density Res.
  - Med.-Density Res.
  - High-Density Res.
  - Res. Planned Dev.
  - Coastal Res. Planned Dev.
  - Res. Beach
  - Mixed Use
  - Commercial Planned Dev.
  - Industrial
  - Parks & Rec.
  - State, Federal, Other Public Lands
## Area Plan Land Use Designation

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<td>Open Space 40-80 ac</td>
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<td>Open Space 80 ac min.</td>
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</table>

### North Ventura Avenue Area Plan

| Residential, Single-Family    | ■■                   | ■■         | ■■           | ■          | ■              | ■                        | ■          | ■               | ■               | ■              | ■                        | ■          | ■         | ■             | ■             | ■             | ■            |
| Residential, Multiple-Family | ■■                   | ■■         | ■■           | ■          | ■              | ■                        | ■          | ■               | ■               | ■              | ■                        | ■          | ■         | ■             | ■             | ■             | ■            |
| Commercial                   | ■■                   | ■■         | ■■           | ■          | ■              | ■                        | ■          | ■               | ■               | ■              | ■                        | ■          | ■         | ■             | ■             | ■             | ■            |
| Industrial                   | ■■                   | ■■         | ■■           | ■          | ■              | ■                        | ■          | ■               | ■               | ■              | ■                        | ■          | ■         | ■             | ■             | ■             | ■            |
| Oilfield Industrial          | ■■                   | ■■         | ■■           | ■          | ■              | ■                        | ■          | ■               | ■               | ■              | ■                        | ■          | ■         | ■             | ■             | ■             | ■            |
| Floodplain                   | ■■                   | ■■         | ■■           | ■          | ■              | ■                        | ■          | ■               | ■               | ■              | ■                        | ■          | ■         | ■             | ■             | ■             | ■            |
## 11. Area Plans

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- **Residential 4-6 du/ac**: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
- **Residential 10-15 du/ac**: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
- **Residential 20 du/ac**: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
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Glossary and Acronyms
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12. Glossary and Acronyms

100-Year Flood Event. A flood event that would occur on average every 100 years, or that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year.

500-Year Flood Event. A flood event that would occur on average every 500 years, or that has a 0.2 percent chance of occurring in any given year.

Accessibility/Accessible. A term that describes the usability of a facility, product or service by people with disabilities.

Accessory Building or Use. An activity or structure on a property that is incidental and subordinate to the main use of a site. For example, a small business office within a store might be considered an accessory use.

Acre-foot (AF). The amount of water necessary to cover an acre (43,560 square feet) to a depth of one foot, or 43,560 cubic feet, which is equivalent to 325,828 gallons.

Acres, Gross. The entire acreage of a site, including but not limited to easements, streets and rights-of-way.

Acres, Net. The portion of a site that can actually be built upon. The following generally are not included in the net acreage of a site: public or private road rights-of-way, easements, public open space, and flood ways.

Active Fault. A fault is a fracture in the crust of the earth along which rocks on one side have moved relative to those on the other side. Most faults are the result of repeated displacements over a long period of time. A fault trace is the line of the earth’s surface defining the fault. An active fault is one that has ruptured in the past 11,000 years (California Department of Conservation).

Adaptation. The adjustment of natural or human systems to a new or changing environment.

Adaptive Reuse. The practice of converting obsolete or historic buildings from their original or most recent use to a new use.

Adjudication. With regard to water rights, a legal decision that allocates water to parties in proceedings and is overseen by a court-appointed watermaster.

Adverse Impact. A negative consequence for the physical, social, or economic environment resulting from an action or project.

Aesthetics. Regarding viewpoints and landscapes, refers to the visual resource and appeal due to characteristics such as lighting, setting conformance, architectural style, color, or openness.

Affordable Housing. Housing that is capable of being purchased or rented by persons whose income level is categorized as very low, low, or moderate within standards set by the California Department of Housing and Community Development or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
Air Basin. A geographic area that exhibits similar meteorological and geographic conditions. California is divided into 15 air basins.

Air Pollution. Air pollution refers to any chemical, physical (particulate matter), or biological agent(s) that modifies the natural characteristics of the atmosphere. This can occur indoors or outdoors and often has harmful health effects. Car emissions, chemicals from factories, dust, pollen and mold spores may be suspended as particles. Ozone is a major component of air pollution in towns and cities, causing smog.

Airport Area of Influence. An area defined for each airport that encompasses all areas within the boundaries of the 60 dB CNEL aircraft noise contour and the approach and transitional surfaces at altitudes of 500 feet or less above the relevant airport elevations.

Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC). A commission authorized under the provisions of California Public Utilities Code, Section 21670 et seq., for the purposes of promoting compatibility between airports and the land uses surrounding them and are established, with limited exceptions, in each county where a public-use airport is located.

Airport. An area used for the landing and takeoff of aircraft.

Ambient Noise Level. The composite of noise from all sources; the normal or existing level of environmental noise at a given location.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public.

Alternative Energy. A form of energy that is not derived from fossil fuels.

Alternative Fuel. A fuel for internal combustion engines that is derived partly or wholly from a source other than petroleum and that is less damaging to the environment than traditional fuels.

Aquifer. A subsurface geological formation sufficiently permeable to conduct groundwater and capable of yielding usable quantities of water to a well or surface water spring.

Annexation. The process by which land is incorporated into an existing district or city, with a resulting change in the boundaries of the annexing jurisdiction.

Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT). The annual average number of motor vehicles traversing a given roadway over a 24-hour period.

Aquifer. A geologic formation that is water bearing. A geological formation or structure that stores and/or transmits water, such as to wells and springs. Use of the term is usually restricted to those water-bearing formations capable of yielding water in sufficient quantity to constitute a usable supply for people’s uses.

Archaeological Resources. The fossilized remains of plants and animal life.

Area Plans. The land use plans for specific geographic subareas within the unincorporated area. The area plans govern the distribution, general location, and extent of uses of the land for housing, business, industry, open space, agriculture, and public facilities.

Areas of Interest. A plan adopted by LAFCO which divides the county into major geographic areas reflective of community and planning identity. Within each Area of Interest, there is to be no more than one city (but there will not necessarily be a city in each Area). Areas of Interest also serve as planning referral boundaries of the County Planning Division.

Attainment Area. An area which is shown by monitorial data or which is calculated by air quality modeling to be in compliance with any national ambient air quality standard.

Attainment Status. Attainment status for a pollutant indicates whether or not an Air District meets the standard set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (federal) or California Environmental Protection Agency (state). Continuous air monitoring ensures that these standards are met and maintained.
Average Daily Traffic (ADT). The average number of motor vehicles traversing a given roadway over a 24-hour period.

A-Weighted Sound Level (dBA). The sound pressure level in decibels as measured on a sound level meter using the A-weighting filter network. The A-weighting filter de-emphasizes the very low- and very high-frequency components of the sound in a manner similar to the frequency response of the human ear and correlates well with subjective reactions to noise.

Below Ridgeline. Areas below an imaginary horizontal plane that extends from points along a ridgeline as it transverses the subject property.

Best Management Practices (BMP). The practice, or combination of practices, that is designed to achieve sustainable groundwater management and have been determined to be technologically and economically effective, practicable, and based on best available science.

Bikeway. Facilities that primarily provide for bicycle travel. The following are categories of bikeways:

Class I Bikeway – A bike path that provides a completely separated right-of-way for the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians with crossflow by motorists minimized.

Class II Bikeway – A bike lane that provides a striped lane for one-way bike travel on a street or highway and is typically designated by bike lane signs and markings.

Class III Bikeway – A bike route that provides a shared use area with pedestrian traffic or motor vehicle traffic (i.e., paved shoulder) and is typically designated with a bike route sign.

Class IV Bikeway – A separated bike lane, or “protected bike lane,” with a physical barrier between the bike lane and the adjacent travel lanes, parking lanes, and sidewalks. These may be one-way or two-way. These bike lanes can be separated from motor vehicle traffic by raised medians, concrete curbs, landscaping, on-street parking, bollards, flexible delineator posts, or by a change in elevation between the bike lane and travel lane.

Bikeshare. A service in which bicycles are made available for shared use to individuals on a short-term basis for a price or for free. Many bike share systems allow people to borrow a bike from a "dock" and return it at another dock belonging to the same system.

Biological. This term refers to the life or processes of living organisms.

Biological Control. The action of natural enemies (e.g., predators, parasites, diseases and antagonists) that reduces populations of pest insects, mites, weeds, and diseases, generally through human intervention and often targeting specific life stages and during a particular season. It can be an important component of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs.

Biological Resources. A term that includes plant and animal species (including those defined as “special-status species”) and their habitats, plant communities, and ecosystems that include habitat linkages and wildlife corridors.

Biopesticides. The naturally occurring substances that control pests (biochemical pesticides), microorganisms that control pests (microbial pesticides), and pesticidal substances produced by plants containing added genetic material (plant-incorporated protectants).

Brownfield. An area with abandoned, idle, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion, redevelopment, or reuse is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

Building Coverage. The amount of a lot that is covered by buildings, which is expressed as a percentage.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). State law that requires state and local agencies to
evaluate and disclose the significant environmental impacts of discretionary actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible.

**Streamlining.** Making a regulatory permitting or compliance process more efficient or less cumbersome. When used in reference to CEQA, streamlining means limiting or focusing the scope of environmental review for projects that meet certain criteria (e.g., streamlining for infill projects, per CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.3; or tiering and streamlining GHG emissions analysis for projects consistent with a climate action plan or GHG reduction plan, per CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5).

**Tiering.** Using the analysis of general matters contained in a broader environmental impact report (EIR), such as a program EIR prepared for a general plan or other programmatic action, with later EIRs and negative declarations on narrower projects; incorporating by reference the general discussions from the broader EIR; and concentrating the later EIR or negative declaration solely on the issues specific to the later project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15152).

**Candidate Species.** Any species that is under review by a state or federal agency to be listed as threatened or endangered, pursuant to either the Endangered Species Act or CA Fish and Game Code Section 2081.

**Carbon Dioxide (CO\textsubscript{2}).** A naturally occurring gas that exists in the earth's atmosphere. CO\textsubscript{2} is also a by-product of burning fossil fuels and biomass, as well as land-use changes and other industrial processes. It is the principal man-made greenhouse gas (GHG) that affects the earth's radiative balance. It is the reference gas against which other GHGs are measured and, therefore, has a global warming potential of one.

**Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO\textsubscript{2}e).** CO\textsubscript{2}e is the measure of how much heat trapping potential a given type of greenhouse gas has on average over a 100-year time period, based on its molecular structure compared to carbon dioxide (CO\textsubscript{2}). CO\textsubscript{2} has a baseline of one, while other gases can be tens to thousands of times higher. The carbon dioxide equivalent for a gas is derived by multiplying the tons of the gas by the associated global warming potential. Carbon dioxide equivalents are commonly expressed as "metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents" (MT CO\textsubscript{2}e). Different molecules decay at different rates, causing their heat trapping potential to decline over periods of decades to centuries.

**City Limits.** A political boundary that defines land that has been incorporated into a city.

**Climate.** Climate, in a narrow sense, is usually defined as the "average weather," or more rigorously, as the statistical description in terms of the mean and variability of relevant quantities over a period of time ranging from months to thousands of years. The classical period is three decades, as defined by the World Meteorological Organization. These quantities are most often surface variables such as temperature, precipitation, and wind. Climate in a wider sense is the state, including a statistical description, of the climate system.

**Climate Action Plan (CAP).** A planning document that lays out a set of strategies and policy recommendations intended to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change within a given entity, agency, or jurisdiction. The Ventura County 2040 General Plan also serves as the County’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) by including a GHG Strategy that includes policies and implementation programs that identify and reduce GHG emissions, and a Climate Adaptation Strategy that identifies climate adaptation measures that address the County’s vulnerability to climate change.

**Climate Adaptation.** Adjustment or preparation of natural or human systems to a new or changing environment because of climate change that moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities,
Climate Change. Any significant change in the measures of climate lasting for an extended period of time. In other words, climate change includes major changes in temperature, precipitation, or wind patterns, among others, that occur over several decades or longer.

Climate Vulnerability. The extent to which a natural or social system is susceptible to sustaining damage from climate change and is a function of the magnitude of climate change, the sensitivity of the system to changes in climate and the ability to adapt the system to changes in climate.

Cluster Development. Description of a development technique that groups properties or units on a development site (subdivision and/or individual property) in order to maximize available land for open space, recreation, or agricultural use. (Also referred to as compact development.)

Collectors. A roadway facility that provides local access to the overall roadway network. Collectors channel traffic from local roadways into the arterial network. Intersections are permitted with all public roadways. Collectors have two lanes or more. See Minor Collectors.

Community Noise Equivalent Levels (CNEL). The average A-weighted noise level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of five decibels to noise levels occurring in the evening from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and the addition of 10 decibels to sound levels measured in the night between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Community Wastewater Treatment Facilities. A wastewater treatment plant that treats liquid waste which is received from off of the plant site. Such facilities include public agency-owned plants and privately-owned plants, and, may include accessory biosolids composting operations. (ADD. ORD. 4092 - 6/27/95; AM. ORD. 4123 - 9/17/96; AM. ORD. 4214 - 10/24/00)

Complete Street. A roadway facility that safely provides adequate access and capacity for all modes and users within the shared right-of-way.

Congestion Management Agency (CMA). A countywide agency that is responsible for preparing and implementing a Congestion Management Program (CMP). Ventura County Transportation Commission is the CMA for the Ventura region.

Congestion Management Program (State) or Process (Federal) (CMP). A program that the federal government requires of every county in California with a population of 50,000 or more to qualify for certain state and federal funds. CMPs set performance standards for roads and public transit and show how local agencies plan to meet those standards.

Conservation. The management of natural resources to prevent waste, destruction, or neglect.

Conventional State Highways. A conventional state highway refers to any highway which is acquired, laid out, constructed, improved or maintained as a State highway pursuant to constitutional or legislative authorization. Routes of the state highway system serve the state’s heavily traveled rural and urban corridors, that they connect the communities and regions of the state, and that they serve the state’s economy by connecting centers of commerce, industry, agriculture, mineral wealth, and recreation (Streets and Highways Code, Division 1, Chapter 2, Article 3, 300).

Criteria Pollutants. The criteria pollutants are the six principle pollutants harmful to public health and the environment for which the Environmental Protection Agency has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The pollutants are: carbon monoxide (CO), lead, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), particulate matter (PM), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂).

Critical Habitat. A term defined and used in the Endangered Species Act. It is a specific geographic area(s) that contains features essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management and protection. Critical habitat may include an area that is not currently occupied by the species but that will be needed for its recovery.
**Critical Overdraft.** 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.

**Cultural Resources.** A term most frequently identified with prehistoric (archaeological) or historic items. These can include prehistoric and historic districts, sites, structures, artifacts and other evidence of human use considered to be of importance to a culture, subculture, or community for traditional, religious, scientific or other reasons.

**Dam.** Any artificial barrier, together with appurtenant works, which impounds or may impound or divert water, and which either:

a) is or will be 25 feet or more in height from the natural bed of the stream or watercourse at the downstream toe of the barrier, as determined by the CA Department of Water Resources, or from the lowest elevation of the outside limit of the barrier, as determined by the CA Department of Water Resources, if it is not across a stream channel or watercourse, to the maximum possible water storage elevation, or

b) has or will have an impounding capacity of 50 acre-feet or more.

**Day/Night Noise Level, Ldn or DNL.** The average A-weighted noise level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of 10 decibels to levels measured in the night between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

**Decibel (dB).** A physical unit commonly used to describe noise levels. It is a unit for describing the amplitude of sound, as heard by the human ear.

**Density.** The amount of development per acre permitted on a parcel based on the General Plan and zoning ordinance.

**Desalination.** The process of removing salt (sodium chloride) and other minerals to obtain fresh water suitable for consumption, irrigation, or industrial uses.

**Development.** The subdivision of land; construction or alteration of structures, roads, utilities, and other facilities; installation of septic systems; grading activities; depositing of refuse; disposal of any material; dredging or mineral extraction, debris or fill materials; and the clearing of natural vegetation with the exception of agricultural activities. This does not include routine repair and maintenance activities.

**Development Impact Fee.** A fee that a local government imposes on private developers, usually on a per dwelling unit or per square foot basis, to pay for infrastructure improvements necessitated as a result of the development.

**Designated Disadvantaged Community.** Per Pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 1000 (2016), a disadvantaged community is an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code or an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. For the 2040 General Plan, Designated Disadvantaged Communities are mapped using the CalEnviroScreen (https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen) online mapping software by California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)

**Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community (DUC).** Pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 244 (2011), a fringe, island, or legacy community in which the median household income is 80 percent or less than the statewide median household income. These communities are identified in the General Plan Housing Element.

**Discretionary Development.** Any development proposal, project, or permit that requires the exercise of judgment, deliberation, or decision by the decision-making authority as part of the process of approving or disapproving a particular activity, as distinguished from situations where the decision-making authority merely has to determine whether there has been conformity with applicable statutes, ordinances, or regulations.
12. Glossary and Acronyms

**Dwelling Unit.** A room or group of rooms (including sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation facilities, but not more than one kitchen), which constitutes an independent housekeeping unit, occupied or intended for occupancy by one household on a long-term basis.

**Earthquake Fault Zone.** Earthquake Fault Zones are regulatory zones around active faults. The zones are defined by turning points connected by straight lines. Most of the turning points are identified by roads, drainages, and other features on the ground. Earthquake Fault Zones are plotted on topographic maps at a scale of one-inch equals 2,000 feet. The zones vary in width, but average about one-quarter mile wide (California Department of Conservation).

**Easement.** The right to use property owned by another person or entity for specific purposes or to gain access to another property.

**Ecosystem.** The interacting system of a biological community and its non-living environmental surroundings. In the context of in-stream beneficial use assessment application, a complex system composed of a community of fauna and flora, and considering the chemical and physical environment with which the system is interrelated.

**Ecosystem Function.** The interaction between the components (e.g., plants, animals, water, air and soil) or processes (e.g., water cycle, nutrient cycle) of an ecosystem. Ecosystem function is measured through changes in the types, numbers, and distribution of plants and animals that occupy the ecosystem and by changes to the water quality/quantity and soil types within the ecosystem.

**Effluent.** A discharge of pollutants, with or without treatment, into the environment.

**Emissions.** The release of a substance into the atmosphere, including particulate matter and gasses.

**Emissions, Fugitive:** Emissions that are not physically controlled but result from the intentional or unintentional release of greenhouse gases, most commonly from the production, processing, transmission, storage and use of fuels or other substances, often through joints, seals, packing, gaskets, or other equipment.

**Emissions, Vented.** Emissions, including methane, that is released due to equipment design or operational procedures.

**Encroachment.** Any obstruction or protrusion into a right of way or adjacent property, whether on the land or above it.

**Endangered Species.** A species listed as Endangered by the State or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Generally, any native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant that is in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion, of its range other than a species of the Class Insecta determined by the Secretary of the Interior or Commerce to constitute a pest whose protection under the provisions of this Chapter 35 of Title 16 of the U.S. Code would present an overwhelming and overriding risk to man.

**Environmental Justice.** According to California Code Section 65040.12, environmental justice is the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

**Equity.** The fair, just, and equitable management of all institutions serving the public directly or by contract; the fair, just and equitable distribution of public services and implementation of public policy; and the commitment to promote fairness, justice, and equity in the formation of public policy. A focus on equity expands opportunities for betterment that are available to those communities most in need, creating more choices for those who have few.

**Equivalent Noise Level (Leq).** The average A-weighted noise level during the measurement period.
Erosion. Erosion is the process of removal and transport of soil and rock by weathering, mass wasting, and the action of streams, glaciers, waves, winds, and underground water.

Essential Facilities. Structures or buildings that must be safe and usable for emergency purposes after a natural or human-induced disaster to preserve the health and safety of the general public. These facilities include:

- Hospitals and other medical facilities having surgery or emergency treatment areas.
- Fire, police, and sheriff stations.
- Tanks or other structures containing, housing or supporting water or other fire-suppression materials or equipment required for protection of essential or hazardous materials facilities or special occupancy structures.
- Emergency vehicle shelters and garages.
- Structures and equipment in emergency-preparedness centers.
- Stand-by power generating equipment for essential facilities.
- Structures and equipment in government communication centers and other facilities required for emergency response.

Existing Community. An area designated as Existing Community in the 2040 General Plan and identified in the Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR) initiative. These areas identify existing urban residential, commercial, or industrial enclaves outside of incorporated areas and urban centers. The Existing Community area designation applies to areas that include uses, densities, building intensities, and zoning designations that are normally found in incorporated areas or urban centers, but which do not qualify as urban centers.

Expansive Soils. Soils that expand or swell (increase in volume) when wet and contract or shrink (decrease in volume) when dried.

Expressways. An arterial highway for through traffic which may have partial control of access, but which may or may not be divided or have grade separations at intersections (Streets and Highways Code, Division 1, Chapter 2, Article 2, 257).

Extreme Heat Days. An extreme heat day is a day in April through October where the maximum temperature exceeds the 98th historical percentile of maximum temperatures (based on daily temperature data between 1961-1990).

Extreme Storm Events. Extreme storm events refer to the increase in precipitation intensity and variability, increase in wind speed, and increase in ocean temperatures that increase the number and intensity of tropical storms that can increase the risk of flooding, drought, erosion, turbidity, debris in reservoirs, nutrient and pollutant loading, and wildfires.

Farmland of Local Importance. A category of the Important Farmlands Inventory that consists of local soils that are listed as Prime or Statewide Importance. This farmland is not irrigated and includes such dry land crops as beans or grain.

Farmland of Statewide Importance. A category of the Important Farmlands Inventory that generally includes lands with a good combination of physical and chemical features for the production of agricultural crops. The criterion is basically like that of prime farmland but there is no minimum soil depth limitation and no permeability restriction. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

Farmworker Housing. Farmworker units are occupied by a farmworker, and his or her family, employed full time and working on the same lot on which the dwelling unit is located or on other land that is under the same ownership or lease as the subject lot.
Fault. A fracture in the earth’s crust accompanied by displacement of one side of the fracture with respect to the other side. This term is used in the following contexts:

Active Fault. A fault that has had surface displacement within the last 11,000 years (Holocene Time). Faults that lack evidence for Holocene displacement at a particular locality may be determined to be active based on data from another locality.

Fault Hazard Area. Land within about 660 feet of active faults. These areas generally require the evaluation of the fault hazard prior to any planned development for human occupancy.

Fire Hazard Severity Zone. California law requires California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CAL FIRE) to identify areas based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail there. These areas, or “zones,” are based on factors such as fuel (material that can burn), slope, and weather. There are three zones, based on increasing fire hazard—medium, high, and very high.

Fiscal Year. The period designated for the beginning and ending of financial transactions, which begins on July 1 and ends June 30 of the following year.

Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The FIRM is the basis for floodplain management, mitigation, and insurance activities of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Uses of the FIRM for insurance activities include enforcement of the mandatory purchase requirement of the 1973 Act. The risk zones shown on the FIRMs are the basis for the establishment of premium rates for flood coverage offered through the NFIP. At present FIRMs have been published for virtually all communities in the nation having flood risks.

Floodplain. The area adjacent to a watercourse or other body of water that is subject to recurring floods.

Floodway. See Regulatory Floodway.

Floor Area-Ratio (FAR). The ratio of allowable building space per land area on a development site.

Food Desert. A geographic area that has limited access to affordable, healthy food options needed to maintain a healthy diet. The USDA defines a food desert, or “low-access community,” as communities of 500 people where at least 33 percent of the community lives more than one mile from a supermarket or large grocery store. For rural communities, the distance is 10 miles or more.

Food Hub. An integrated food distribution system that coordinates agricultural production, and the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of locally or regionally produced food products.

Food Insecurity. A condition that refers to difficulty accessing healthy food. The USDA describes low food security as reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of the food available, with no or some indication of reduced food intake; very low food security refers to multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.

Food Security. A condition that refers to adequate and consistent access to healthy foods.

Fossil Fuels. Carbon-rich deposits in the earth, such as petroleum (oil), coal, or natural gas, derived from the remains of ancient plants and animals and used for fuel.

Free Flow Speed. The speed that a motorist travels on a given roadway as the density of vehicles on the roadway approaches zero.

Freeways. Freeways are highways where the owners of abutting lands have no right or easement of access to or from their abutting lands or in respect to which such owners have only limited or restricted right or easement of access (Streets and Highways Code, General provisions, 23.5). A freeway is a divided arterial highway for through traffic with full control of access and with grade separations at intersections (Streets and Highways Code, Division 1, Chapter 2, Article 2, 257).
**Frequency (Hz).** The number of complete pressure fluctuations per second above and below atmospheric pressure. Normal human hearing is between 20 Hz and 20,000 Hz. Infrasonic sounds are below 20 Hz and ultrasonic sounds are above 20,000 Hz.

**Fringe Community.** Any inhabited and unincorporated territory that is within a city sphere of influence.

**Frontage.** The frontage, or front, of a lot is usually defined as the side nearest the street.

**Functional Classification.** See “Roadway Functional Classification.”

**Geographic Information System (GIS).** A computerized tool for gathering, managing, and analyzing geo-spatial data. GIS analyzes spatial location and organizes layers of information into visualizations using maps and 3D scenes.

**Global Warming Potential (GWP) Values.** The use of values to apply a weight to gases that are determined by researchers to have increased greenhouse gas effects relative to the most common greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide. These values are determined using specific methodologies, such as those described in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s Fifth Assessment Report (2014).

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

**Greenbelt Agreement.** A joint resolution between interested cities and the county to protect open space and agricultural lands. Cities commit to not annex any property within a greenbelt while the Board of Supervisors agrees to restrict development to uses consistent with existing zoning.

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG).** Any gas that absorbs infrared radiation in the atmosphere. The principal greenhouse gases associated with global warming and climate change that are commonly included in GHG emissions inventories include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆).

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory.** A quantitative analysis of activity-based, community-wide GHG emissions generated by residents, businesses, or other sources, typically measured for a period of one calendar year and organized by sector. The County of Ventura’s GHG inventory applies to the unincorporated area.

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Mitigation.** The reduction of human impacts on the climate by reducing greenhouse gas sources and emissions and enhancing greenhouse gas sinks.

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy.** A strategy to identify and reduce community GHG emissions from existing and future activities and sources within the unincorporated area of the county. The GHG Strategy also serves to identify the County’s local fair-share contribution to meeting statewide GHG emission reduction goals pursuant to state legislation, policies, and guidance.

**Gross Acre.** Amount of land, including but not limited to easements, streets and rights-of-way, designated for a particular use.

**Groundwater.** Water under the earth’s surface, often confined to aquifers capable of supplying wells and springs.

**Groundwater Basin.** An aquifer or system of aquifers that has reasonably well-defined boundaries and more or less definite areas of recharge and discharge. Refers to subsurface deposits and geologic formations that are capable of yielding usable quantities of water to a well or spring. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act defines “basin” as a groundwater basin or subbasin identified and defined in Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118 or as modified pursuant to Section 10722 of the Act.
Guidelines for Orderly Development. A policy document adopted by the County, cities, and Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to establish a collaborative commitment to encourage urban development to occur within cities whenever and wherever practical; enhance the regional responsibility of County government; and facilitate orderly planning and development in Ventura County. The intent of the Guidelines is to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the cities, the County and LAFCO regarding urban development within the Spheres of Influence of the various cities and Areas of Interest.

Habitable Structure. A building or structure suitable for living, sleeping, eating or cooking.

Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors. Areas of contiguous natural habitats or undeveloped land of sufficient width to facilitate the movement, migration, foraging, breeding, and dispersal of multiple wildlife or plant species between two or more core habitat areas. The boundaries of the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor areas and the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors overlay zone are coterminous.

Hazardous Building. A substandard, unsafe or dangerous building as defined in the codes adopted by reference in the Ventura County Building Code.

Hazardous Material. Any material that because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. Hazardous materials include hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material which a handler or the administration agency has a reasonable basis for believing that it would be injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment (California Health and Safety Code Section 25501). Such material may be classified as poisons, corrosive chemicals, flammable material, explosives and oxidizers and reactive materials or substances when tested in accordance with the criteria in California Code of Regulations, Title 22.

Hazard Mitigation. A sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and their property from hazards and their effects.

Hazardous Waste. Any waste or combination of wastes, which because of its quantity, concentration, physical or chemical, or infectious characteristics, (a) may either cause or significantly contribute to serious illness or death or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating reversible, illness (Hazardous Waste Control Act), or (b) may pose a substantial present or potential threat to human health or the environment when improperly managed. These substances may be poisons, corrosive chemicals, flammable materials, explosives and oxidizers and reactive materials or substances when tested in accordance with the criteria in California Code of Regulations, Title 22.

Health. A complete state of physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease.

Health Equity. A state where every person, regardless of who they are – the color of their skin, their level of education, their gender or sexual identity, whether or not they have a disability, the job that they have, or the neighborhood that they live in – has an equal opportunity to achieve optimal health.

Health Disparities. Differences in health and mental health status among distinct segments of the population, including differences that occur by gender, age, race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, education or income, disability or functional impairment, or geographic location, or the combination of any of these factors.

Historic District. A group of buildings, properties, or sites recognized as historically or architecturally significant. These may be designated at the federal level, managed by the National Park Service, at the state or local levels. Federally designated historic districts are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In some counties or jurisdictions, historic districts receive legal protection from certain types of development considered to be inappropriate.
Historical Resources. The material and nonmaterial expressions of human adaptations that characterized the post-contact or historic period. These resources include historic event or activity sites, historic archaeological sites, standing architecture and other significant properties and documents and other sources of historical information, objects of material culture, and secondarily, the more nonmaterial cultural qualities such as folklore, social organization, and value systems which are associated with these properties.

Hydroconsolidation. A process of collapse and compaction that occurs in silty to sandy sediment (soil) with a low density when the soil is saturated for sustained periods and then the water is subsequently removed.

Incompatible. The characteristic of different uses or activities that are not permitted to be located near each other because it is likely to create conflict. Some elements affecting compatibility include intensity of occupancy as measured by dwelling units per acre; pedestrian or vehicular traffic generated; volume of goods handled; and environmental effects including noise, vibration, glare, air pollution, or radiation.

Industry. A group of enterprises that produce similar products or provide similar services.

Infill Development. Development of vacant or underutilized land (usually individual lots or leftover properties) within areas that are already largely developed.

Infill Opportunity Zone. A specific area designated by a city or county for mixed-use development that is within one-half mile of a major transit stop or high-quality transit corridor in the regional transportation plan (Public Resources Code, Section 65088.4, subdivision (c)).

Infiltration. The process of water on the ground surface entering into sub-surface soil.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM). An ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and nontarget organisms, and the environment.

Integrated Regional Water Management. A comprehensive and collaborative approach for managing water to concurrently achieve social, environmental and economic objectives. This integrated approach delivers higher value for investments by considering all interests, providing multiple benefits, and working across jurisdictional boundaries at the appropriate geographic scale.

Intensity. The actual or maximum permitted floor area ratio (FAR) on a site or that is allowed on a site within a designation or zone.

Intelligent Transportation System (ITS). Application of information and communication electronic technologies, management tools, and services to improve transportation system efficiencies.

Intermodal Facility. Passenger or freight transportation services that involve or use more than one type of transportation facility (or mode).

Inter-tie. An interconnection permitting passage of utility service (e.g., water or electricity) between two or more systems, such as electric and water utility systems.

Island Community. Any inhabited and unincorporated territory that is surrounded or substantially surrounded by one or more cities or by one or more cities and a county boundary or the Pacific Ocean.
Landslide. The dislodging and fall of a mass of rock, soil, or mixture of both (debris/mud flow) along a sloped surface, or for the dislodged mass itself.

Land Use Designation. A specific geographic designation with associated land use or management policies and regulations.

Legacy Community. A geographically isolated unincorporated community that is inhabited and has existed for at least 50 years.

Level of Service (LOS). A qualitative measure used to rate a roadway segment’s traffic flow characteristics, and acts as an indicator of roadway performance, relative to locally established standards for quality of service. LOS can assist in determining when roadway capacity improvements are needed, using a scale of A through F, which is described below:

**LOS "A"** – Free uninterrupted low volume flow at high speeds with no restriction on maneuverability (lane changing) and with little or no delays.

**LOS "B"** – Stable flow with some restrictions to operating speed occurring.

**LOS "C"** – Stable flow but with speed and maneuverability restricted by higher traffic volumes. Satisfactory operating speed for urban locations with some delays at signals.

**LOS "D"** – Approaching unstable flow with tolerable operating speeds subject to considerable and sudden variation, little freedom to maneuver and with major delays at signals.

**LOS "E"** – Unstable flow with volume at or near capacity, lower operating speeds and major delays and stoppages.

**LOS "F"** – Forced flow operation with low speeds and stoppages for long periods due to downstream congestion. Volumes below capacity.

Liquefaction. The process by which water-saturated, unconsolidated sediments are transformed into a substance that acts like a liquid, often as a result of ground shaking.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). A commission within each county that reviews and evaluates all proposals for formation of special districts, incorporation of cities, annexation to special districts or cities, consolidation of districts, and merger of districts with cities.

Locally Important Species. A plant or animal species that is not an endangered, threatened or rare species, but which is considered by qualified biologists to be a quality example or unique species within the County or region. This term includes any species that is under consideration for a designation of "endangered," "threatened," or "rare."

Local Roads. Roadways that provide direct access to the abutting land and primarily facilitate local travel. Local roadways are not intended for long distance travel and are often designed to discourage through traffic. There are no restrictions on intersections or public access.

Lot Coverage. The proportion of the gross building square footprint (area covered by the first floor of the building) on a lot to the net square footage of the lot.

Low Impact Development (LID). Development that incorporates a combination of drainage design features and pollution reduction measures to reduce development impacts on hydrology (peak runoff flow rates) and water quality.

Low-Income Area. Per Senate Bill 1000, an area with household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or with household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits adopted pursuant to Section 50093.
Major Employment Center. A major employment center is a cluster of relatively small employers (businesses with less than 100 employees), that collectively result in very large centralized concentrations of employment, such as a business park.

Major Transportation Terminal. A multimodal transportation hub connecting major transit stops. “Major transit stop” is defined as “a site comprised of an existing rail transit station, ferry terminal served by bus or rail transit service, or the intersection of two or more major bus routes with a frequency of service interval of 15 minutes or less during the morning and afternoon peak commute periods” (Public Resources Code, 21064.3).

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). A Federally-designated agency that is responsible for regional transportation planning in each metropolitan area. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the MPO for the Ventura region.

Microgrid. A microgrid is a group of interconnected loads and distributed energy resources within clearly defined electrical boundaries that acts as a single controllable entity with respect to the grid. A microgrid can connect and disconnect from the grid to enable it to operate in both grid-connected or island-mode.

Military Installation. A base, camp, post, station, yard, center, homeport facility for any ship, or other area under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ’s). The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) investigates and designates lands underlain by mineral resources as a Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) based on the known or inferred presence of mineral resources. The following MRZ categories are used by the State Geologist in classifying the state’s lands:

**MRZ-1** – Areas where adequate geologic information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence.

**MRZ-2** – Areas underlain by mineral deposits where geologic data show that significant measured or indicated resources are present (2a) or where such resources are inferred (2b).

**MRZ-3** – Areas containing known mineral deposits that may qualify as mineral resources (3a) or areas containing inferred mineral deposits that may qualify as mineral resources (3b). Further exploration work within these areas could result in the reclassification of specific localities into the MRZ-2 category.

**MRZ-4** – Areas where geologic information does not rule out either the presence or absence of mineral resources. The distinction between the MRZ-1 and MRZ-4 categories is important for land-use considerations. It must be emphasized that MRZ-4 classification does not imply that there is little likelihood for the presence of mineral resources, but rather there is a lack of knowledge regarding mineral occurrence. Further exploration work could well result in the reclassification of land in MRZ-4 areas to MRZ-3 or MRZ-2 categories.

Mining. A form of mineral resource development involving the extraction and removal of more than 1,000 cubic yards of material from the same site, through such activities and uses as borrow areas, sand, gravel and rock quarries, etc. Mining does not include extraction and removal of material from construction sites or following floods, landslides or natural disasters where the land is being restored to its prior condition.

Minor Collectors. Roadways that provide local access to the overall roadway network. Collectors channel traffic from local roadways into the arterial network. Intersections are permitted with all public roadways. See “Collectors.”

Mobility-as-a-Service (MasS). A shift away from personally-owned modes of transportation and towards mobility solutions that are consumed as a service, e.g., Uber and Lyft are MaaS providers.

Mode of Transport. One of various forms of transportation, including automobile, transit, bicycle, walking, and horseback riding.
Mode Split. The number of trips that use each of the various modes of transport (typically expressed as a percentage to total trips).

National Highway System. A network of strategic highways within the United States, including the Interstate Highway System and other roads serving major airports, ports, rail or truck terminals, railway stations, pipeline terminals, and other strategic transport facilities.

National Performance Monitoring Research Data Set (NPMRDS). A data set maintained by the Federal Highway Administration. The data set includes vehicle speed data for all roadways designated as part of the National Highway System for passenger vehicles and trucks using vehicle probe data taken from a variety of sources including mobile phones, vehicles, portable navigation devices, and American Transportation Research Institute leveraging embedded fleet systems.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A list of cultural resources determined by the National Park Service to be of historic, cultural, architectural, archaeological, or engineering significance at the national level.

Net Acre. The amount of land designated for a particular uses, excluding easements, streets, and rights-of-way.

Noise Sensitive Use. Land uses where noise exposure could result in health-related risks to individuals, as well as places where quiet is an essential element of their intended purpose. These uses include: residences; schools; nursing homes; historic sites; cemeteries; parks, recreation, and open space areas; hospitals and care facilities; hotels and other short-term lodging (e.g., bed and breakfasts, motels); places of worship; and libraries.

Nonattainment Area. An area or air basin that does not meet California or National ambient air quality standards for a given pollutant.

Nonpoint Source Pollutants. Pollutants that wash off, run off, or seep from broad areas of land or water.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS). Individual disposal systems, community collection and disposal systems, and alternative collection and disposal systems that use subsurface disposal. OWTS do not include “graywater” systems, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 17922.12. An OWTS may only be utilized in areas where connection to a sewer utility is not available or feasible.

Open Space. A parcel or area of land that is essentially undeveloped for human use and devoted to an open space use, such as the preservation of natural resources, managed production of resources, outdoor recreation, and preservation of public health and safety.

Organic. A labeling term that indicates that the food or other agricultural product has been produced through approved methods. These methods integrate cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity. Synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, irradiation, and genetic engineering may not be used.

Origin-Destination (O-D). The location pair representing the beginning (origin) and end (destination) of a given trip. Trip, or person trip, is a one-directional movement from one point (origin) to a second point (destination). Term used in transportation planning and analysis.

Paleontological Resources. The fossilized remains of ancient plants and animals.

Paratransit. The range of demand-responsive (or on-request) transit providing service from a trip origin to trip destination.

Park. An open area that offers recreational and green space for residential and visitor use. May also be called an urban or municipal park if within jurisdictional limits; or a public park if publicly owned.
**Park and Ride Lot.** A facility where motorists can park their personal vehicles in a publicly-provided lot and continue their trip via carpool, vanpool, or transit.

**Particulate matter (PM).** Also known as particle pollution, is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. Particle pollution is made up of a number of components, including acids (such as nitrates and sulfates), organic chemicals, metals, and soil or dust particles. Dust and other particulates exhibit a range of particle sizes. Particulate matter is measured by two sizes: course particles (PM10), or particles between 2.5 and 10 micrometers in diameter; and fine particles (PM2.5), or particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter.

**Permeability.** The ability of a substance to allow another substance to pass through it, especially the ability of a porous rock, sediment, or soil to transmit fluid through pores and cracks.

**Planning Area.** Geographic subareas of the county that bear a relationship to Areas of Interest established by LAFCO. They also reflect zones within the county historically used by VCTC for countywide transportation planning.

**Policy.** A clear and unambiguous statement of a public body that forms the basis for making decisions.

**Precipitation.** Precipitation is moisture in the form of rain, snow, hail, etc., that has fallen at a given place within a given period, usually expressed in inches or centimeters.

**Primary Arterials.** Unlike freeways and expressways, arterials serve the neighboring areas. Arterials can include at-grade intersections with other major roadways. By connecting the major activity centers and highest traffic volume corridors, arterials help to provide a network of continuous routes, facilitating both local and regional travel. Primary arterials have six lanes or more.

**Prime Farmland.** A category of the Important Farmlands Inventory that has the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long-term agricultural production. This land has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields. Prime Farmland must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

**Program.** An action, activity, or strategy to be taken by the County to carry out an adopted policy to achieve a specific goal or objective.

**Public Facilities.** Includes public improvements, public services, and community amenities, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 66000.

**Public Transportation.** Travel by bus, rail, or other vehicle, either publicly- or privately-owned, which provides general or specialized service on a regular or continuing basis.

**Queue Spill-Back.** A term used to describe queuing vehicles that extend to the adjacent upstream intersection.

**Rare (Species).** A term used to describe a plant or animal species that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is present in such small numbers throughout all or a significant portion of its range that it may become endangered if its environment worsens.

**Reactive Organic Gases (ROG).** ROGs are photochemically reactive and are composed of non-methane hydrocarbons. These gases contribute to the formation of smog.

**Reclaimed Water (Recycled Water).** Wastewater that has been treated for beneficial purposes such as agricultural and landscape irrigation, industrial processes, toilet flushing, and replenishing a ground water basin (referred to as ground water recharge). Water recycling offers resource and financial savings.

**Regenerative Agriculture.** A system of farming and grazing practices that strive to reverse climate change, restore and increase biodiversity, rebuild soil organic matter, improve watersheds, and enhance ecosystem services.
**Regional Road Network.** The road system in Ventura County that consists of roads classified as Primary (6 lanes or more), Secondary (4 lanes) or Collector (2 lanes), as well as freeways, expressways and conventional State highways.

**Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).** A minimum 20-year plan that is required by State and Federal law to guide the development of the region's transportation system.

**Regulatory Floodway.** The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height. Communities must regulate development in these floodways to ensure that there are no increases in upstream flood elevations.

**Renewable Energy.** A form of energy derived from a natural resource that is not depleted by use and is available as natural flows of energy and materials in the environment, e.g. solar, wind, tide, waves, plant matter, and by-products of human activities.

**Renewable Energy Priority Zone.** Locations where renewable energy generation and storage systems as defined under Public Resources Code Section 25741 and Public Utility Code Section 2835 are allowable land uses and can be incentivized and streamlined at the discretion of the County.

**Renewable Resources.** Self-perpetuating types of resources; living or biotic resources and resources that are finite in quantity but can be reused, such as air and water. Other renewable natural resources include solar, wind, biomass, and water resources.

**Reservoir.** A place where water is collected and kept in quantity for future use.

**Resilience.** The ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity for self-organization, and the capacity to adapt to stress and change.

**Right-of-Way.** In this General Plan, this term refers to the land used for transportation or utility purposes. This area of land is often used for the construction and operation of a transportation facility and adjacent space.

**Riparian.** A zone of transitional habitat between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, dependent on the existence of perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral surface or subsurface water. The riparian vegetation community is located adjacent to the bank of a natural course of water. For example, riparian vegetation is composed of plant species normally found near streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and other freshwater bodies.

**Riparian Corridor.** A corridor of riparian vegetation adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams or other freshwater bodies.

**Roadway Functional Classification.** Classification system that stratifies roadways by a range of characteristics including access, accessibility provided by the roadway, and land uses served by the roadway and often relates to the physical and operational characteristics of the roadway.

- **Primary Roads** – Roadways for the purpose of the movement of through traffic with limited access to abutting property (usually 6 lanes or more).
- **Secondary Roads** – Roadways that connect primary and collector roadways for the purpose of through traffic but generally restrict access to residential areas (usually 4 lanes).
- **Collector Roads** – Roadways that carry traffic between local roads and have access to adjacent properties (usually 2 lanes).
- **Minor Roads** – Roadways similar to collectors but do not convey substantial volumes of through traffic, have lower speed limits, have fewer signalized intersections, and provide local access to smaller communities.
- **Local Roads** – Roadways intended primarily to provide direct access to adjacent properties and do not convey substantial volumes of through traffic.
Safe Yield. Commonly defined as the maximum quantity of water that can be continuously withdrawn from a reservoir or groundwater basin without causing adverse effects.

Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR). The County SOAR ordinance requires countywide voter approval of any non-editorial change to the General Plan involving the Agricultural, Open Space, or Rural land use designations, or any changes to a General Plan goal or policy related to those land use designations through 2050.

Scenic Highway/Roadway. Highways and roadways designated by the state or County as scenic based on how much of the natural landscape can be seen by travelers, the scenic quality of the landscape, and the extent to which development intrudes upon the traveler's enjoyment of the view.

Scenic Resources. Distinctive aesthetic resources that the County has determined are worthy of conservation. The Area Plans for Lake Sherwood, Oak Park, the Ojai Valley, and Piru recognize these resources. Criteria for this distinction include:

- Viewable or accessible from a road
- Absence of major residential development
- Accessible for recreational use
- Percentage of land with steep slopes
- Watershed areas
- Dense vegetation cover (all types)
- Stands of trees
- Abundance of wildlife
- Open space designation
- Percentage of land in National Forest or other government ownership

Scenic Vista. A scenic vista is defined as a viewpoint that provides expansive views of a highly valued landscape for the benefit of the general public.

Sea Level Rise. Sea level rise is an increase in the mean level of the ocean. Eustatic sea level rise is a change in global average sea level brought about by an alteration to the volume of the world oceans. Relative sea level rise occurs where there is a net increase in the level of the ocean relative to local land movements. Climate modelers largely concentrate on estimating eustatic sea level change. Impact researchers focus on relative sea level change.

Secondary Arterials. Unlike freeways and expressways, arterials serve the neighboring areas. Arterials can include at-grade intersections with other major roadways and connect other arterials and major collectors for the purpose of through traffic with some access to commercial/industrial developments but generally restricted access to residential areas. Secondary arterials have four lanes or more.

Sensitive. Prone or readily able to be degraded or otherwise negatively impacted.

Sensitive Biological Resources. Biological resources including but not limited to: special status species and the habitats that support them, beaches, dunes, coastal bluffs, rocky outcrops, colonial roosting sites, fresh and salt water wetlands and estuaries, native tree woodlands/savannas, streams and rivers and their associated riparian and alluvial vegetation, and wildlife corridors.

Sensitive Receptors. Populations or uses that are more susceptible to the effects of air pollution than the general population, such as long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, retirement homes, convalescent homes, residences, schools, childcare centers, and playgrounds.

Seiche. A standing wave oscillating in a body of water.

Service Population. The population associated with a given land-use development (e.g., household population, employee population).

Setback. The minimum distance required by zoning to be maintained between two structures or between a structure and a property line.

Shall. That which is obligatory or necessary.
Short-Lived Climate Pollutant (SLCP). Gases with a high global warming potential, or GWP, that remain in the atmosphere for a shorter period of time than longer-lived climate pollutants such as carbon dioxide. In legislation, methane can be referred to as a short-lived climate pollutant.

Should. Signifies a directive to be honored if at all possible.


Small Farms. For the purposes of this Plan, small farms are owned and operated by local residents who grow and sell less than $250,000 per year of agricultural products (USDA definition) with a preference for technical assistance from the UC Small Farm Program for those with limited resources, who market direct and not through a wholesale distribution chain, who do not monocrop, and who may be ethnic minority or hobby farmers, retirement farmers or lifestyle farmers on up to 99 acres, i.e. on parcels that do not qualify under the Williamson Act to take 20 to 75 percent off their property tax bill for not developing their land for 10 years.

Smart Grid. An electrical grid consisting of controls, computers, automation, and equipment that will work with the electrical grid to respond digitally to quickly changing electric demand.

Smart Growth. A compact, efficient, and environmentally-sensitive pattern of development that provides people with additional travel, housing, and employment choices by focusing future growth away from rural areas and closer to existing and planned job centers and public facilities, while preserving open space and natural resources.

Soil Health (Soil Quality). The continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans.

Soil Erosion. Soil erosion refers to the removal of soil by water or wind. Factors that influence erosion potential include the amount of rainfall and wind, the length and steepness of the slope, and the amount and type of vegetative cover.

Special District. Any agency of the state for the local performance of governmental or proprietary functions within limited boundaries; a separate local government that delivers a limited number of public services to a geographically limited area. Special districts are a form of government, have governing boards, provide services and facilities, and have defined boundaries.

Special Occupancy Structure. A category of structures as defined in the California Building Code. They are:

- Covered structures whose primary occupancy is public assembly with a capacity of more than 300 persons.
- Buildings for schools through secondary or day-care center with a capacity of more than 250 students.
- Buildings for colleges or adult education schools with a capacity for more than 500 students.
- Medical facilities with 50 or more resident incapacitated patients; but not including hospitals and other medical facilities having surgery and emergency treatment areas, which are Essential Facilities.
- Structures and equipment in power generating stations and other public utility facilities that are not identified as Essential Facilities and required for continued operation.
- Jails and detention facilities.
- All structures with an occupancy of more than 5,000 persons.

State Highway. A numbered state route.

Special Status Species. A term used for species that are considered sufficiently rare and require special consideration and/or protection. Plants and animals categorized as Special Status Species are recognized by federal, state and local natural resource agencies as threatened, endangered, rare, candidate species, species of special concern, CA Fully Protected Species, Locally Important Species, or are species listed as “greatest conservation concern” due to the decline of the species.

See the County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines for specific ranks and groups classified as Special Status Species.
**Sphere of Influence (SOI).** The probable physical boundaries and service area of a city or special district, as determined by LAFCO pursuant to Gov. Code Section 56425.

**Stream.** A topographical feature that conveys water over the land perennially, intermittently, or ephemerally through a bed or channel with banks. This term also applies to water courses having a surface or subsurface flow that support or have supported riparian or alluvial vegetation.

**Subsidence.** Any settling or sinking of the ground surface over a regional area arising from surface or subsurface causes, such as earthquakes or groundwater, or oil and gas extraction.

**Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA).** A Federal law that permits motor carrier operation of 48-foot and 53-foot semi-trailers on the national highway network and allows states to permit these “STAA vehicles” on state and local routes. Designation of STAA routes is premised on engineering and safety standards (i.e., adequate footprint to accommodate truck turn radius requirements, gross vehicle weight, vertical clearance height etc.).

**Sustainability.** The physical development and operating practices that meet the needs of present users without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, particularly with regard to use and waste of natural resources. Sustainability presumes that resources are finite, and therefore should be used conservatively and wisely with a view to the long-term priorities and consequences.

**Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS).** Senate Bill (SB) 375 requires regional metropolitan planning organizations in California to develop Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS), or long-range plans, which align transportation, housing, and land use decisions toward achieving greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

**Take.** To harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

**Thoroughfare.** A general term to describe a road that is either a primary arterial, a secondary arterial, or a collector.

**Threatened Species.** A species listed as Threatened by the state or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. Generally, any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

**Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ).** A unit of geography used in transportation planning models.

**Transportation Control Measure (TCM).** A transportation strategy used to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and to make VMT more efficient. TCMs include transportation system management (TSM) and transportation demand management (TDM) elements. Examples include carpooling, transit, and computer-optimized traffic signals.

**Transportation Development Act (TDA).** TDA funds are generated from a tax of one-quarter of one percent on all retail sales in each county and are used for transit, specialized transit for disabled persons, and bicycle and pedestrian facility enhancements.

**Tribal Cultural Resources.** A Tribal Cultural Resource as defined in AB 52 are sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe(s).

**Tsunami.** A series of traveling ocean waves of extremely long length generated by disturbances associated primarily with earthquakes occurring below or near the ocean floor.

**Unincorporated Areas.** Areas of the county outside of the city limits over which Ventura County has direct land use jurisdiction.
Unincorporated Urban Center. An existing or planned community which is located in an Area of Interest where no city exists. The unincorporated urban center represents the focal center for community and planning activities within the Area of Interest.

Unique Farmlands. A category of the Important Farmlands Inventory that consists of lesser quality soils used for the production of the state’s leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated but may include non-irrigated orchards or vineyards as found in some climatic zones in California. Land must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

Urban Area. An area designated as Urban in Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR) and the 2040 General Plan. These areas refer to existing and planned urban centers which may include commercial, industrial, and residential land uses. This area designation includes all incorporated lands within a city’s Sphere of Influence as established by the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo), and unincorporated urban centers within their own Areas of Interest which may be candidates for future incorporation.

Urban Development. Development that meets any of the following criteria:

a) It would require the establishment of new community sewer systems or the significant expansion of existing community sewer systems

b) It would result in the creation of residential lots less than two (2) acres in area; or

c) It would result in the establishment of commercial or industrial uses which are neither agriculturally-related nor related to the production of mineral resources.

Urban Enclave. See Existing Community.

Urban Forest. A densely wooded area in an urban area.

Vacant Land. Land that is not actively used for any purpose, including land that is not improved with buildings or site facilities and is sizeable in area to accommodate development.

Vanpool. A vehicle operating as a ridesharing arrangement, providing transportation to a group of individuals traveling directly between their homes and a regular destination within the same geographic area.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). A measure of the amount of travel for all vehicles in a geographic region over a given period of time, typically a one-year period.

View Corridor (or Scenic Corridor). An area visible from a highway, waterway, railway or major hiking, biking, or equestrian trail that provides vistas over water, across expanses of land, or from mountaintops or ridges.

Volume to Capacity Ratio (V/C). The volume of traffic divided by the capacity of a transportation facility.

Vulnerability. See “Climate Vulnerability.”

Wastewater Collection System. The totality of the pipes, pump station, manholes, and other facilities that convey untreated (raw) wastewater from the various sources to a wastewater treatment facility.

Watershed. The land surface area from which water drains into a common downstream point.

Water Conservation. The reduction in water use through measures designed to help people change their behaviors to use less water.

Water Efficiency. The overall minimization of the amount of water used to accomplish a function or task.
**Wetlands.** Lands that are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is periodically covered with shallow water. The frequency of occurrence of water is sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetland include marshes, bogs, sloughs, vernal pools, wet meadows, river and stream overflows, mudflats, ponds, springs, and seeps.

**Wildland.** Land in an uncultivated natural state that is covered by trees, brush, weeds, or grass.

**Wildland/Urban Interface.** Area where the wildland meets urbanized development.

**Wildlife Corridor.** (See definition for “Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors”)

**Zoning.** The division of the county by legislative regulations into areas, or zones, which specify allowable uses for real property and size restrictions for buildings within these areas; a program that implements policies of the General Plan.
### List of Acronyms

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<td>AASHTO</td>
<td>American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials</td>
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<td>AB</td>
<td>Assembly Bill</td>
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<td>ACLUP</td>
<td>Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan</td>
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<td>BACT</td>
<td>Best Available Control Technology</td>
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<td>BEACON</td>
<td>Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>Commercial land use designation</td>
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<td>CNEL</td>
<td>Community Noise Equivalent Level</td>
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<td>COS</td>
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<td>CO₂e</td>
<td>Carbon dioxide equivalent</td>
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<td>CPD</td>
<td>Commercial Planned Development land use designation</td>
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<td>du/ac</td>
<td>Dwelling units per acre</td>
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<td>Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community</td>
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<td>ECU-A</td>
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<td>ECU-OS</td>
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<td>ECU-R</td>
<td>ECU-Rural land use designation</td>
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<td>ED</td>
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<td>EIR</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Report</td>
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<td>Economic Vitality Element; or Electric vehicle</td>
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<td>Federal Aviation Administration</td>
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<td>FAR</td>
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<td>HCA</td>
<td>Ventura County Health Care Agency</td>
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<td>Ventura County Harbor Department</td>
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<td>I</td>
<td>Industrial land use designation</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICLEI</td>
<td>International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives</td>
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<td>IFI</td>
<td>Important Farmland Inventory</td>
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<td>IGC</td>
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<td>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change</td>
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<td>Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley</td>
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<td>LU</td>
<td>Land Use and Community Character Element</td>
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<td>Mobility-as-a-Service</td>
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<td>Municipal Advisory Council</td>
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<td>Military Compatibility Areas</td>
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<td>Medium-Density Residential land use designation</td>
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<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<td>MPSP</td>
<td>Master Plans, Strategies, and Programs</td>
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<td>Mineral Resource Zone</td>
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<td>Metric ton</td>
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<td>N₂O</td>
<td>Nitrous oxide</td>
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<td>NBVC</td>
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<td>National Highway System</td>
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<td>Overarching mitigation actions</td>
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<td>County Sheriff’s Department Office of Emergency Services</td>
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<td>Oxnard Harbor District</td>
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<td>Oak Park</td>
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<td>OS</td>
<td>Open Space land use designation</td>
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<td>OV</td>
<td>Ojai Valley</td>
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<td>P</td>
<td>State, Federal, Other Public Lands land use designation; or Piru</td>
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<td>PCI</td>
<td>Pavement Condition Index</td>
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<td>PFS</td>
<td>Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element</td>
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<td>PI</td>
<td>Public Information</td>
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<td>Particulate matter</td>
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<td>PMS</td>
<td>Pavement Management System</td>
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<td>PR</td>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation land use designation</td>
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<td>Planning Studies and Reports</td>
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<td>RB</td>
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<td>Ventura County Resource Management Agency</td>
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<td>Regional Transportation Plan</td>
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<td>Rural land use designation</td>
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<td>SB</td>
<td>Senate Bill</td>
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<td>Southern California Association of Governments</td>
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<td>SGMA</td>
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<td>Strategic Master Plan</td>
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<td>Services and Operations</td>
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<td>SOAR</td>
<td>Save Open Space &amp; Agricultural Resources</td>
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<td>SoCalGas</td>
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<td>SOI</td>
<td>Sphere of Influence</td>
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<td>SRA</td>
<td>State Responsibility Area</td>
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<td>Surface Transportation Assistance Act</td>
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<td>Traffic Impact Mitigation Fee</td>
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<td>TO</td>
<td>Thousand Oaks</td>
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<td>Urban heat island effect</td>
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<td>United States Department of Agriculture</td>
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<td>United States Forest Service</td>
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<td>U.S. EPA</td>
<td>United States Environmental Protection Agency</td>
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<td>Ventura County Fire Protection District</td>
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<td>Ventura County Library System</td>
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<td>VCSO</td>
<td>Ventura County Sheriff’s Office</td>
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<td>VCTC</td>
<td>Ventura County Transportation Commission</td>
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<td>Very Low Density Residential land use designation</td>
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<td>Vehicle miles traveled</td>
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<td>VRWC</td>
<td>Ventura River Watershed Council</td>
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<td>V2I</td>
<td>Vehicle-to-infrastructure</td>
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<td>WR</td>
<td>Water Resources Element</td>
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</table>
Ventura County 2040 General Plan

Area Plan and Existing Community Land Use Maps
Please see the next page.
Figure A-1:
General Plan
Land Use Diagram -
El Rio/Del Norte
Area Plan

Map Date: August 27, 2019
Source: Ventura County
Resource Management
Agency GIS, 2019;
Mintier Harnish, 2019

Existing Community
Area Plan Boundary
Cities
Major Roadways
Local Roads
Major Waterways
Coastal RPD
Residential Beach
Rural
ECU-Rural
Very Low Density Residential
Low-Density Residential
Medium-Density Residential
High-Density Residential
Residential PD
Mixed Use
Commercial
Commercial PD
Industrial
Agricultural
ECU-Agricultural
Open Space
ECU-Open Space
State or Federal Facility
Figure A-3:
General Plan
Land Use Diagram –
North Ventura
Avenue Area Plan
Map Date: August 27, 2019
Ventura County Resource
Management Agency GIS, 2019;
Mintier Harnish, 2019
Figure A-4:
General Plan Land Use Diagram - Oak Park Area Plan

Map Date: August 27, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019

Legend:
- Existing Community
- Area Plan Boundary
- Cities
- Major Roadways
- Local Roads
- Major Waterways
- Coastal RPD
- Residential Beach
- Rural
- ECU-Rural
- Very Low Density Residential
- Low-Density Residential
- Medium-Density Residential
- High-Density Residential
- Residential PD
- Mixed Use
- Commercial PD
- Industrial
- Agricultural
- ECU-Agricultural
- Open Space
- ECU-Open Space
- State or Federal Facility

0 0.25 0.5 Miles
Figure A-5: General Plan Land Use Diagram - Ojai Valley Area Plan

Map Date: August 27, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019
Figure A-6: General Plan Land Use Diagram - Piru Area Plan

Map Date: August 27, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019
Figure A-7: General Plan Land Use Diagram - Saticoy Area Plan

Map Date: August 27, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019
Figure A-9: General Plan Land Use Diagram Bell Canyon

Map Date: August 27, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019
Figure A-10:
General Plan
Land Use Diagram
Box Canyon

Map Date: August 27, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019
Figure A-11: General Plan Land Use Diagram Camarillo Heights

Map Date: August 27, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019

Legend:
- **Major Roadways**
- **Local Roads**
- **Major Waterways**
- **Cities**
- **Existing Community**
  - Coastal RPD
  - Residential Beach
  - Rural
  - ECU-Rural
- **Very Low Density Residential**
- **Low-Density Residential**
- **Medium-Density Residential**
- **High-Density Residential**
- **Residential PD**
- **Mixed Use**
- **Commercial**
- **Commercial PD**
- **Industrial**
- **Agricultural**
- **ECU-Agricultural**
- **Open Space**
- **ECU-Open Space**
- **State or Federal Facility**
Figure A-12: General Plan Land Use Diagram East Santa Paula

Map Date: August 28, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019
Figure A-15: General Plan Land Use Diagram
Las Posas Estates

Map Date: August 28, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019
Figure A-16: General Plan Land Use Diagram

Lewis Rd

Map Date: August 28, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019

Legend:
- Major Roadways
- Local Roads
- Major Waterways
- Cities
- Existing Community
- Coastal RPD
- Residential Beach
- Rural
- ECU-Rural
- Very Low Density Residential
- Low-Density Residential
- Medium-Density Residential
- High-Density Residential
- Residential PD
- Mixed Use
- Commercial
- Commercial PD
- Industrial
- Agricultural
- ECU-Agricultural
- Open Space
- ECU-Open Space
- State or Federal Facility
Figure A-18: General Plan Land Use Diagram Mission Rock Rd

Map Date: August 28, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019
Figure A-21: General Plan Land Use Diagram North Simi Valley

Map Date: August 28, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019
Figure A-22: General Plan Land Use Diagram Santa Rosa

Map Date: August 28, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019

Legend:
- Major Roadways
- Local Roads
- Major Waterways
- Cities
- Existing Community
  - Coastal RPD
  - Residential Beach
  - Rural
  - ECU-Rural
- Land Use Classifications
  - Very Low Density Residential
  - Low-Density Residential
  - Medium-Density Residential
  - High-Density Residential
  - Residential PD
  - Mixed Use
  - Commercial
  - Commercial PD
  - Industrial
  - Agricultural
  - ECU-Agricultural
  - Open Space
  - ECU-Open Space
  - State or Federal Facility
Figure A-23:
General Plan
Land Use Diagram
Santa Susana

Map Date: August 28, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019

Very Low Density Residential
Low-Density Residential
Medium-Density Residential
High-Density Residential
Residential PD
Mixed Use
Commercial

Commercial PD
Industrial
Agricultural
ECU-Agricultural
Open Space
ECU-Open Space
State or Federal Facility
Figure A-24: General Plan Land Use Diagram
Saticoy Country Club

Map Date: August 28, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019
Figure A-25:
General Plan
Land Use Diagram
Somis

Map Date: August 28, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019
Figure A-27: General Plan Land Use Diagram
Thomas Aquinas College

Map Date: August 28, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019
Figure A-29: General Plan
Land Use Diagram
West Santa Paula

Map Date: August 28, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019
Figure A-30: General Plan
Land Use Diagram
West Simi

Map Date: August 28, 2019
Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019

Ventura County
2040 General Plan

- Major Roadways
- Local Roads
- Major Waterways
- Cities

Existing Community:
- Coastal RPD
- Residential Beach
- Rural
- ECU-Rural

Land Use:
- Very Low Density Residential
- Low-Density Residential
- Medium-Density Residential
- High-Density Residential
- Residential PD
- Mixed Use
- Commercial

ECU:
- Commercial PD
- Industrial
- Agricultural
- ECU-Agricultural
- Open Space
- ECU-Open Space
- State or Federal Facility

Source: Ventura County Resource Management Agency GIS, 2019; Mintier Harnish, 2019

Map Date: August 28, 2019
Appendix B: Climate Change
Please see the next page.
As noted in the General Plan introduction, the County developed an integrated approach to addressing climate change in the General Plan by incorporating related policies and programs throughout the General Plan elements, such that the General Plan will also serve as the County’s Climate Action Plan (CAP). The purpose of this Climate Change Appendix is to provide further details regarding the General Plan’s integrated climate action strategy, including a summary of results of key technical analyses used to develop the strategy. Section B.1 of this Appendix includes the components of the County’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction strategy, (GHG Strategy), while Section B.2 of this Appendix documents the County’s vulnerability to climate change and Climate Adaptation strategy.

This Climate Change Appendix is organized as follows:

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
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<td>Baseline GHG Emissions Inventory</td>
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<td>B.2.2.</td>
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</table>

Note: Updated information on the County’s 2015 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory is contained in Appendix D of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 2040 General Plan. This information will be added to this appendix following public review of the Draft EIR.
B.1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Strategy

Climate change is a global problem caused by the cumulative warming effects of GHG emissions. Governments at all levels, non-governmental agencies, and private citizens and businesses are now acting to mitigate GHG emissions as quickly as possible to reduce or avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change.

For a more detailed overview of climate change science and regulatory background information regarding GHG emissions, see Chapter 12, “Climate Change” in the General Plan Background Report.

As part of this General Plan update, a GHG emissions reduction strategy (GHG Strategy) was prepared and integrated with the General Plan and will be analyzed in the Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Section 6.9, “Greenhouse Gas Emissions”, in the Conservation and Open Space Element includes a goal and policy intended to frame the GHG Strategy and the County’s approach to addressing GHG emissions in the General Plan.

COS-10 To improve the long-term sustainability of the community through local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. [Source: New Goal]

COS-10.1 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Strategy

The County shall maintain and refer to the General Plan and its integrated greenhouse gas (GHG) Reduction Strategy as the County’s comprehensive plan for reducing community-wide GHG emissions in the unincorporated County. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

The purpose of the GHG Strategy is to identify and reduce community GHG emissions from existing and future activities and sources within the unincorporated area. The GHG Strategy is consistent with the County’s commitment to address climate change and work towards a more sustainable community by reducing GHG emissions, pursuant to the General Plan Vision and Guiding Principles. The GHG Strategy also serves to identify the County’s local fair-share contribution to meeting statewide GHG emission reduction goals pursuant to state legislation, policies, and guidance.

The GHG Strategy is intended to function as a stand-alone GHG emissions reduction plan or “Climate Action Plan” (CAP). However, rather than having a separate stand-alone document, the GHG Strategy includes all the necessary components of a CAP and integrates them into the policy framework of the General Plan and technical analyses included within the associated General Plan Program EIR.

The GHG Strategy was prepared using the best-available guidance at the time the General Plan was prepared, including the latest GHG emissions accounting protocols applicable to a local community (i.e., the U.S. Community Protocol v1.1), California’s 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan (2017 Scoping Plan) adopted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the 2017 General Plan Guidelines and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines published by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR). The subject of climate change and GHG emissions mitigation continues to evolve rapidly in terms of both policy and technical methodology; thus, the County will need to monitor and update the GHG Strategy over time, as outlined in more detail in Section B.1.5.
The GHG Strategy satisfies the requirements of CEQA to identify and mitigate GHG emissions associated with the General Plan Update as part of the environmental review process. The GHG Strategy also serves as the County’s “plan for the reduction of greenhouse gases”, pursuant to section 15183.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, which provides the opportunity for tiering and streamlining CEQA review and mitigation of project-level GHG emissions for certain types of discretionary projects that are consistent with the General Plan. Thus, the GHG Strategy fulfills a regulatory obligation under CEQA to disclose and mitigate potential impacts, while also providing a streamlining pathway for future projects.

Table B-1 summarizes the core components of the GHG Strategy, their locations in the General Plan and General Plan Program EIR, and relationship to the specific criteria outlined for a qualified “plan for the reduction of greenhouse gases” pursuant to section 15183.5 of the CEQA Guidelines. Each of the GHG Strategy components is described and summarized further below Table B-1.

Table B-1 Summary of GHG Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GHG Strategy Component</th>
<th>Policy Document Location(s)</th>
<th>General Plan EIR Location(s)</th>
<th>Corresponding GHG Reduction Plan Criteria per CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(1) and (2)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Baseline GHG Emissions Inventory and Forecasts</td>
<td>Results of the GHG inventory and forecasts are summarized in Sections B.1.1 and B.1.2.</td>
<td>More detailed technical information regarding the baseline emissions inventory and forecasts, along with forecasts for 2020, 2030, 2040, and 2050 will be included in the GHG Section of the Program EIR and its technical appendices.</td>
<td>(1)(A) “Quantifies GHG emissions, existing and projected over a specified time period, resulting from activities within a defined geographic area.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHG Emissions Reduction Goals and Targets</td>
<td>Policies COS-10.2 and COS-10.3 in the General Plan identify the County’s specific GHG emissions reduction goals and targets, consistent with state guidance and legislation. These goals and policies and the specific numerical mass emission levels required to achieve the goals and targets are also briefly summarized and described in Section B.1.3.</td>
<td>Detailed technical analysis and modeling results regarding how the targets and goals were calculated will be included in the GHG Section of the Program EIR and its technical appendices.</td>
<td>(1)(B) “Establish a level of GHG emissions, based on substantial evidence, below which the contribution to GHG emissions from activities covered by the plan would not be cumulatively considerable.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHG Strategy Component</td>
<td>Policy Document Location(s)</td>
<td>General Plan EIR Location(s)</td>
<td>Corresponding GHG Reduction Plan Criteria per CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(1) and (2)</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHG Emissions Reduction Measures</td>
<td>Policy COS-10.4 identifies the County’s commitment to implement goals, policies, and programs, included throughout the General Plan, that are considered part of the County’s GHG Strategy, and which contribute to reducing emissions and achieving the County’s targets and goals. Such goals, policies, and programs are tagged with the CAP icon to indicate that they are part of the GHG Strategy.</td>
<td>The GHG Section of the Program EIR will also summarize the results of the GHG emissions reduction analysis and performance of the General Plan policies and programs in achieving the GHG reduction targets and goals. The quantitative GHG analysis will be part of the environmental impact analysis related to GHG emissions.</td>
<td>(1)(D) “Specify measures or a group of measures, including performance standards, that substantial evidence demonstrates if implemented on a project-by-project basis, would collectively achieve the specified emissions level.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHG Strategy Implementation and Monitoring Procedures</td>
<td>Implementation Programs A through F describe the County’s commitment and overall program to implement, monitor, report on, and update the GHG Strategy. Section B.1.5 provides more detailed description of the specific criteria and procedures to be used in carrying out the GHG Strategy implementation program.</td>
<td>The GHG Section of the Program EIR will summarize and consider the GHG Strategy, including procedures for implementation, monitoring, reporting, and updating the GHG Strategy.</td>
<td>(1)(E) “Establishes a mechanism to monitor the plan’s progress towards achieving the [GHG reduction] level and to require amendment if the plan is not achieving specified levels.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### B. Climate Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GHG Strategy Component</th>
<th>Policy Document Location(s)</th>
<th>General Plan EIR Location(s)</th>
<th>Corresponding GHG Reduction Plan Criteria per CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(1) and (2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Review of the GHG Strategy and General Plan</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>The GHG Strategy will be included within the General Plan EIR Project Description and analyzed in the General Plan Program EIR.</td>
<td>(1)(f) “Be adopted in a public process following environmental review.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The General Plan and Program EIR will be made available for a public review and comment period.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The General Plan and Program EIR will be brought forward for public hearings and adoption and/or certification by the Board of Supervisors.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of the GHG Strategy for Future Project-Level GHG Analysis Tiering and Streamlining</td>
<td>Section B.1.5 includes CEQA review and streamlining procedures and criteria that may be used to streamline project-level GHG emissions analysis for certain projects that are consistent with the General Plan and applicable measures in the GHG Strategy.</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>(2) “An environmental document that relies on a greenhouse gas reduction plan for a cumulative impacts analysis must identify those requirements specified in the plan that apply to the project, and, if those requirements are not otherwise binding and enforceable, incorporate those requirements as mitigation measures applicable to the project.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:** CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act; GHG = greenhouse gas; EIR = environmental impact report.
Source: Ascent Environmental, 2019
B.1.1. **Baseline GHG Emissions Inventory**

A GHG inventory was prepared for the County’s General Plan Update using a baseline year of 2015. The GHG inventory focused on community-wide emissions from residents and businesses operating within the unincorporated area and is organized by sector. The inventory includes sources within each sector that are under some degree of jurisdictional control by the County, in accordance with established GHG accounting protocols and state guidance. A 2015 baseline year was selected based on the availability of data in 2016, the year in which the inventorying process began. The total community-wide emissions for the unincorporated area in 2015 were approximately 1,856,804 metric tons (MT) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) GHG emissions. The GHG emission sectors and the percentage contribution of each sector to total emissions is shown in Figure B-1 and Table B-2.

**Figure B-1  2015 Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Unincorporated Ventura County, by Sector**

![Graph showing sector contributions to emissions]

*Source: Ascent Environmental, 2019.*
B. Climate Change

Table B-2 2015 Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Unincorporated Ventura County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inventory Sector</th>
<th>Community GHG Emissions in 2015 (MT CO₂e)</th>
<th>Percent of Total Communitywide GHG Emissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>692,696</td>
<td>37.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Energy</td>
<td>319,220</td>
<td>17.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid Waste</td>
<td>297,480</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stationary Sources</td>
<td>275,096</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural</td>
<td>259,894</td>
<td>14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and Wastewater</td>
<td>12,367</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-road Equipment</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>&lt; 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (all sectors)</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,856,804</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: MT = Metric Tons, CO₂e = Carbon Dioxide Equivalent, GHG = Greenhouse Gas. Sectors may not add to totals due to rounding.
Source: Ascent Environmental, 2019

Consistent with OPR guidance, the inventory was prepared using the U.S. Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Version 1.1 (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) 2013). Additionally, the inventory used global warming potential (GWP) values for methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) 4th Assessment Report (AR4), published in 2007. The use of GWP values from AR4 is consistent with CARB methodology for preparing the statewide GHG emissions inventory. GWP values apply a weight to gases that have been determined by researchers to have increased GHG effects relative to most common GHG, carbon dioxide (CO₂). GWP values in AR4 are 25 for CH₄ and 298 for N₂O.

While the use of IPCC’s 5th Assessment Report (AR5) GWP values could be considered for use in local community inventories, doing so would be inconsistent with CARB’s emissions reporting framework, which would result in inconsistencies with how statewide emissions and the state’s goals and targets are measured relative to the County’s baseline and projected future emissions. CARB’s latest statewide inventory for the year 2016, published in 2018, still uses AR4 GWP values (CARB 2018). Thus, for the sake of maintaining consistency with the state’s efforts and accounting practices, the County’s inventory used AR4 GWP values. If the State begins using AR5 or other GWP values in the future, the County will account for such changes in future updates to the GHG inventory (see Section B.1.5 for further information regarding updates to the County’s inventory).

The 2015 inventory of GHG emissions is organized by the following seven sectors, presented in decreasing order by level of contribution. Summaries of each sector are included in the following paragraphs. For more detailed activity data, assumptions, and calculations used to develop the County’s GHG inventory, see Attachment 1 to Appendix B.

**Transportation**
The transportation sector comprised the largest share of the inventory at 37 percent, or 692,696 MT CO₂e. This sector includes on-road light and heavy-duty vehicles and buses operating on local roadways and passenger rail, including Amtrak and Metrolink lines, within the unincorporated area. On-road vehicle emissions were calculated using vehicle miles travelled (VMT) data provided by the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), which were adjusted using recommended methods from the Senate Bill 375 (2008) Regional Targets Advisory
Committee (RTAC) and converted to GHGs using emissions factors from CARB’s Emissions Factor (EMFAC) model. For passenger rail transportation, annual trips were calculated for portions of the railway within the unincorporated area and converted to GHGs using statistics on locomotive engine efficiency published by Oak Ridge National Laboratories and default emissions factors for diesel combustion published by The Climate Registry. Freight rail, ocean freight, and aircraft were excluded from this inventory because the activities and emissions associated with these modes of transport are regulated by federal agencies; thus, they are outside of the County’s jurisdictional control.

**Building Energy**

The building energy sector comprised the second largest share of the inventory at 17 percent, or 319,220 MT CO\(_2\)e. This sector includes electricity and natural gas consumption occurring in residential and commercial buildings and electricity consumption for agricultural uses including private irrigation pumping. The electricity and gas consumption data were provided by Southern California Edison (SCE) and Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) for the unincorporated area for 2015. Electricity consumption for industrial uses was not available due to the SCE’s aggregation rule for third party data requests, which limits the release of electricity consumption data for industrial facilities when a single customer’s data accounts for more than 25 percent of total aggregated data or if there are less than five accounts represented (SCE 2019).

Electricity consumption data for the described uses were converted to GHG emissions using calculated 2015 electricity generation emissions factors derived from SCE annual reporting for 2015 (SCE 2015a, 2015b) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Emissions & Generation Resource Integrated Database (eGRID) data. Natural Gas consumption data were converted to GHG emissions using default emissions factors for natural gas combustion published by The Climate Registry.

**Solid Waste**

The solid waste sector was the third largest sector of the inventory at 16 percent or 297,480 MT CO\(_2\)e. This sector consists of two subsectors: 1) waste-in-place CH\(_4\) and N\(_2\)O emissions generated from the decomposition of previously landfilled waste in existing landfills operating in the unincorporated area, and 2) CH\(_4\) emissions from waste generated annually by County residences and businesses at landfills in various locations. For both subsectors, GHG emissions were calculated using data on the tonnage of mixed solid waste disposed from annual reports submitted by waste facilities to state and federal agencies. The active Toland Road Landfill and Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center are the facilities generating the highest levels of emissions in the unincorporated area.

**Stationary Sources**

Stationary sources comprised 15 percent of the inventory, or 275,096 MT CO\(_2\)e. This sector primarily includes fugitive emissions (i.e., emissions that are not physically controlled but result from the intentional or unintentional release of GHGs, most commonly from the production, processing, transmission, storage and use of fuels or other substances, often through joints, seals, packing, gaskets, or other equipment), and fuel combustion emissions associated with oil and gas production in the unincorporated area. A top down approach was used to estimate GHG emissions from this sector by scaling the statewide emissions reported for oil and gas production to the local level using the proportion of oil and gas production in the unincorporated area relative to the statewide total. Data on county- and state-level oil and gas production were obtained from the California Department of Resource Conservation.
Agriculture emissions comprised 14 percent of the inventory, or 259,894 MT CO₂e. This sector includes a wide range of GHG-generating activities including crop burning, enteric fermentation, manure management, farm equipment operation, pesticide use, and fertilizer applications. Within this sector, fertilization of crops, including the application of urea and lime to soils, was responsible for the largest share of agricultural emissions at 152,168 MT CO₂e followed by the operation of farm equipment at 67,834 MT CO₂e.

Livestock, pesticide, and fertilizer data for calculating GHG emissions were based on the annual crop reports available from the Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner and county-level statistics for the agricultural sector available from the California Department of Pesticides and California Department of Food and Agriculture. For agricultural equipment the CARB OFFROAD model was used to determine 2015 emissions from a variety of activities associated with agricultural production including the operation of tractors, sprayers, mowers, combines, bailers, tillers and other off-road agricultural equipment. GHG emissions resulting from diesel-fueled irrigation pumping were calculated using 2015 diesel irrigation pump counts provided by the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD), combined with diesel pump emission factors from CARB.

Water & Wastewater
Water-related emissions accounted for less than one percent of the GHG inventory at 12,367 MT CO₂e. Activities analyzed in this sector included emissions resulting from energy use from the conveyance, delivery, and treatment of imported water and the treatment of wastewater. It was assumed that emissions related to the electricity used for groundwater extraction would already be accounted for in the Building Energy sector. For imported water, supply and demand data provided by the County were translated into energy use, which was then converted to CO₂ using the same emissions factors for SCE sourced electricity described in the Building Energy sector. For wastewater treatment, the primary source of emissions is fugitive CH₄ from septic tanks and central sewer plants using anaerobic treatment methods.

Off-Road Equipment
Off-road equipment accounted for less than one percent of the GHG inventory at 52 MT CO₂e. Activities contributing to these emissions included mobile emissions sources that include portable construction equipment, light commercial vehicles, forklifts, oil drilling equipment and transportation refrigeration units. Emissions from these sources were calculated using county-level results from CARB’s OFFROAD emissions model, scaled to the unincorporated county level using 2015 population and employment data available from the California Department of Finance and the Regional Market Trends report included in the draft Background Report for this General Plan update.

B.1.2. GHG Emissions Forecasts

GHG emissions forecasts provide an estimate of future emission levels based on both a continuation of current activities and projected growth and change in a community over time. Forecasts also account for current and future legislative actions from the state and federal government that are expected to reduce future emissions. Forecasts provide insights into the scale of local reductions needed to achieve the GHG emissions reduction targets in the future, accounting for both potential growth and legislative actions.

Business-as-Usual Forecast
The first step in the emissions forecast process is the preparation of a “business-as-usual” (BAU) forecast. A BAU forecast represents a “no further action” scenario which assumes that no additional efforts or legislative actions will be made to reduce GHG emissions in the future. The BAU forecast is based on growth projected trends in population, housing, employment, and transportation activity over time, consistent with County and regional projections. The BAU forecast does not account for GHG emissions reductions associated with local GHG reduction measures or additional legislative actions.
BAU forecasts were estimated for 2020, 2030, 2040 and 2050 using County-specific demographic and vehicle activity projections. These forecasts, along with percentage growth rates relative to 2015 for forecasted years, are presented in Table B-3. All growth rates are based on forecasts prepared by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in preparation for the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainability Communities Strategy (SCAG 2017). SCAG population growth forecasts were included in Chapter 6 of the General Plan Alternatives Report presented to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors in 2018. Table B-4 summarizes the results of the BAU emissions forecast for unincorporated Ventura County.

Table B-3  Growth Forecast for Unincorporated Ventura County, 2020 to 2050

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>% increase from 2015</th>
<th>2030</th>
<th>% increase from 2015</th>
<th>2040</th>
<th>% increase from 2015</th>
<th>2050</th>
<th>% increase from 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>97,733</td>
<td>99,755</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>100,918</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>101,832</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>102,490</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>32,889</td>
<td>32,988</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>34,556</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>35,875</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>37,941</td>
<td>15.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>32,191</td>
<td>32,446</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>32,959</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>33,472</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>33,725</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: Employment and housing growth rates for 2040 and 2050 interpolated from reported years 2035 and 2045. 
Source: Calculated by Ascent Environmental using data provided by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG 2017)

Table B-4  “Business as Usual” Greenhouse Gas Emissions Forecast for Unincorporated Ventura County (MT CO2e)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2030</th>
<th>2040</th>
<th>2050</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>692,696</td>
<td>704,308</td>
<td>727,378</td>
<td>750,399</td>
<td>773,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Energy</td>
<td>319,220</td>
<td>320,959</td>
<td>331,148</td>
<td>340,121</td>
<td>351,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid Waste</td>
<td>297,480</td>
<td>283,806</td>
<td>265,297</td>
<td>250,780</td>
<td>234,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stationary Sources</td>
<td>275,096</td>
<td>287,845</td>
<td>314,526</td>
<td>343,679</td>
<td>375,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural</td>
<td>259,894</td>
<td>256,223</td>
<td>248,882</td>
<td>241,541</td>
<td>234,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and Wastewater</td>
<td>12,367</td>
<td>12,560.0</td>
<td>12,954</td>
<td>13,367</td>
<td>13,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-road Equipment</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total BAU Emissions (all sectors)</td>
<td>1,856,804</td>
<td>1,865,754</td>
<td>1,900,239</td>
<td>1,939,944</td>
<td>1,982,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Change from 2015 Baseline</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: Columns may not add to totals due to rounding. MT CO2e = metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent, BAU = business as usual Source: Ascent Environmental, 2019
## Legislative Adjustments to BAU Forecast

The next step in the forecasting process is to adjust the BAU forecast to account for state and federal legislative actions that will reduce future emissions from activities within the unincorporated area, without any additional local government action. Legislative actions include existing or reasonably foreseeable regulations, programs, or a combination thereof that are required by state or federal legislation and will result in widespread mandatory reductions across various emissions sectors. Table B-5 describes the legislative reductions applied to the BAU forecasts, along with the affected sectors, while Table B-6 summarizes the quantified legislative reductions and adjustments to the BAU forecasts by year.

### Table B-5 Summary of State Legislation for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Forecasts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>State Legislation</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Applicable Sectors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>SB 100 (2018) RPS Program and Zero-Carbon Electricity Standards</td>
<td>Requires California retail electricity providers to procure 33 percent of electricity from renewable sources by 2020, 50 percent renewable by 2026, 60 percent renewable by 2030, and 100 percent zero-carbon by 2045.</td>
<td>Building Energy, Water &amp; Wastewater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>CARB Oil and Natural Gas Regulations</td>
<td>Regulations adopted by CARB in March 2017 to reduce fugitive and vented emissions(^1) of methane from new and existing oil and gas facilities.</td>
<td>Stationary Sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>AB 341 (2011) Solid Waste Diversion</td>
<td>Requires California to achieve a 75 percent reduction in solid waste disposal to landfills by 2020, through a combination of waste avoidance, recycling and composting of wastes generated by commercial and multi-family residential land uses.</td>
<td>Solid Waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>SB 1383 (2016) Organic Waste Regulations (Pending)(^3)</td>
<td>Sets targets for organic waste reduction from landfill disposal, including 50 percent of 2014 levels by 2020 and 75 percent of 2014 levels by 2025. The regulations will implement a portion of the state’s legislatively mandated Short-Lived Climate Pollutant (SLCP) Reduction Strategy. SLCPs are high GWP(^2) gases that remain in the atmosphere for a much shorter period than longer-lived climate pollutants, such as CO(_2). The SLCP addressed by this legislation is CH(_4).</td>
<td>Solid Waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>AB 1493 (2002) Clean Car Standards</td>
<td>Establishes GHG emission reduction standards for model years 2009 through 2016 that are more stringent than federal CAFE standards.</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>CARB Advanced Clean Car Standards (2012). Regulatory update to AB 1493 (2002) Standards</td>
<td>Establishes GHG emission reduction standards for model years 2017 through 2025 that are more stringent than federal CAFE standards.</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

1. Vented emissions include methane that is released due to equipment design or operational procedures.
2. Global Warming Potential: values that apply a weight to gases that are determined by researchers to have increased greenhouse gas effects relative to most common greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide.
3. SB 1383 regulatory proceedings are currently underway with adoption expected in late 2019.

\( \text{RPS} = \text{Renewables Portfolio Standard}, \ \text{SB} = \text{Senate Bill}, \ \text{AB} = \text{Assembly Bill}, \ \text{CARB} = \text{California Air Resources Board}, \ \text{CAFE} = \text{Corporate Average Fuel Economy}, \ \text{GHG} = \text{Greenhouse Gas}, \ \text{SLCP} = \text{Short Lived Climate Pollutant}, \ \text{CH}_4 = \text{Methane}, \ \text{CO}_2 = \text{Carbon Dioxide}. \)

*Source: Ascent Environmental, 2019*
Table B-6  Legislative Adjustments to BAU Greenhouse Gas Emissions Forecast for Unincorporated Ventura County, by Sector (MT CO2e)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2030</th>
<th>2040</th>
<th>2050</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total BAU Emissions (all sectors)</td>
<td>1,856,804</td>
<td>1,865,754</td>
<td>1,900,239</td>
<td>1,939,944</td>
<td>1,982,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARB Oil and Natural Gas Regulations</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>-11,937</td>
<td>-13,043</td>
<td>-14,252</td>
<td>-15,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 1493 Standards plus 2012 update</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>-79,073</td>
<td>-240,331</td>
<td>-304,051</td>
<td>-323,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total GHG Reductions from Legislative Adjustments</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-130,006</td>
<td>-326,564</td>
<td>-460,344</td>
<td>-520,016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adjusted BAU  

|                    | 1,856,804 | 1,735,748 | 1,573,675 | 1,479,600 | 1,462,596 |

Percent Decrease in GHGs from BAU  

|                    | 0         | -7        | -17       | -24       | -26       |

Source: Ascent Environmental, 2019

B.1.3.  GHG Reduction Goals and Targets

GHG reduction goals and targets in a local GHG reduction plan help to define measurable benchmarks to guide the community’s commitment to achieve emissions reductions in the future. GHG targets and goals are developed relative to baseline emissions levels, and in consideration of future emission forecasts and the effect of ongoing or future legislative actions.

The County’s GHG reduction targets are set at 10-year intervals that are aligned with the state’s GHG reduction targets for 2020 and 2030, the 2040 horizon year for the County’s General Plan, and a longer-term state policy goal for 2050. An overview of the statewide context for target- and goal-setting, followed by a description of the County’s specific GHG targets and goals, is included below.

Statewide GHG Reduction Goals and Targets

As directed in Assembly Bill (AB) 32 (2006), Senate Bill (SB) 32 (2016), and Executive Orders (EOs) B-30-15 and S-3-05, the State aims to reduce annual statewide GHG emissions to:

- 1990 levels by 2020,
- 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, and
- 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

AB 32 (2006), directed CARB to develop a Scoping Plan outlining a pathway to meeting the state’s 2020 target, which CARB adopted in 2008. The first update occurred in 2013 and indicated that reducing the state’s emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 would be consistent with the IPCC’s analysis of the global emissions trajectory needed to stabilize atmospheric concentrations at 350 parts per million (ppm) or less, to reduce the likelihood of catastrophic global climate change (CARB 2014). Thus, the statutory targets established by AB 32 (2006) and SB 32 (2016), identify interim targets on a downward trajectory towards achieving the longer-term 2050 goal. The state has not yet adopted a Scoping Plan that demonstrates a specific pathway to achieve the longer-term 2050 goal. Accordingly, the term “target” is used to describe future levels of GHG emissions that must
be achieved to align with legislative mandates. The term “goal” is used to describe future levels of GHG emissions in the unincorporated area that are aligned with statewide long-term goals established under EOs, but for which no legislative mandate or statewide plan to achieve such goals has been established.

To determine an equivalent set of reduction targets and longer-term goals at the local level, CARB’s 2017 Scoping Plan recommends that local agencies establish community-wide GHG reduction goals for local climate action of GHG reduction plans that will help the state achieve its 2030 target and longer-term 2050 goal. CARB notes that it is appropriate to derive evidence-based targets or goals that are based on local emissions sectors and population projections that are consistent with the framework used to develop the statewide targets. CARB also notes that GHG goals and targets should show a “downward trend consistent with the statewide objectives.” (CARB 2017).

To meet the Scoping Plan recommendation, the GHG reduction targets included in the General Plan are based on local levels of GHG emissions that would be proportional to the statewide reductions needed to achieve GHG emissions by 40 and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and 2050, respectively. While the County does not have a 1990 GHG inventory from which to estimate GHG reductions, equivalent targets and goals were calculated for the County relative to the state’s 2015 statewide baseline and targets. Specifically, the state’s 2015 GHG emissions inventory was compared to the state’s 2020, 2030, and 2050 mass emissions goals relative to its 1990 inventory, from which specific percent reductions relative to 2015 were developed. Therefore, consistent with and proportional to the state’s target and goals relative to 2015 levels, the County’s targets are expressed according to the following percentage reductions in GHG emissions relative to the County’s 2015 community-wide GHG emissions levels:

- 2 percent below 2015 levels by 2020,
- 41 percent below 2015 levels by 2030,
- 61 percent below 2015 levels by 2040, and
- 80 percent below 2015 levels by 2050.

These targets and goals are also expressed numerically in Table B-7 in terms of levels mass emissions required relative to the 2015 baseline, while Figure B-2 graphically depicts the targets and goals relative to both baseline and legislative-adjusted emissions forecasts for the corresponding years.

The GHG Strategy is primarily focused on achieving the 2030 target and making substantial progress in achieving the longer-term post-2030 goals. The updated General Plan will not be adopted until 2020; therefore, the 2020 target is illustrative and shown for statewide target comparison purposes only. Under the legislative-adjusted forecast, unincorporated Ventura County is already on track to meet and exceed the 2020 reduction target by 81,424 MT CO₂e, as shown in Table B-7 and Figure B-2. However, by 2030 a “gap” will begin to develop between the legislatively adjusted forecast emissions level and the mass emissions level needed to achieve the 2030 target. This gap becomes larger in 2040 and 2050. Thus, achievement of the 2030 targets and long-term 2040 and 2050 goals will require the implementation of locally enacted GHG reduction measures, along with ongoing updates to CARB’s Scoping Plan and future state and federal actions.
Table B-7  Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Targets and Long-Term Goals for Unincorporated Ventura County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emissions (MT CO₂e)</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2030</th>
<th>2040</th>
<th>2050</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BAU Emissions with Legislative Reductions</td>
<td>1,735,748</td>
<td>1,573,675</td>
<td>1,479,600</td>
<td>1,462,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target for Consistency with State Climate Policy</td>
<td>1,817,172</td>
<td>1,090,303</td>
<td>726,869</td>
<td>363,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reductions Needed to Meet Targets</td>
<td>81,424</td>
<td>-483,371</td>
<td>-752,731</td>
<td>-1,099,161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: Positive figures for reductions needed to meet targets in 2020 indicate that the County is on track to exceed targets due to near-term GHG reductions from state legislation. BAU = business as usual, MT CO₂e = metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent

Source: Ascent Environmental 2019. (CARB 2018)

Figure B-2  Community Legislative-Adjusted Business-as-Usual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Forecast and Reduction Targets and Goals

Notes: The colored wedges for each sector represent the sectors in the legislative-adjusted forecast. The purple line represents business-as-usual forecast for all sectors without legislative adjustments. BAU = business as usual, MT CO₂e = metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent

Source: Ascent Environmental, 2019
The 2030 target and longer-term 2040 and 2050 goals are included as policies in the General Plan, as follows:

**COS-10.2 Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Target for 2030**

The County shall achieve a community-wide GHG emissions reduction target of 41 percent below 2015 levels by 2030. [Source: New Policy]

**COS-10.3 Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goals for 2040 and 2050**

The County shall work towards achieving longer-term, post-2030 community-wide GHG emissions reduction goals, as follows:

- 61 percent below 2015 levels by 2040, and
- 80 percent below 2015 levels by 2050.

[Source: New Policy]

**B.1.4. GHG Reduction Measures**

Specific General Plan policies and programs have been identified throughout the General Plan that will reduce GHG emissions and/or are part of the County's integrated GHG Strategy. These specific goals, policies, and programs are tagged with a symbol [CAP] in each of the Elements of the main body of the General Plan. Those policies and programs that reduce GHG emissions are considered "GHG reduction measures". This is consistent with Policy COS-10.4, which states:

**COS-10.4 Greenhouse Gas Reductions in Existing and New Development**

The County shall reduce GHG emissions in both existing and new development through a combination of measures included in the GHG Strategy, which includes new and modified regulations, financing and incentive-based programs, community outreach and education programs, partnerships with local or regional agencies, and other related actions. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

The GHG reduction goals, policies, and implementation programs are summarized and presented in Table B-10 (presented Section B.3 of this appendix).

The GHG reduction measures apply to existing sources of emissions in the unincorporated area subject to the County's land use authority, as well as net increases in emission associated with forecasted growth.

Some of the GHG reduction measures are qualitative in nature because either the methods or data required to quantify GHG reduction are unavailable. In such cases, measure-specific GHG reductions are not shown; however, this does not mean that qualitative measures are not important or should not be considered in the GHG Strategy. Many community-wide CAPs or GHG reduction plans include qualitative measures that, while difficult to quantify on a broad planning level, may still be highly effective at the project or individual site (i.e., household or business) level. This is particularly true for individual or community-driven actions that encourage behavior or lifestyle change through education, outreach, incentives, or other programs. Such measures are often considered critical to increasing community buy-in and participation. Many GHG reduction measures also have important complimentary benefits, such as improving public health, improving air quality, creating jobs, and improving overall quality of life. The County recognizes the linkages between health, climate action, and overall sustainability and resilience in the community, and thus a diverse range of GHG-reducing measures are included in the GHG Strategy.
B.1.5. **GHG Strategy Implementation and Monitoring**

The County’s approach to implementation and monitoring of the GHG Strategy will be coordinated with overall implementation and monitoring of the General Plan. However, the County will implement specific programs outlined herein to ensure that the specific components of the GHG Strategy are working together to achieve the General Plan’s targets, goals, and other beneficial outcomes related to climate change and sustainability.

**GHG Implementation Programs**

GHG implementation programs provide pathways to attain the specific qualitative and quantitative GHG reductions for policies contained in the General Plan. These programs vary considerably, depending on the method, timing, and individual approach. Some GHG reduction policies are programmatic in nature and require further study or subsequent action to fund, develop and implement a new program, form a new partnership, or engage with or support the efforts of other agencies or organizations. Other GHG programs are regulatory in nature and would require the County to amend codes, standards, or specifications and would be implemented through the development review and permitting process. Table B-8 summarizes the implementation programs contained in the plan that are designed to support the plan’s GHG reduction policies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table B-8</th>
<th>GHG Implementation Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AG-B</td>
<td>Regionally-Grown Products Sales Incentives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG-C</td>
<td>County Procurement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG-E</td>
<td>Specialty Farming Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG-G</td>
<td>Farm-to-Front Door</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG-H</td>
<td>Nutrient Management Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG-I</td>
<td>Fossil Fuel-Powered Equipment Replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG-J</td>
<td>Alternative Fuel Funding for Agricultural Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG-K</td>
<td>Water-Saving Irrigation Techniques Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG-L</td>
<td>Encourage and Facilitate Carbon Farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COS-C</td>
<td>Update Tree Protection Ordinance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COS-H</td>
<td>County Tree Planting Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COS-M</td>
<td>Oil and Gas Tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COS-N</td>
<td>Sustainable Building, Siting, and Landscaping Practice Guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COS-O</td>
<td>Assessment of Land Near Electrical Transmission and Distribution Lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COS-P</td>
<td>Study to Demonstrate Energy and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Savings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COS-Q</td>
<td>Incentives for Development in the Renewable Energy Priority Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COS-R</td>
<td>Performance-Based Building Code for Green Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COS-S</td>
<td>Building Code Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COS-T</td>
<td>Energy Consumption Performance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## B. Climate Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COS-U</td>
<td>Solar Canopies in Non-Residential Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COS-W</td>
<td>Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTM-A</td>
<td>Traffic Impact Mitigation Fee Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTM-B</td>
<td>Initial Study Assessment Guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTM-C</td>
<td>Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Reduction Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTM-I</td>
<td>County Road Standards Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTM-J</td>
<td>Vision Zero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTM-K</td>
<td>Safe Routes to School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTM-L</td>
<td>Master Bicycle Network Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTM-M</td>
<td>Bicycle Wayfinding Plan Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTM-N</td>
<td>Storage Facilities for Shared Mobility Enterprises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTM-O</td>
<td>Mobility-as-a-Service Enterprises – Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAZ-Q</td>
<td>Standards for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Carports in County Lots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAZ-T</td>
<td>Cool Roof Ordinance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAZ-U</td>
<td>Incentive Program for Passive Solar Home Design and Use of Green Roofs and Rooftop Gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAZ-V</td>
<td>Cool Pavements Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAZ-W</td>
<td>Incentive Programs for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Carports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LU-A</td>
<td>Guidelines for Orderly Development Implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFS-A</td>
<td>Infrastructure Improvements and Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFS-E</td>
<td>County Procurement Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFS-F</td>
<td>Trip Reduction for County Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFS-G</td>
<td>Local Agency Management Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFS-J</td>
<td>Public Education of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFS-K</td>
<td>Coordination on Large Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Repairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFS-L</td>
<td>Food Waste Reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WR-C</td>
<td>Regional Collaboration on Water issues and Sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WR-G</td>
<td>Water Conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WR-H</td>
<td>County Water Efficiency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GHG Implementation Program - Monitoring and Reporting

To ensure that the County’s GHG Strategy is on track to achieve the GHG emissions reduction targets and goals, GHG implementation programs have been developed specifically for monitoring the performance of the GHG strategy. The County will implement, monitor, and update the GHG Strategy as described in the GHG Strategy Implementation and Monitoring programs shown in Table B-9.

Table B-9  GHG Implementation Programs for Monitoring and Reporting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Implements Which Policy(ies)</th>
<th>Responsible Supporting Department(s) or Agencies</th>
<th>2020 – 2025</th>
<th>2026 – 2030</th>
<th>2031 – 2040</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>6. CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COS-X</strong> Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Implementation</td>
<td>See all policies and programs tagged with a <strong>CAP</strong> symbol in General Plan</td>
<td>RMA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The County shall implement the General Plan GHG Strategy through specific policies, programs, and implementing actions integrated throughout the General Plan and summarized in Appendix B. <strong>[Source: New Program]</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COS-Y</strong> Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Monitoring</td>
<td>COS-10.1 COS-10.2 COS-10.3 COS-10.4</td>
<td>RMA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall regularly implement, under the overall direction of the CEO and with support of RMA, PWA, GSA, AGC, FD, and other departments as appropriate, the GHG Strategy through specific policies, programs, and implementing actions integrated throughout the General Plan and summarized in Appendix B, Climate Action Plan, as well as other appropriate actions adopted from time to time. The greenhouse gas reduction strategy shall consist of a comprehensive program to systematically reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet adopted emission reduction targets and deadlines from all sectors – transportation, buildings, solid waste, stationary sources, agriculture, water and wastewater, and off-road equipment. <strong>[Source: New Program]</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### B. Climate Change

#### Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Implements Which Policy(ies)</th>
<th>Responsible Supporting Department(s) or Agencies</th>
<th>2020 – 2025</th>
<th>2026 – 2030</th>
<th>2031 – 2040</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### 6. CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

**COS-Z**

**Public Reporting on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Progress**

The County shall prepare public reports on the results of GHG Strategy implementation and monitoring and present these reports to the Board of Supervisors. The first report shall be submitted to the Board of Supervisors two years after the approval of the General Plan, after which the Board of Supervisors will determine the appropriate reporting interval. The County shall also present a more detailed progress report to the Board of Supervisors, including results of the latest GHG inventory update, every five years.

[Source: New Program]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COS-10.1</th>
<th>COS-10.2</th>
<th>COS-10.3</th>
<th>COS-10.4</th>
<th>RMA</th>
<th>CEO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**COS-AA**

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Updates**

The County shall update the County’s GHG emissions inventory at least every five years. [Source: New Program]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COS-10.1</th>
<th>COS-10.2</th>
<th>COS-10.3</th>
<th>COS-10.4</th>
<th>RMA</th>
<th>CEO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**COS-BB**

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Amendments**

The County may amend the GHG Strategy to ensure that the County is on track to achieve its 2030 target and making substantial progress towards achieving its longer-term, post-2030 goals.

[Source: New Program]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COS-10.1</th>
<th>COS-10.2</th>
<th>COS-10.3</th>
<th>COS-10.4</th>
<th>RMA</th>
<th>CEO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
# 6. CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Implements Which Policy(ies)</th>
<th>Responsible Supporting Department(s) or Agencies</th>
<th>2020 – 2025</th>
<th>2026 – 2030</th>
<th>2031 – 2040</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COS-CC</strong> Climate Emergency Council</td>
<td>The County shall establish a Climate Emergency Council to advise the Board of Supervisors on climate action planning and implementation of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) goals, policies, and programs. [Source: New Program]</td>
<td>See all policies and programs tagged with a CAP symbol in General Plan</td>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COS-DD</strong> Budget and Staffing Plan for CAP Implementation</td>
<td>The CEO shall, within six months from the adoption of the General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan, present to the Board of Supervisors a proposed budget and staffing plan (including qualified technical consultants) to implement the Climate Action Plan, and shall update the budget and staffing plan each year. [Source: New Program]</td>
<td>COS-10.1, COS-10.2, COS-10.3, COS-10.4</td>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COS-EE</strong> Streamlining Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Analysis for Projects Consistent with the General Plan</td>
<td>Projects subject to environmental review under CEQA may be eligible for tiering and streamlining the analysis of GHG emissions pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5, provided they incorporate applicable GHG reduction measures included in the GHG Strategy contained in the General Plan and Program EIR. The County shall review such projects to determine whether the following criteria are met:</td>
<td>COS-10.1, COS-10.2, COS-10.3, COS-10.4</td>
<td>RMA</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Proposed project is consistent with the current general plan land use designation and applicable zoning designations for the project site;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Proposed project incorporates all applicable GHG reduction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. Climate Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Implements Which Policy(ies)</th>
<th>Responsible Supporting Department(s) or Agencies</th>
<th>2020 – 2025</th>
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<th>Annual</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

measures (as documented in Appendix B to the General Plan and analyzed in the GHG Section of the Program EIR) into project design and/or as binding and enforceable mitigation measures in the project-specific CEQA document prepared for the project; and,

- Proposed project clearly demonstrates the method, timing and process for which the project will comply with applicable GHG reduction measures and/or conditions of approval

The County may develop more specific tiering and streamlining tools or procedures, such as a consistency review checklist or more detailed guidance for determining consistency with the GHG Strategy.

Similarly, the County may incorporate appropriate elements of such guidance and procedures into the County’s Initial Study Assessment Guidelines (ISAGs).

[Source: New Program]

The GHG Strategy implementation and monitoring programs listed in Table B-10 are described in more detail in the following paragraphs:

**COS-X. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Implementation.** This implementation program frames the County’s overall commitment to implement the General Plan GHG Strategy through the specific policies, programs, and implementing actions integrated throughout the General Plan and summarized in this appendix. Please refer to all previous sections of this appendix, as well as implementation programs W through CC below, for specific details on the implementation programs and assumptions included under each.
COS-Y. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Monitoring. The County will regularly (e.g., quarterly) monitor the implementation status of all GHG measures in the plan. The County will also analyze the overall performance of GHG reduction measures in meeting specified targets or goals on an annual basis. County staff will evaluate and, where feasible, quantify the effectiveness of each measure to date in achieving the estimated GHG reductions described under section B.1.4, using key indicators such as participation rates or available activity data. By evaluating whether the implementation of a measure is on track to achieve its reduction potential, the County can identify successful measures and determine whether to modify or replace under-performing measures.

COS-Z. Public Reporting on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Progress. The County will prepare GHG Strategy progress reports that summarize the status of implementation and monitoring efforts for the performance of individual GHG measures. The reports will also provide the opportunity to include new information about potential new GHG measures or related activities in the region or State that may help the County meet its goals. County staff will make the reports available to the public (e.g., posted to the County website) and present a summary of the reports to the Board of Supervisors. The County will either include the annual GHG Strategy reports as part of the General Plan annual reporting process or prepare separate reports if the timing or interval of General Plan annual reporting is not in sync with the GHG Strategy monitoring and reporting program.

Additionally, beginning in 2022 and every five years thereafter, County staff will prepare a more detailed GHG Strategy progress report to the Board of Supervisors that describes:

- results of the latest five-year update to the inventory (starting with the results of the 2020 inventory);
- estimated annual GHG reductions associated with measure implementation or legislative reductions;
- estimated participation rates for individual GHG reduction measures (where applicable);
- implementation costs and funding needs;
- community benefits realized;
- remaining barriers to implementation;
- projections of whether the GHG Strategy is likely to achieve the 2030 target, along with updates to post-2030 forecasts and estimated reductions considering the longer-term goals; and,
- recommendations for changes or updates to the GHG Strategy, if appropriate.

COS-AA. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Inventory Updates. The County will conduct periodic GHG emissions inventory updates at least every five years, beginning with the year 2020, to quantify whether overall progress is being made towards achieving emission reduction targets. The inventory updates will also serve as an opportunity to reevaluate the scope, methods, and assumptions in the inventory using the most recent GHG accounting and reporting protocols, which are constantly evolving along with global climate change science and policy. The results of the GHG inventory updates will be included in the GHG Strategy progress reports at least every five years to the Board of Supervisors.

COS-BB. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Amendments. Based on the findings of items B through Y above, the County will initiate updates or amendments to the General Plan if needed to ensure that the GHG Strategy remains on track to meet the 2030 GHG reduction target; and, to ensure that the County is making substantial progress towards achieving its longer-term goals.
The County is committed to keeping the GHG Strategy up to date with evolving state and federal statutes, policies, and plans that are designed to reduce GHG emissions beyond 2030 consistent with scientific findings. Thus, the County will take immediate action to initiate a GHG Strategy update if the following events occur:

1. Enactment of new State or Federal legislation that codifies into statute post-2030 GHG emission reduction or zero-net carbon targets or goals; and,

2. Adoption of an update to California’s Climate Change Scoping Plan by CARB, pursuant to Executive Order (EO) B-55-18 or State legislative actions as described under subsection (a), that identifies specific regulations, programs, or other reasonably-foreseeable state actions that provides a specific pathway to achieving the state’s longer-term, post-2030 goals.

The County’s actions to update the GHG Strategy will be consistent with current guidance and best-available methods recommended by CARB, OPR, or other appropriate regulatory agencies that demonstrate how local government efforts to reduce GHG emissions should be aligned with and complement state efforts.

COS-CC. Climate Emergency Council. Within four months from plan adoption the CEO shall assemble a Climate Emergency Council comprised of nine volunteer members from the local community. This Council will advise the Board of Supervisors on climate action planning and implementation of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) goals, policies, and programs. This council shall be comprised of interested stakeholders from communities that are anticipated to be impacted by climate change, as well as individuals with backgrounds in social and/or natural science. This Council will provide recommendations to the BOS on methods to implement the policies and programs identified in the General Plan, present funding opportunities, and update the BOS periodically on the latest findings in scientific research related to climate change.

COS-DD. Budget and Staffing Plan for CAP Implementation. The Budget and Staffing Plan prepared by the CEO office under this program shall by prepared by October of each year and shall include estimates of staff positions that will be needed to implement the program in the following year. The Plan should identify whether these tasks can be handled by existing staff or will require new hiring and provide the estimated number of staff hours needed to complete the goals of climate action related programs in full time equivalent (FTE) hours. This Plan will also consider whether there are opportunities to leverage the assistance of community groups, non-governmental organizations, contracted consultants and neighboring jurisdictions in performing the actions needed to meet annual program goals.

COS-EE. Streamlining Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Analysis for Projects Consistent with the General Plan: Projects subject to environmental review under CEQA may be eligible for tiering and streamlining the analysis of GHG emissions, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15183.5, provided they incorporate applicable GHG reduction measures included in the GHG Strategy contained in the General Plan and Program EIR. The County will review such projects to determine whether the following criteria are met:

- Proposed project is consistent with the current general plan land use designation and applicable zoning designations for the project site;
- Proposed project incorporates all applicable GHG reduction measures (as documented in Appendix B to the General Plan and analyzed in the GHG Section of the Program EIR) into project design and/or as binding and enforceable mitigation measures in the project-specific CEQA document prepared for the project; and,
- Proposed project clearly demonstrates the method, timing and process for which the project will comply with applicable GHG reduction measures and/or conditions of approval.
The County may develop more specific tiering and streamlining tools or procedures, such as a consistency review checklist, or more detailed guidance for determining consistency with the GHG Strategy. Similarly, the County may incorporate appropriate elements of such guidance and procedures into the County’s Initial Study Assessment Guidelines (ISAGs).

While Section B.1.5 generally summarizes which types of GHG reduction measures may apply to development projects subject to CEQA review in the future in different contexts, County staff will ultimately make the determination of applicability of any specific policy or program to future projects seeking to streamline CEQA review based on consistency with the General Plan’s GHG emissions reduction measures.

Finally, pursuant to section 15183.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, the County may use the GHG Strategy for tiering and streamlining GHG analyses for certain future projects determined to be consistent with the General Plan and the GHG Strategy; however, specific project details for all future discretionary actions or proposed projects that may occur through 2040 are not currently known. Determining consistency with the GHG Strategy in the General Plan, pursuant to section 15183.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, will be the County’s primary threshold of significance for GHG emissions.

B.2 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Strategy

In accordance with the requirements of SB 379 (2015), codified in Government Code section 65302(g)(4), climate change adaptation and resilience must be addressed in the safety element of all general plans in California. This portion of the Climate Change Appendix to the General Plan policy document serves to summarize the vulnerability assessment and climate adaptation strategy prepared for the County’s General Plan. Chapter 12, “Climate Change,” of the General Plan Background Report, released in January of 2018, summarizes the County’s vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change over the coming century. The key findings of Chapter 12 of the General Plan Background Report include:

- a rise of three to six degrees Fahrenheit (°F) by 2090 in Ventura County;
- coastal erosion of up to 1.36 meters by 2100 due to sea-level rise;
- more frequent flooding events and more extensive and longer duration of flooding;
- elevated groundwater levels and salinity intrusion due to sea-level rise;
- the exposure of approximately 23,300 people countywide to inundation from a 100-year flood event combined with a 1.4-meter (4.6-foot) rise in sea level, many of which are low income or especially vulnerable;
- the exposure of approximately 170 miles of roads and railways, hospitals, schools, emergency facilities, wastewater treatment plants, three power plants, and a naval base from a 100-year flood event combined with a 1.4-meter (4.6-foot) rise in sea level;
- habitat fragmentation due to changes in precipitation, increased temperatures, and rising sea levels;
- an increase of up to 79 extreme heat days per year by 2099; and
- a 15 percent increase countywide in the potential amount of area burned by wildfire between 2020 and 2085 as compared to historical trends.
This background information is further summarized in Section B.2.1, along with the specific goals, policies and implementation programs contained in the General Plan elements in the main body of the Policy Document that address climate vulnerability and adaptation.

**B.2.1. Existing Adaptation Efforts**

**2015 Ventura County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The 2015 Ventura County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) classifies climate change as a hazard facing the county and identifies mitigation measures that could be implemented to improve resilience to climate change effects. Notably, the LHMP also contains mitigation to reduce the severity of other hazards (i.e., wildfire, flood, landslide, drought), which could be exacerbated by climate change. The following mitigation measures, identified as potential overarching mitigation actions (OA) in the LHMP, would be implemented within the County in combination with the additional adaptation strategies in the General Plan (County of Ventura 2015):

- **OA 4:** Relocate or reinforce bike trails, parking lots, and other beach access amenities away from the shoreline to restore the beach/shoreline in sea-level rise/coastal erosion areas.

- **OA 5:** Restore habitat and improve flood protection for low-lying areas by employing innovative techniques such as constructing levees coupled with gently sloping tidal marshes to help protect from storm wave action and tidal surge.

- **OA 7:** Develop a water conservation public outreach program to increase awareness about the drought, fines, and penalties for overuse and solutions for conserving water.

- **OA 8:** Adopt emergency water conservation measures and/or water conservation ordinance to limit irrigation.

- **OA 13:** Reinforce roads/bridges from flooding through protection activities, including elevating the roads/bridges and installing/widening culverts beneath the roads/bridges or upgrading storm drains.

- **OA 14:** Acquire, relocate, or elevate residential structures, particularly those that have been identified as repetitive loss properties, within the 100-year floodplain.

- **OA 16:** Implement landslide stabilization and/or protection measures. Stabilization measures include grading the unstable portion of the slope to a lower gradient, construction of rock buttresses and retaining walls, and drainage improvements. Protection measures include containment and/or diversion of the moving debris, such as walls, berms, ditches and catchment basins.

- **OA 19:** Create a new vegetation management program that provides vegetation management services to elderly, disables, or low-income property owners who lack the sources to remove flammable vegetation from around their homes.

- **OA 20:** Implement a fuel modification program for new construction by requiring builders and developers to submit their plans, complete with proposed fuel modification zones, to the local fire department for review and approval prior to beginning construction.

- **OA 21:** Develop a hazards fuel treatment program for areas that have been identified as overgrown or contain dead brush and trees to reduce the potential for tree-to-tree ignition. Ensure that the program includes a "maintenance now" component to provide continued fire resistance.
Coastal Resilience Ventura
The Coastal Resilience is a global program led by The Nature Conservancy that is developing a web-based mapping tool designed to help communities understand their vulnerability to coastal hazards, reduce their risk, and determine the value of nature-based solutions. The Coastal Resilience Ventura project provides coastal managers and planners with the science, support, and technical tools to reduce community and ecological vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Coastal Resilience has developed a mapping tool that provides the location of coastal areas susceptible to various coastal climate change impacts such as erosion, storm and fluvial flooding, storm wave impact, and rising tides for several benchmark years (i.e., current, 2020, 2060, and 2100) under a spectrum of sea-level rise scenarios (The Nature Conservancy 2019a). In combination with developing this tool, The Nature Conservancy has invested millions of dollars to preserve and restore the habitat of the Santa Clara River and Ormond Beach areas from urban encroachment and agricultural-related waste and pollution (The Nature Conservancy 2019b).

Ventura County Resilient Coastal Adaptation Project Vulnerability Assessment
On December 14, 2018, the County released the Final Ventura County Resilient Coastal Adaptation Project Vulnerability Assessment (Report). The Report contains maps and analyses intended to serve as planning tools to illustrate the potential for inundation and coastal flooding under a variety of future sea-level rise and storm surge scenarios. The Report is advisory in nature, and not a regulatory or legal standard of review for actions that the County or the California Coastal Commission may take; the Report serves to understand and inform stakeholders of the County’s vulnerability to climate-change induced sea-level rise (Ventura County 2018).

Southern California Association of Governments’ Sustainability Program
SCAG supports a Sustainability Program to promote the resilience of the transportation systems under the geographic scope of its Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). SCAG offers direct funding for innovative planning initiatives for its member agencies through the Sustainability Planning Grants program. SCAG also tracks the sustainability progress of all cities and counties in the SCAG region based on 25 sustainability topics with its Green Region Initiative V2.0 tracking tool (SCAG 2018).

Southern California Gas Company Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Planning Grant Program
In 2018, SoCalGas initiated its Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Planning Grant Program to support local planning efforts to prepare for and recover from climate change related impacts such as extreme heat, wildfires, drought, subsidence, sea-level rise, flooding, and mudslides. The program will invest $100,000 per year to local planning efforts. In November 2018, SoCalGas awarded two $50,000 grants to the cities of Redlands and Artesia (SoCalGas 2018).

Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County
The Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWA) was formed in 1976 to provide a forum for the exchange of information on local and regional water issues. AWA is composed of leaders representing various water-related entities in the Ventura County region (e.g., agriculture, municipalities, water purveyors, small systems, industrial water users, private business, concerned citizens, students). The AWA serves to foster cooperation between agencies to improve water quality, reliability, and supply by encouraging partnerships and engaging in public and small system advocacy (AWA 2018).

Ventura River Watershed Council 2015 Watershed Management Plan
The Ventura River Watershed Council (VRWC) approved the most recent version of their Watershed Management Plan (Plan) on March 5, 2015. The Plan identifies several goals and objectives to ensure sufficient levels of local water supplies to avoid importing water, support an integrated approach to flood management, and responsibly manage lands and resources within the Ventura River Watershed. Identified as an objective under these goals is the necessity to track the potential impacts of climate change on local land uses and resources so that adaptation strategies can be developed (VRWC 2015).
Ventura County Fire Protection District Unit Strategic Fire Plan
The Ventura County Fire Protection District (VCFPD) last updated its Unit Strategic Fire Plan (Unit Plan) in May 2018 as part of the California Strategic Fire Plan. The Unit Plan seeks to coordinate with stakeholders and create programs, policies, and procedures that promote the safety of County residents from wildfires. To support the Unit Plan, VCFPD will continue to analyze fuel breaks topography, and fire history to assess at-risk areas; seek sources of funding for vegetation management and fire prevention projects; use CALFIRE personnel and resources to assist with projects; and educate the public about wildfire preparedness, defensible space, fire hazard reduction, fire-resistant construction and landscaping, and situational awareness (VCFPD 2018). In December 2017, the Thomas Fire burned through Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. It burned approximately 282,000 acres, destroyed at least 1,063 structures, and forced the evacuation of over 104,607 residents. The prior 2009 Unit Plan accurately predicted what areas were at highest risk as evidenced by the portions of the County that were more affected by the Thomas Fire (Ventura County Coalition of Labor, Agriculture, and Business 2018). According to the 2009 Unit Plan, fingers of development in Harmon, Sexton, and Barlow Canyons including Sulfur Mountain Road, Creek Road, and the east side of Highway 33 would be challenging to protect during wildfire conditions with northeasterly winds, and at the time of the Thomas Fire, only 2 percent of the prescribed fuel management activities in the aforementioned locations were implemented prior to the fire (VCFPD 2009).

Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Pursuant to the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, the Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council prepared a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in 2010, which covers all of the unincorporated county as well as the incorporated cities of Camarillo, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura. The CWPP was prepared in collaboration with local, county, state, and federal agencies as well as with various community organizations. The CWPP identifies wildfire risks and clarifies priorities for funding and programs to reduce impacts of wildfire in communities at high risk of wildfire within the County. Chaparral comprises the predominant vegetation of concern within the county, and decades of fire suppression combined with consistently hot, dry weather contribute to its susceptibility to ignition. The CWPP estimates that approximately 535,000 people, 185,000 housing units, and 13,700 businesses within the unincorporated county and incorporated cities are vulnerable to wildfire; however, these figures were determined in 2010 and do not account for acres of wildfire burned since the adoption of the CWPP (Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council 2010).

Ventura County Fire Protection District Personal Wildfire Action Plan
In 2013, the Ventura County Fire Protection District (VCFPD) released “Ready, Set, Go,” a personalized Wildfire Action Plan booklet to educate homeowners of methods to improve resistance to wildfire. “Ready, Set, Go” includes information regarding defensible space, harden homes, and landscaping and emergency planning recommendations to decrease a home’s susceptibility to ignite during a wildfire. The publication also contains user-friendly checklists to promote survival during and after wildfire events (VCFPD 2013).

B.2.2. Climate Vulnerability, Adaptation, and Implementation
As discussed in Section B.2.1, “Existing Adaptation Efforts,” several agencies and non-governmental organizations have undertaken projects and prepared plans to address climate change-related challenges in Ventura County; however, additional action will need to be implemented over the course of the General Plan horizon (i.e., 20 years) to provide County citizens, infrastructure, and businesses with improved resilience to the effects of climate change. Coordination between private and public stakeholders will be imperative to ensure that Ventura County’s specific vulnerabilities to climate change are further identified and bolstered to withstand increased temperatures, unpredictable changes to historical precipitation patterns, increased frequency and intensity of wildfire, and rising sea levels.
While citizens and businesses may bolster their residences and facilities independently of County goals and policies, obstacles to the application of individual adaptation planning exist which include, but are not limited to, financial restrictions, lack of awareness surrounding climate change, and language barriers. Thus, the County will need to implement measures that promote climate change resilience countywide for both County operations and the community as a whole.

In the following paragraphs, localized climate change impacts to the unincorporated county are summarized to provide context for the following adaptation goals, policies, and implementation programs that will be necessary to combat the effects of climate change. Based on global models cited by IPCCs Fifth Assessment Report and the State of California’s Fourth Climate Assessment Report, implementation timelines are assigned to specific policies in consideration of the level of certainty that an impact will occur as well as the time period an impact is expected to manifest. The goals, policies, and programs related to climate vulnerability are included in Table B-10.

**Increased Temperatures**

Temperature-related impacts from anthropogenic climate change are likely to affect the county in several ways. Increased average temperatures, along with more frequent extreme heat days and waves, will likely exacerbate existing high temperatures, especially in developed areas that experience the urban heat island effect (UHIE). In built-up areas, vegetation is sparse, and roofs and pavement dominate the landscape, absorbing and retaining heat during daytime hours and releasing heat at night. Other human activities that contribute to the UHIE include combustion-engine vehicles and air conditioning. To help curb the UHIE in developed areas, the County will need to encourage or require incorporation of “green” and “cool” infrastructure into new and existing development. Examples of green infrastructure include trees and climate-appropriate landscaping for increased shade and reduced surface area of pavement. Rain gardens, live roofs, and rooftop gardens also mitigate the intensity of the UHIE. The County will also need to require incorporation of cool pavement and cool roofs in existing and new development and the planting of more shade trees in parking lots.

The agricultural industry will also be affected by more extreme temperatures, including both increased summer heat and colder winter temperatures. Projections of climate conditions in the county anticipate a notable temperature increase in summer and fall, and a potential for increasingly cold January temperatures, which could extend periods of freeze and adversely impact crops (Pierce et. al 2018). Measures to improve the adaptive capacity of Ventura County while maintaining a lucrative agricultural industry may include a transition to the production of crops suitable to future climatic conditions.

According to global models by the IPCC, increased global temperatures will occur with a 90 percent and above (very high) degree of certainty (California Natural Resources Agency [CNRA] 2012). Thus, these effects will impact Ventura County with a high degree of certainty and have already begun to manifest and will continue to occur over the course of the century. The goals, policies, and programs related to temperature rise are included in Table B-10.

**Changes to Precipitation Patterns**

Climate change will increase Ventura County’s exposure to water supply and water quality constraints and reinforce the need to protect water quality and increase water conservation efforts. As discussed in Chapter 12 of the Background Report prepared for the General Plan Update, annual snow and rainfall in the Los Padres National Forest is projected to decrease by 17 percent, which could affect water supply to the Ventura River and Santa Clara River watersheds.

Climate change is expected to exacerbate drought throughout the entire state, which is already historically vulnerable to prolonged dry periods. The Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) is allotted a 20,000 acre-feet entitlement from the State Water Project (SWP), which is supplied by snowmelt in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. Increased temperatures in the Sierra Nevada will lead to earlier and faster snowmelt,
B. Climate Change

Reducing available SWP supplies in historically dry months (i.e., July-September). Furthermore, higher temperatures in the Sierra Nevada will increase the level of precipitation falling as rain rather than snow during the winter months, further reducing supplies that the SWP relies on in historically dry months.

The County is also heavily dependent on groundwater, which provides the majority of water used for agricultural irrigation. During periods of drought, groundwater pumping rates increase which has led to problems in some basins within the county. Furthermore, the quality of groundwater resources near the coast is deteriorating from saltwater intrusion from sea-level rise, which is exacerbated by falling water tables in areas that are over drafted.

These conditions combined with a business-as-usual approach will result in potentially severe impacts on Ventura County’s agricultural and municipal water sectors. Increases in flow rates of the Ventura River Watershed may inhibit natural groundwater recharge, which is the primary water supply to the county’s agricultural sector. Furthermore, increased temperatures will increase rates of evapotranspiration in plants, which would increase water demand, thus requiring improved irrigation systems and more resilient water supplies. To prepare for these conditions, Ventura County, local water districts, and other stakeholders will need to continue to evaluate the vulnerability of the county’s water supply systems and networks through collaboration with water-related Federal, State, and local agencies and organizations. These collaborative efforts will include the deployment of innovative options to improve water-use efficiency and conservation capacity to meet future water demand.

According to global models by IPCC, changes in precipitation patterns will occur with a 66 percent and above (medium) degree of certainty (CNRA 2012). Thus, these effects will impact Ventura County with a medium level of certainty and manifest over the next century. The goals, policies, and programs related to sea-level rise and coastal flooding are included in Table B-10. The adaptation and resilience goals, policies, and programs in Table B-10.

Increased Wildfire Risk

Portions of Ventura County are at very high risk for wildfire with high concentrations on the northern coast leading inland between Santa Paula and Ojai. Additional high fire hazard severity zones, as characterized by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), are located along the southern coast and continue inland toward the City of Simi Valley (CAL FIRE 2007). Periodic natural fire is an important ecosystem disturbance; however, uncontrolled wildfires can be extremely damaging to communities and ecosystems. Approximately 144,000 residents (34 percent of total population) live in high-risk wildfire areas (CDPH 2017).

With rising temperatures combined with changes in precipitation patterns, the county will likely experience an increase in wildfire frequency and intensity as fuel loads become drier and more flammable. Wildfire also presents other health-related impacts associated with emissions of air pollutants during the combustion of organic fuels and other materials. Wildfire events result in substantial emissions of harmful pollutants such as particulates (soot and smoke), carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and others from the burning of vegetation, and can be widely dispersed through a region and degrade air quality conditions. Exposure to these pollutants can cause acute (short-term) and exacerbate chronic (long-term) respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, especially in vulnerable populations such as the elderly, children, and agricultural and outdoor workers.

Additionally, wildfire can cause direct and indirect damage to electrical infrastructure. Direct exposure to fire can sever transmission lines, and heat and smoke can affect transmission capacity. Furthermore, fires can cause acute damage to soil structure and moisture retention thus increasing susceptibility to erosion or landslides. Following the Thomas Fire in December 2017, Santa Barbara County experienced powerful landslides following a rain event. The level of precipitation coupled with the exposed landscape resulted in landslides that caused the deaths of 22 people.
To prepare for these conditions, the County and other relevant agencies and organizations will need to adopt measures to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires to occur in addition to protecting residents from the adverse health impacts associated with wildfire. Additionally, to preserve water quality and ecological health, the County will need to engage in restoration effects in previously burned areas.

According to California’s Fourth Climate Assessment, acres burned by wildfire within the state is expected to increase at a medium to high level of certainty (Governor’s Office of Planning and Research [OPR], CNRA, and California Energy Commission [CEC] 2018). Given the characteristics of Ventura County’s vegetation, these effects will likely impact the county with a high level of certainty and manifest quickly over the next century (Ventura County 2015). The goals, policies, and programs related to wildfire risk are included in Table B-10.

**Sea-level Rise and Coastal Flooding**

California’s coastline, which includes more than 2,000 miles of open coast and enclosed bays, is vulnerable to a range of natural hazards, including storms, extreme high tides, and rising sea levels. Sea-level rise also increases the threat of coastal flooding. Sea levels along the central and southern California coast has risen by more than 5.9 inches (15 centimeters [cm]) over the 20th century (OPR, CNRA, and CEC 2018). Climate change scenarios included in the IPCC’s Fifth Assessment Report and California Fourth Climate Assessment Report (i.e., representative concentration pathway [RCP] 2.6 and RCP 8.5) indicate that California likely could see between 45.6 inches (106 cm) and 69.6 inches (163 cm) rise in sea level by the end of the century (California Ocean Protection Council 2018). Residential properties, critical transportation and infrastructure corridors, as well as high-value coastal recreation are most vulnerable to sea-level rise within Ventura County. Agriculture, beach, dune, and estuarine systems are also highly vulnerable. Fortunately, there are no critical facilities (i.e., sewage or wastewater treatment plants [WWTPs], energy plants, airports, or hospitals within the unincorporated areas projected to be impacted (Ventura County 2018).

The Ventura County Resilient Coastal Adaptation Project for Sea-level Rise Vulnerability Assessment (Vulnerability Report) estimates the unincorporated area’s vulnerability to up to 58 inches (136 cm) of sea-level rise by the end of the century. According to the Vulnerability Report, residential structures comprise the largest land use type vulnerable to the cumulative effects of rising sea levels totaling approximately $576,500,000 in economic loss associated with coastal flooding combined with a 100-year flood, $735,800,000 from tidal inundation, $1,402,100,000 from erosion, and $525,700,000 from coastal flooding. Of the 2,159 parcels of mixed, multi-family, and single-family residential properties at risk of these impacts by 2100, single-family residential are considered most vulnerable with 1,910 parcels or 88 percent of total at-risk parcels (Ventura County 2018).

A 2015 study identified the following demographic characteristics that increase a population’s vulnerability to floods: age, race, ethnicity, immigration status, language ability, employment, land tenure, and health, among other factors (Rufat et al. 2015). Of the demographic information available, seniors aged 65 and over, number of people living in rental housing units, and Hispanic residents are considered the most vulnerable groups to sea-level rise in Ventura County (Ventura County 2018).

Additionally, rising sea levels will raise the water table in areas close to the ocean. In some areas, elevated water tables may result in groundwater flooding and/or exposure of buried infrastructure. Groundwater quality could degrade due to saltwater intrusion from elevated sea levels (OPR, CNRA, and CEC 2018).

Sea-level rise will also have an impact on Ventura County’s coastal ecosystems. Aquatic ecosystems located in estuaries along the coast could be adversely affected by changes in water quality from saltwater intrusion further upstream. Increased salinity may impact inland soils, freshwater and groundwater resources, the survival of endemic species, and nutrient retention. The quality of on-land coastal ecosystems will be threatened as rising sea levels erode coastal areas resulting in loss of habitat.
According to global models by IPCC, sea-level rise will occur with a 90 percent and above (very high) degree of certainty (CNRA 2012). Thus, these effects will impact Ventura County with a high degree of certainty and would manifest over the course of the century. The goals, policies, and programs related to sea-level rise and coastal flooding are included in Table B-10.

### B.3 GHG Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Measures

Table B-10 provides a consolidated listing of the policies and implementation programs included in the 2040 General Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy/Program</th>
<th>GHG Reduction Measure</th>
<th>Climate Adaptation Measure</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LU-1.1</strong> Guidelines for Orderly Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall continue to promote orderly and compact development by:</td>
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<td>▪ working with cities in Ventura County and the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to promote and maintain reasonable city boundaries and Spheres of Influence to prevent growth-inducing urban development in unincorporated areas, and</td>
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<td>▪ require unincorporated urban development to be located in areas designated as Existing Communities and unincorporated urban centers consistent with the Guidelines for Orderly Development and as defined in Policy LU-1.2.</td>
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<td>(RDR, IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 3.1.1.2 and Goal 3.1.1.5, modified]</td>
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<p>| <strong>LU-11.3</strong> Design | | | |
| The County shall require new commercial and industrial developments to be designed to be generally compact, grouped and consolidated into functional units providing for sufficient off-street parking and loading facilities, maximize pedestrian and vehicle safety, reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), encourage electric vehicle charging, and minimize land use conflicts and traffic congestion. The County shall require that commercial and industrial discretionary development is designed to provide adequate buffering (e.g., walls, landscaping, setbacks) and operational conditions (e.g., hours of operation, and scheduling of deliveries) to minimize adverse impacts (e.g., noise, glare, and odors) on adjoining and adjacent residential areas. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policies 3.4.2.3 and 3.4.2.4, modified] | | |</p>
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| LU-11.4        | **Sustainable Technologies**  
The County shall encourage discretionary development on commercial- and industrial- designated land to incorporate sustainable technologies, including energy- and water-efficient practices and low- or zero-carbon practices. (RDR) [Source: New Policy] | | |
| LU-16.5        | **Multimodal Access to Commercial Development**  
The County shall encourage discretionary commercial development to promote ease of pedestrian/bicycle access to encourage walk-in business, while providing sufficient off-street parking. (RDR) [Source: Existing El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan Goal 3.7.2.2, El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan Goal 3.7.1.4, Piru Area Plan Policy 3.2.2.6, and Oak Park Area Plan Policy 3.4.2.2] | | |
| LU-16.9        | **Building Orientation and Landscaping**  
The County shall encourage discretionary development to be oriented and landscaped to enhance natural lighting, solar access, and passive heating or cooling opportunities to maximize energy efficiency. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.9.2.5, modified] | | |
| LU-18.5        | **Participation in Climate Change Planning**  
The County shall encourage stakeholders in designated disadvantaged communities who are vulnerable to sea level rise or other climate change impacts to have the opportunity to learn about and participate in the decision-making process for adaptation planning within Ventura County. (PI) [Source: New Policy] | | |
| LU-22.2        | **Implementation Program Monitoring**  
The County shall maintain and annually review the General Plan Implementation Programs before the preparation of the County’s Annual Budget. As part of this process, the County shall update the prioritization of programs based on applicability, relevance, timing of initiation, and availability of funding. (PSR, SO) [Source: New Policy] | | |
| LU-A           | **Guidelines for Orderly Development Implementation**  
The County shall continue to implement the Guidelines for Orderly Development and work with cities to promote orderly and compact, increased options for affordable housing, lower vehicle miles traveled, and limit sprawl. [Source: New Program] | | |

**LU-11.4 Sustainable Technologies**  
The County shall encourage discretionary development on commercial- and industrial- designated land to incorporate sustainable technologies, including energy- and water-efficient practices and low- or zero-carbon practices. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

**LU-16.5 Multimodal Access to Commercial Development**  
The County shall encourage discretionary commercial development to promote ease of pedestrian/bicycle access to encourage walk-in business, while providing sufficient off-street parking. (RDR) [Source: Existing El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan Goal 3.7.2.2, El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan Goal 3.7.1.4, Piru Area Plan Policy 3.2.2.6, and Oak Park Area Plan Policy 3.4.2.2]

**LU-16.9 Building Orientation and Landscaping**  
The County shall encourage discretionary development to be oriented and landscaped to enhance natural lighting, solar access, and passive heating or cooling opportunities to maximize energy efficiency. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.9.2.5, modified]

**LU-18.5 Participation in Climate Change Planning**  
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**LU-A Guidelines for Orderly Development Implementation**  
The County shall continue to implement the Guidelines for Orderly Development and work with cities to promote orderly and compact, increased options for affordable housing, lower vehicle miles traveled, and limit sprawl. [Source: New Program]
B. Climate Change

LU-P  Annual General Plan Implementation Review
The County shall review the General Plan annually, focusing on the status and progress of program implementation. The County shall prepare a report to the Board of Supervisors summarizing the status of implementation programs and any recommendations for General Plan amendments. [Source: New Program]

4. CIRCULATION, TRANSPORTATION, AND MOBILITY ELEMENT

CTM-2.1 Complete Streets
The County shall prepare and adopt Complete Streets Design Guidelines to be used when constructing new roadways or improving existing roadways where Complete Streets would be appropriate/feasible. The Complete Streets Design Guidelines shall employ a context-sensitive approach to planning and designing the road and street network to reflect the distinct agricultural, rural, or urban character of a particular location. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.2 Functional Classification
The County shall plan a roadway system that has adequate capacity and is designed to provide reasonable and safe use by vehicles, public transportation, bicycles and pedestrians with minimum delay pursuant to LOS standards described in Policy CMT-1.2. The road system should follow Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) classification as identified on Figure 4-4. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.3 County Road Access
The County shall require discretionary development with access onto a County road to have the access point(s) designed and built to County standards. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.4 Transportation System Safety
The County shall strive to provide safe operating conditions for all appropriate modes and uses of County roadways. (RDR, MPSP, SO) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.5 Emergency Services
The County shall coordinate the development and maintenance of all transportation facilities with emergency service providers to ensure continued emergency service operation and service levels. (ICG) [Source: New Policy]
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<td><strong>CTM-2.6 Regional Transportation Planning</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall work with Caltrans, Southern</td>
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<td>Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC),</td>
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<td>and cities in the county to plan, develop, and</td>
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<td>across jurisdictional boundaries so that</td>
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<td>sufficient right-of-way may be preserved. (IGC)</td>
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<td>[Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-2.7 Congestion Management Program</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall coordinate with Ventura County</td>
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<td>Transportation Commission (VCTC) to implement and</td>
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<td>update the Congestion Management Program (CMP).</td>
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<td>The County shall also encourage consideration of</td>
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<td>multimodal performance measures as part of future</td>
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<td>updates to the CMP. (MPSP, IGC) [Source: New</td>
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<td>**CTM-2.8 Congestion Management Program and</td>
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<td>County Regional Network Consistency**</td>
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<td>For those portions of the County’s Regional Road</td>
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<td>Network currently not designated as part of the</td>
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<td>Congestion Management Program (CMP), the County</td>
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<td>shall coordinate with Ventura County Transportation</td>
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<td>Commission (VCTC) to formally designate applicable</td>
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<td>County maintained roadways as part of the CMP.</td>
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<td>(MPSP, IGC) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CTM-2.9 State Route 118 Improvement in Saticoy</strong></td>
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<td>Area**</td>
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<td>The County shall work with the Ventura County</td>
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<td>Transportation Commission (VCTC) and Caltrans to</td>
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<td>reprioritize the re-stripping of SR 118 from</td>
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<td>Vineyard Avenue to Darling Road on the Ventura</td>
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<td>County Congestion Management Plan and the Caltrans</td>
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<td>list of projects to provide for an additional lane</td>
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<td>in each direction of travel. (IGC) [Source: New</td>
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<td>Policy, Saticoy Area Plan Mobility Program 2</td>
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<td>(MOB-P2), modified]</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-2.10 Safe Routes to School</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall work with public and private</td>
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<td>schools to identify and expand safe routes to</td>
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<td>school, where feasible. (IGC) [Source: New</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-2.11 Efficient Land Use Patterns</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall establish land use patterns that</td>
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<td>promote shorter travel distances between</td>
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<td>residences, employment centers, and retail and</td>
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<td>service-oriented uses to support the use of</td>
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<td>public transportation, walking, bicycling, and</td>
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<td>other forms of transportation that reduce</td>
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<td>reliance on single-p passenger automobile trips.</td>
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<td>(RDR, MPSP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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### B. Climate Change

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<th>Policy/Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CTM-2.12</strong> Countywide Bicycle Lane and Trail System</td>
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<td>The County shall coordinate with the cities in the county and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to plan and implement a system of bicycle lanes and multi-use trails that link the cities, unincorporated communities, schools including colleges and universities, commercial/retail, employment centers, health care service facilities, public transportation, and other points of interest. (MPSP, IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.2.1.10, modified]</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-2.13</strong> Transportation System Connectivity</td>
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<td>The County shall strive to eliminate “gaps” in roadways, bikeways, and pedestrian networks by planning for and seeking funding to construct necessary improvements to remove barriers and improve transportation system connectivity as well as connections that support first and last mile accessibility to and from public transportation. (MPSP, PSR, FB) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-2.14</strong> Bicycle Facility Design</td>
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<td>When designing new bicycle facilities, or modifying existing roadways with bicycle facilities, the County shall prioritize and install features to improve the safety and visibility of bicyclists. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-2.15</strong> Bicycle/Pedestrian Design</td>
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<td>The County shall rely on the guidelines and design standards for bicycle and pedestrian facilities established by the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD) and supporting guidelines provided the Federal Highway Administration, Caltrans, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). (MPSP, PSR, SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-2.16</strong> Pedestrian Planning</td>
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<td>The County shall consider the safety and accessibility of pedestrians when preparing transportation plans, studies, and reports. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-2.17</strong> Support Regional Bicycle Infrastructure</td>
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<td>The County shall support regional bicycle efforts to improve infrastructure that will make biking more attractive to residents and tourists. (IGC, SO, JP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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CTM-2.18  Complete Streets Standards in Existing Communities
The County shall require discretionary development in designated Existing Communities to construct roadways to urban standards and Complete Streets principles, including curb, gutter, sidewalks, and bike lanes when there is a nexus for improvement. The County shall rely on the guidelines and design standards for Complete Streets design established by the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), Caltrans in the Highway Design Manual, and Complete Streets Guidelines (pursuant to Deputy Directive-64-R2), Federal Highway Administration, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.19  Safety Metrics
The County shall continue to examine and update safety metrics for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) impact analysis as appropriate. Options include but are not limited to: queue spill-back at intersections; mid-block unprotected crossings; and, increased crossing distances. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.20  Safe Pedestrian Crossings
The County shall improve pedestrian safety at intersections and mid-block locations in Existing Communities through approved features consistent with the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), Highway Design Manual, Federal Highway Administration, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and the National Cooperative Highway Research Program Report 498 (Application of Pedestrian Crossing Treatments for Streets and Highways). (RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy]

CTM-2.21  Pedestrian/Bicycle Conflicts along Overweight Vehicle Corridor and Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) Truck Routes
Within Existing Communities, the County shall provide/retrofit separated or buffered pedestrian and bicycle paths from the outside travel lane along County Road Network roads that are designated Overweight Vehicle Corridors and STAA designated Terminal Access Routes. Where the application or retrofitting of separated or buffered facilities is not feasible, the County shall prioritize alternative pedestrian and bicycle connections that encourage and attract pedestrian and bicycle traffic off designated Overweight Vehicle Corridors or STAA designated truck routes. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]
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<td><strong>CTM-2.22</strong></td>
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<td>Funding and Maintenance for Sidewalks</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall seek funding sources first for construction of new sidewalks in designated disadvantaged communities and then for sidewalk maintenance, particularly in low-income areas. (FB)</td>
<td>[Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-2.23</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Intercommunity and Countywide Public Transportation System</td>
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<td>The County shall continue to work with Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), Naval Base Ventura County, and local public transportation regional bus service providers to promote the expansion of a safe, efficient, convenient, integrated, and cost-effective intercommunity and countywide public transportation and bus service that provides county residents with access to employment, commercial services, health and medical facilities, social services, educational facilities and institutions, and personal business destinations. (IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.2.1.7, modified]</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-2.24</strong></td>
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<td>Non-Drivers Living in Rural Areas</td>
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<td>The County shall work with Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) and local public transportation providers to address the needs of non-drivers living in rural areas to provide public transportation and paratransit service. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-2.25</strong></td>
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<td>Amtrak Service Improvements</td>
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<td>The County shall support the recommendations of the California State Rail Plan for Amtrak trains, including track and signalization upgrades, increasing service frequencies by adding additional round-trip service to regional destinations north and south of Ventura County, improving passenger information and comfort, and reducing travel time. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-2.26</strong></td>
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<td>Abandoned Railroad Rights-of-Way</td>
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<td>When railroad rights-of-way are abandoned, the County shall evaluate the feasibility of acquiring the land for public use as public transportation, bicycle, pedestrian, or equestrian paths. (MPSP) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 4.2.2.9, modified]</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-2.27</strong></td>
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<td>Discretionary Development and Conditions of Approval to Minimize Traffic Impacts</td>
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<td>The County shall require that discretionary development be subject to the following permit conditions of approval, where feasible, to minimize traffic impacts by incorporating pedestrian and bicycle pathways, bicycle racks and lockers, ridesharing programs, transit improvements (bus turnouts, shelters, benches), and/or transit subsidies for employees or residents of the proposed development. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.2.2.8, modified]</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-3.1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bicycle Network Strategy and Prioritization</td>
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<td>The County shall identify and prioritize components of a bicycle network to increase public access and ridership on bicycle routes. (MSPR, SO) [New Policy, 5/23/2017, Agenda Item No. 42, Board of Supervisors’ Study Session of Standards for Prioritizing Construction of Future Bike Lane Improvements]</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-3.2</strong></td>
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<td>Inclusive Bicycle Network</td>
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<td>The County shall develop a bicycle network for all user types and routes across the county. (MPSR, SO, PI) [Source: Ventura County Transportation Commission, Wayfinding Study]</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-3.3</strong></td>
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<td>Regional Destination Focus for Bicycle Network</td>
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<td>The County shall encourage the development of a bicycle network that connects to regional destinations such as parks, trails, educational institutions, employment centers, transit, park and ride lots, and tourist destinations. (IGC) [Source: Ventura County Transportation Commission, Wayfinding Study]</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-3.4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Interjurisdictional Bicycle Network Connectivity</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall promote bicycle network connectivity between Ventura County communities as well as Santa Barbara and Los Angeles Counties. (IGC) [Source: Ventura County Transportation Commission, Wayfinding Study]</td>
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<td><strong>CTM-3.5</strong></td>
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<td>Bicycle Routes in Rural Areas</td>
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<td>The County shall plan for bicycle network connectivity in rural, agricultural, and open space areas in a way that supports and complements business and agricultural activities in those areas. (JP) [New Policy]</td>
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<td>CTM-3.6 Coordination with Bicycle Wayfinding Plan</td>
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<td>The County shall support the Complete Streets effort by, when feasible, constructing bicycle lanes on County maintained roads listed in the Ventura County Transportation Commission Bicycle Wayfinding Plan. (SO, JP, IGC) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>CTM-3.7 Bicycle Trail along Santa Paula Branch Line</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall encourage the construction of a bicycle trail along the Santa Paula Branch Line Railroad in the unincorporated area between the cities of Ventura and Santa Paula. (SO, JP, IGC) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<td>CTM-3.8 Bicycle Network Routes and Wayfinding</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall use clear and consistent message and placement for on- and off-street regional bikeways and to regional destinations. (PI, SO) [Source: Ventura County Transportation Commission, Wayfinding Study]</td>
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<tr>
<td>CTM-3.9 Funding for Bicycle Network and Wayfinding Planning and Improvements</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall actively pursue outside funding opportunities for bicycle network improvements. (FB, JP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>CTM-3.10 Bicycle Storage Facilities</td>
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<td>The County shall require adequate bicycle storage facilities (e.g., bicycle racks, lockers) for discretionary development as determined by allowable land uses at a given site. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>CTM-4.1 Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)</td>
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<td>The County shall work with Caltrans and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to reduce VMT by:</td>
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<td>1. facilitating the efficient use of existing transportation facilities;</td>
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<td>2. striving to provide viable modal choices that make driving alone an option rather than a necessity;</td>
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<td>3. supporting variable work schedules to reduce peak period VMT; and</td>
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<td>4. providing more direct routes for pedestrians and bicyclists. (MPSP, SO) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 4.2.1.6, modified]</td>
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<tr>
<td>CTM-4.2 Alternative Transportation</td>
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<td>The County shall encourage bicycling, walking, public transportation, and other forms of alternative transportation to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), traffic congestion, and greenhouse gas emissions. (PI) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>CTM-4.3 Vehicle Occupancy</td>
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<td>The County shall work with a broad range of agencies (e.g., Caltrans, Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), Amtrak, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, public transportation providers and shared mobility vendors) to encourage and support programs that increase vehicle occupancy including the provision of traveler information, shuttles, and preferential parking for carpools/vanpools. (IGC, PI) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>CTM-4.4 Park-and-Ride Facilities</td>
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<td>The County shall coordinate with Caltrans and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to identify future park-and-ride lots within the unincorporated areas of Ventura County to facilitate more carpooling, vanpooling, and public transportation use. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<td>CTM-6.1 Routine Use of Alternative Transportation Options</td>
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<td>The County shall support the integration of emerging technologies that increase the routine use of alternative transportation options to decrease single-passenger automobile travel. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>CTM-6.3 Permeable Pavement</td>
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<td>As part of new roadway planning and design as part of discretionary development, the County shall promote the use of permeable paving and other passive drainage features such as bio-swales to prevent flooding, particularly in urban areas (RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>CTM-6.4 Facilities for Emerging Technologies</td>
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<td>The County shall support the development of alternative fueling stations (e.g., electric and hydrogen) and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) technology for emerging technologies. (SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>CTM-6.5 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall support the installation of electric vehicle charging stations, where feasible, at County facilities, parking lots, park-and-ride lots, truck stops, and new development. (RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<td>CTM-6.6 Neighborhood Electric Vehicles</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall encourage developments and street systems that support the use of properly licensed Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV) where appropriate. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<td>CTM-6.7 Shared Mobility Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall encourage and support car share operators at multimodal facilities including public transportation hubs, passenger rail stations, and park-and-ride lots. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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### B. Climate Change

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CTM-6.8</strong> Micro-Mobility Operations</td>
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</table>
The County shall evaluate the feasibility and work to establish requirements for shared micro-mobility (e.g., bike sharing) vendors within unincorporated areas. (RDR) **[Source: New Policy]**

| **CTM-6.9** Mobility-as-a-Service Enterprises – Vehicle Operations | | |  
The County shall encourage Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) providers to park between service calls versus driving within unincorporated communities (RDR, SO) **[Source: New Policy]**

| **CTM-6.10** Mobility-as-a-Service Enterprises – Support Public Transportation | | |  
The County shall encourage Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) providers to coordinate with public transportation providers that serve unincorporated areas to increase the attractiveness of public transportation through the provision of free or subsidized public transportation patron first and last mile connections within unincorporated communities (IGC, JP) **[Source: New Policy]**

| **CTM-A** Traffic Impact Mitigation Fee Program | | |  
The County shall update its Traffic Impact Mitigation Fee Program and perform a comprehensive update to the program every five (5) years pursuant to Government Code Section 66000 et seq. **[Source: New Program]**

| **CTM-B** Initial Study Assessment Guidelines | | |  
The County shall update and adopt its’ Initial Study Assessment Guidelines to address Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and safety metrics pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3. **[Source: New Program]**

| **CTM-C** Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Reduction Program | | |  
To support climate change related goals and CEQA related VMT policies per SB 743 (2013), the County shall develop a Vehicle Miles Traveled Reduction Program. **[Source: New Program]**

| **CTM-D** Regional Road Network Coordination | | |  
The County shall continue to coordinate across its own agencies as well as with cities in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties and CalTrans to identify needed improvements to the Regional Road Network.

This will include identification of funds available and needed for County and cities inter-city road-building purposes to construct improvements. **[Source: Existing GPP Program 4.2.3.2, modified]**
## Policy/Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CTM-H</th>
<th>Complete Streets Guidelines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The County shall prepare and adopt Complete Streets Design Guidelines/standards to be used when constructing new roadways or improving existing roadways where Complete Streets would be appropriate/feasible. Complete Streets Design Guidelines/standards should be consistent with the pedestrian and bicycle design guidelines and design standards established by Caltrans and supporting state/federal guidelines when designing bicycle/pedestrian facilities. These include the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD), Highway Design Manual, Federal Highway Administration, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall improve pedestrian safety at intersections and mid-block locations in developed communities by providing pedestrian crossing treatments where appropriate. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CTM-I</th>
<th>County Road Standards Update</th>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall update Road Standards to include the Complete Street Design Guidelines/Standards. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<th>CTM-J</th>
<th>Vision Zero</th>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall develop a Vision Zero strategy for the County of Ventura with the goal of reducing all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<th>CTM-K</th>
<th>Safe Routes to School</th>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall support the Safe Routes to School Program by identifying opportunities to support bike and pedestrian routes to schools, identify needed improvements and opportunities to increase public access and use of these routes. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<th>CTM-L</th>
<th>Master Bicycle Network Plan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The County shall develop a master bicycle network plan that includes the recommendations from the Bicycle Wayfinding Study and the prioritized list of bike lanes from the Board approved criteria. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<th>CTM-M</th>
<th>Bicycle Wayfinding Plan Participation</th>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall continue to participate in and support the Ventura County Transportation Commission in updates to the Bicycle Wayfinding Plan linking all Ventura County cities, unincorporated communities, and CSUCI. [Source Existing GPP Program 4.2.3.7, modified]</td>
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### 5. PUBLIC FACILITIES, SERVICES, AND INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENT

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<tr>
<th>Policy/Program</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CTM-N</strong> Storage Facilities for Shared Mobility Enterprises</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall analyze the feasibility of shared micro-mobility (e.g., bike sharing) vendors being required to provide storage/parking areas or facilities to be designated and/or physically placed outside of the public right-of-way if private shared mobility vendors are allowed to operate within the unincorporated areas of the county. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CTM-O</strong> Mobility-as-a-Service Enterprises – Parking</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall consider designating parking areas in County parking facilities for Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) vehicles to use between customer service runs and will work with cities to provide locations as well. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PFS-1.2</strong> Resilient Facilities and Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall monitor the projected impacts of climate change and natural disasters to make adaptive improvements and upgrades to public facilities and services. (SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>PFS-1.3</strong> Location of New Essential Public Facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall review plans for constructing new essential public facility, such as a hospital, health care facility, emergency shelter, emergency command center, or emergency communications facility, so that these facilities are located outside of at-risk areas whenever feasible. If such a location is infeasible, then the County shall require the use of construction methods and site design features to minimize potential damage to these facilities. (RDR, SO) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.2.2.6, 2.6.2.1, and 2.7.2.1, modified]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PFS-1.10</strong> Efficient County Operation and Maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall operate and maintain County facilities in an efficient manner that meets community needs while conserving financial and natural resources. (SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>PFS-2.1</strong> Sustainable Plans and Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall encourage energy efficiency, greenhouse gas reduction features, and resiliency planning into County facility and service plans and operations. (PSP, SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PFS-2.2</strong> Sustainable Community Facility Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall encourage the incorporation of sustainable design features in community facilities to reduce energy demand and environmental impacts, such as reflective roofing, permeable pavement, and incorporation of shade trees. (SO, IGC) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<td>PFS-2.3 Energy Efficient Facility Construction, Purchases, Leases, Retrofits, and Expansions</td>
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<td>The County shall prioritize energy efficiency and water conservation as key design features when constructing, purchasing, leasing, retrofitting or expanding County facilities. (SO) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.9.2.3]</td>
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<td>PFS-2.4 Recycling Receptacles and Biodegradable/Recycled-Materials Products</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall provide recycling and composting receptacles and use of biodegradable or recycled-material products at County facilities and events, where feasible. (SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>PFS-2.5 County Employee Trip Reduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall encourage its employees to reduce the number and distance of single-occupancy vehicle work trips. (SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>PFS-2.6 County Alternative Fuel Vehicle Purchases</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall review market-available technologies for alternative fuel vehicles and prioritize purchase of vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions where economically feasible. (SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<td>PFS-2.8 Electric Vehicle Charging Station Infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall include electrical vehicle charging station infrastructure in new County-initiated facility construction to the extent feasible. The County shall also look for opportunities to install EV charging stations as part of any major renovation, retrofit or expansion of County facilities. (SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>PFS-4.4 Groundwater Resource Protection</td>
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<td>The County shall encourage wastewater treatment facilities to provide the maximum feasible protection and enhancement of groundwater resources. (SO, IGC) [Source: Existing El Rio/Del Norte Goal 4.2.1.3, modified]</td>
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<td>PFS-4.6 Reclaimed Water</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall encourage public wastewater system operators to upgrade existing wastewater treatment systems to reclaim water suitable for reuse for landscaping, irrigation, and groundwater recharge. (SO, IGC) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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### PFS-5.4 Solid Waste Reduction
The County shall support and promote solid waste reduction, recycling, and composting efforts, including food waste reduction in cases where consumable food can be redistributed rather than disposed. (SO)

[Source: New Policy]

### PFS-5.5 Agricultural Waste Reuse
The County shall support the beneficial reuse of agricultural wastes for activities such as composting and energy generation. (RDR, SO)

[Source: New Policy]

### PFS-5.6 Value-Added Alternatives to Waste Disposal
The County shall promote value-added alternatives to solid waste management, such as compost, energy, biochar, and wood products to avoid open burning of agricultural biomass wastes. (SO, PI)

[Source: New Policy]

### PFS-6.3 Climate Change Impacts on Flood Control and Drainage Facilities - Capacity
The County shall monitor projected climate change impacts, and coordinate with local, regional, state, and federal agencies to identify existing and potential projected impacts and develop strategies to maintain and improve flood control facilities accordingly. (SO, IGC)

[Source: New Policy]

### PFS-6.4 Climate Change Impacts on Flood Control and Drainage Facilities - Retention
The County shall coordinate with local, regional, state, and federal agencies to identify existing and potential infrastructure improvements to increase water retention to respond to drought conditions. (SO, IGC)

[Source: New Policy]

### PFS-7.2 Reduce Transmission Facility Fire Hazard Risk
The County shall work with utility companies to modernize and upgrade transmission lines and associated equipment to reduce the risk of fire in areas with a high wildfire hazard risk. (JP) [Source: New Policy]

### PFS-7.6 Smart Grid Development
The County shall work with utility providers to implement smart grid technologies as part of new developments and infrastructure projects. (JP) [Source: New Policy]
### Public Review Draft Policy Document

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<td><strong>PFS-12.4 Consistent Fire Protection Standards for New Development</strong></td>
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<td>The County, in coordination with local water agencies and the Fire Protection District, shall require new discretionary development to comply with applicable standards for fire flows and fire protection. (RDR, IGC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>[Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PFS-A Infrastructure Improvements and Funding</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall prepare, adopt, and periodically update capital improvement programs for all County-owned and operated facilities and services to maintain adequate levels of service and consistency with the General Plan. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>PFS-C Climate Change Impacts Monitoring</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall conduct, and periodically update, Climate Change Impacts Monitoring reports to map locations of communication, energy, public service, transportation facilities, and infrastructure that are vulnerable to rising sea levels and coastal flooding. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>PFS-D Climate Change Adaptation Response</strong></td>
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<td>Based on findings from the Climate Change Impact Monitoring reports, in cases where existing County facilities are found to be vulnerable to sea-level rise or coastal flooding, the County shall identify funding and create an action plan to protect, accommodate, or manage the retreat of County facilities to areas of higher elevation or reduced flood exposure. For facilities operated by other entities, the County shall work with these entities create an action plan to protect, to protect, accommodate, or manage the retreat of their facilities to areas of higher elevation or reduced flood exposure. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PFS-E County Procurement Guide</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall update the County’s Procurement Guide to prioritize the procurement of products made from recycled materials (e.g., office products and equipment, recycled asphalt use in roads and bike paths) and for reusing or sharing equipment/resources, when feasible. [Source: New Program]</td>
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### B. Climate Change

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<tr>
<td>PFS-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trip Reduction for County Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall provide support for the following trip-reduction methods for County staff members:</td>
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<td>- carpooling/vanpooling,</td>
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<td>- active transportation options (e.g., pedestrian or biking),</td>
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<td>- use of electric or alternative energy vehicles, and</td>
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<td>- public transit use.</td>
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<td>These will be accomplished through incentives, such as dedicated parking areas, electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at County facilities, carpool/vanpool coordination, and flexible work shifts. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>PFS-G</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Agency Management Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall review and update the Local Agency Management Program plan every five years consistent with the State Water Resources Control Board Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>PFS-J</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Education of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Care</td>
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<td>The County shall promote and support programs to educate homeowners on the care and maintenance of private onsite wastewater treatment systems and environmental implications of improper maintenance. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<td>PFS-K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coordination on Large Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Repairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall coordinate with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to address compliance and repair issues for large onsite wastewater treatment systems (over 5,000 gallons) and package treatment systems. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>PFS-L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Waste Reduction</td>
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<td>The County shall provide educational and informational materials to restaurants, grocery stores, and other food providers, as part of food handler permitting, to support donation of safe, unused food to non-profit service agencies. [Source: New Program]</td>
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#### 6. CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

<p>| COS-1.13 | Partnerships for Protection of Natural and Biological Resources | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| The County shall continue to work in partnership with agencies, organizations, and entities responsible for the protection, management, and enhancement of the county's biological resources. (IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.1.1.3, modified] | | | |</p>
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| COS-1.15 Countywide Tree Planting |  |  | ![ ]
| The County shall establish and support a countywide target for the County, cities in Ventura County, agencies, organizations, businesses, and citizens to plant two million trees throughout the county by 2040. (SO, JP, IGC) [Source: New Policy] |  |  |
| COS-2.2 Beach Nourishment |  |  | ![ ]
| The County shall support activities that trap or add sand through beach nourishment, dune restoration, and other adaptation strategies to enhance or create beaches in areas susceptible to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy] |  |  |
| COS-2.10 Saltwater Intrusion |  |  | ![ ]
| The County shall work with Federal, State, and local jurisdictions, agencies, and organizations to monitor saltwater intrusion and take proactive steps to reduce intrusion, including: working to maintain and restore coastal wetlands buffers; enhancing groundwater management to prevent excessive pumping in order to restore groundwater levels needed to reduce saltwater intrusion; and implementing mitigation measures to prevent saltwater intrusion into estuaries and groundwater basins including, but not limited to, implementation of reactive barriers and use of pumps to divert saltwater. (PSR, IGC, JP) [Source: New Policy, OPR Sea-Level Rise Guidance] |  |  |
| COS-3.2 Tree Canopy |  |  | ![ ]
| The County shall encourage the planting of trees and the protection of existing urban forests and native woodlands, savannahs, and tree canopy throughout the county, including along State or County designated scenic roadways and in residential and commercial zones throughout the county, especially those located within designated disadvantaged communities. (MPSP, RDR) [Source: New Policy] |  |  |
| COS-3.3 Utility Undergrounding Priority |  |  | ![ ]
| The County shall give overhead utility undergrounding within high fire hazard areas and Scenic Resource Areas first priority when allocating County Utility Undergrounding Funds. (MPSP, FB) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.7.2.3, modified] |  |  |
## B. Climate Change

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<tr>
<th>COS-5.3</th>
<th>Soil Productivity</th>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall encourage landowners to participate in voluntary programs that reduce soil erosion and increase soil productivity. To this end, the County shall promote coordination between the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ventura County Resource Conservation District, University of California Cooperative Extension, and other similar agencies and organizations. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<th>COS-7.2</th>
<th>Oil Well Distance Criteria</th>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall require new discretionary oil wells to be located a minimum of 1,500 feet from residential dwellings and 2,500 from any school. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<th>COS-7.4</th>
<th>Electrically-Powered Equipment for Oil and Gas Exploration and Production</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The County shall require discretionary development for oil and gas exploration and production to use electrically-powered equipment from 100 percent renewable sources and cogeneration, where feasible, to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from internal combustion engines and equipment. (RDR) [Source: Existing Ojai Valley Area Plan Policy 1.3.2.3 and Piru Area Plan Policy 1.2.2.3, modified]</td>
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<tr>
<th>COS-7.7</th>
<th>Conveyance for Oil and Produced Water</th>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall require new discretionary oil wells to use pipelines to convey oil and produced water; oil and produced water shall not be trucked. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<th>COS-8.1</th>
<th>Reduce Reliance on Fossil Fuels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The County shall promote the development and use of renewable energy resources (e.g., solar, thermal, wind, tidal, bioenergy, hydroelectricity) to reduce dependency on petroleum-based energy sources. (IGC, RDR) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<th>COS-8.2</th>
<th>Incentives for Energy Efficiency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The County shall encourage the State and energy utility companies to provide programs, rebates, and incentives for energy efficiency installation and retrofit projects. (IGC) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.9.1.3, modified]</td>
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<td>Policy/Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>COS-8.3 Coordinate Climate Action Plan with Cities and Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall facilitate the coordination of its Climate Action Plan implementation and maintenance with the cities in the county, the Air Pollution Control District, and other organizations to promote countywide collaboration on addressing climate change. (SO, IGC) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>COS-8.4 Clean Power Alliance</td>
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<td>The County, as a signatory to a legal entity created under a Joint Powers Authority with neighboring communities, shall continue to serve as an active member of the Clean Power Alliance or similar organization providing local customer access to electricity generated from low carbon renewable energy sources in excess of State requirements. (SO, IGC) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<td>COS-8.5 Decarbonize Communitywide Electricity Supplies</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall work with utility providers to offer residents options to purchase and use renewable energy resources. (SO, IGC, JP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>COS-8.6 Zero Net Energy and Zero Net Carbon Buildings</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall support the transition to zero net energy and zero net carbon buildings, including electrification of new buildings. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>COS-8.7 Sustainable Building Practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall promote sustainable building practices that incorporate a &quot;whole systems&quot; approach for design and construction that consumes less energy, water, and other non-renewable resources, such as by facilitating passive ventilation and effective use of daylight. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<td>COS-8.8 Renewable Energy Features in Discretionary Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall encourage the integration of features that support the generation, transmission, efficient use, and storage of renewable energy sources in discretionary development (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.9.1.2, modified]</td>
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<tr>
<td>COS-8.9 Urban Tree Canopy Improvements for Energy Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall encourage discretionary development to include the planting of shade trees on each property and within parking areas to reduce radiation heat production. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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### B. Climate Change

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<th>Policy/Program</th>
<th>GHG Reduction Measure</th>
<th>Climate Adaptation Measure</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COS-8.10</strong> Battery Energy Storage Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall encourage battery energy storage systems as an option for optimizing the management of electricity generated by renewable resources. (RDR)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COS-9.1</strong> Open Space Preservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall preserve natural open space resources through:</td>
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<td>• the concentration of development in Urban Areas and Existing Communities;</td>
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<td>• use of cluster or compact development techniques in discretionary development adjacent to natural open space resources;</td>
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<td>• maintaining large lot sizes in agricultural areas, rural and open space areas;</td>
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<td>• discouraging conversion of lands currently used for agricultural production or grazing;</td>
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<td>• limiting development in areas constrained by natural hazards; and</td>
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<td>• encouraging agricultural and ranching interests to maintain natural habitat in open space areas where the terrain or soil is not conducive to agricultural production or grazing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(RDR) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COS-9.3</strong> Open Space Preservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall place a high priority on preserving open space lands for recreation, habitat protection, wildlife movement, flood hazard management, public safety, water resource protection, and overall community benefit. (PSP)</td>
<td>Source: New Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COS-10.1</strong> Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall maintain and refer to the General Plan and its integrated greenhouse gas (GHG) Reduction Strategy as the County’s comprehensive plan for reducing community-wide GHG emissions in the unincorporated County. (RDR)</td>
<td>Source: New Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COS-10.2</strong> Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Target for 2030</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall achieve a community-wide GHG emissions reduction target of 41 percent below 2015 levels by 2030. (RDR)</td>
<td>Source: New Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>COS-10.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goals for 2040 and 2050</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall work towards achieving longer-term, post-2030 community-wide GHG emissions reduction goals, as follows:</td>
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<td> 61 percent below 2015 levels by 2040, and</td>
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<td> 80 percent below 2015 levels by 2050.</td>
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<td>(RDR) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>COS-10.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenhouse Gas Reductions in Existing and New Development</td>
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<td>The County shall reduce GHG emissions in both existing and new development through a combination of measures included in the GHG Strategy, which includes new and modified regulations, financing and incentive-based programs, community outreach and education programs, partnerships with local or regional agencies, and other related actions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(RDR) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>COS-C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Update Tree Protection Ordinance</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall update existing Tree Protection Regulations in the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance to further enhance conservation of our urban forests and the preservation of the County’s oak woodland resources. Updates shall include incorporation of Board-adopted recommendations from the Ventura County Oak Woodlands Management Plan (2007), which include tree replacement offsets for ministerial development projects that remove protected trees, revisiting mitigation ratios for tree removal and oak woodland impacts for discretionary development projects. The update shall also evaluate existing protections for invasive, non-native trees and consider the degree to which they provide habitat for a species during critical life stages (e.g., colonial roost sites, breeding sites, etc.). In addition, the evaluation shall also include anticipated effects of climate change on the urban forest environment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>[Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>COS-H</td>
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<tr>
<td>County Tree Planting Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall plant at least one thousand trees annually.</td>
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<td>[Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<td>COS-I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants for Climate Change Adaptation Activities</td>
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<td>The County shall apply for grants through the California Coastal Commission and other organizations for beach nourishment, dune restoration, and other adaptation activities to improve the resilience of county beaches to sea-level rise and coastal flooding.</td>
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<tr>
<td>[Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>COS-M Oil and Gas Tax</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall evaluate the feasibility of establishing a local tax on oil and gas operations located in the unincorporated county. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>COS-N Sustainable Building, Siting, and Landscaping Practice Guidelines</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall prepare sustainable building, siting, and landscaping practice guidelines that promote a whole systems approach to building designs and construction techniques that reduce consumption of non-renewable resources such as oil, gas and water and promote renewable energy use. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<td>COS-O Assessment of Land Near Electrical Transmission and Distribution Lines</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall conduct a study and prepare a publicly available assessment of suitable undeveloped lands near electrical transmission and distribution lines that serve as priority areas for the development of utility-scale solar energy generation and storage projects. If suitable locations are identified, the County shall establish a new zone, called a Renewable Energy Priority Zone, for these sites in the County’s Coastal and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinances. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<td>COS-P Study to Demonstrate Energy and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Savings</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall conduct a study that demonstrates the energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) savings of the options identified in Implementation Program COS-L using modeled building prototypes. To satisfy state regulatory requirements for Energy Reach Code adoption, the study shall also demonstrate long-term cost savings of the options through a life-cycle cost analysis that considers the initial costs of efficiency improvements offset by utility bill cost savings and other relevant factors. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<td>COS-Q Incentives for Development in the Renewable Energy Priority Zone</td>
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<tr>
<td>To incentivize the development of the Renewable Energy Priority Zone sites, the County shall consider waiving permit fees and providing a reduction on the annual property tax assessment for the portion of land used for renewable energy generation or storage. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>COS-R Performance-Based Building Code for Green Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall update the Building Code to establish performance-based standards that incentivize green building techniques. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>COS-S Building Code Update</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall update the Building Code to include a mandatory Energy Reach Code. [<em>Source: New Program</em>]</td>
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<td>COS-T Energy Consumption Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall continue to review its energy consumption performance and implement programs designed to increase energy efficiency in County-owned buildings, including, but not limited to:</td>
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<td>▪ reduced operating hours for heating, ventilating and lighting systems,</td>
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<td>▪ installation of weather stripping on all openable doors and windows,</td>
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<td>▪ development of energy audit and energy management programs,</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ implementation of operation and maintenance programs which contribute to energy conservation,</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ develop energy audits and energy management programs for all County-owned facilities,</td>
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<td>▪ develop a plan to re-invest utility company rebates and utility savings into a long-range funding program for on-going conservation projects,</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ implement operational and maintenance programs which contribute to energy conservation,</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ investigate and implement new energy technologies such as solar and fuel cells,</td>
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<td>▪ install energy management systems in all County-owned facilities to control air conditioning and lighting systems where beneficial,</td>
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<td>▪ install ceiling, wall, and roof insulation whenever feasible,</td>
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<td>▪ install plumbing flow restrictors in toilets, lavatories and showers, and</td>
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<td>▪ provide energy conservation training and literature to all County agencies.</td>
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<td>[<em>Source: Existing GPP Program 1.9.3.1, modified</em>]</td>
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<td>COS-U Solar Canopies in Non-Residential Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall amend the County’s Coastal and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinances to require parking lots for new non-residential construction projects, with floor area of greater than 50,000 square feet, to include solar canopies. [<em>Source: New Program</em>]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COS-V</strong> Improve Energy Conservation Awareness</td>
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<td>The County shall encourage community members to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase awareness about energy efficiency and conservation and climate change and adaptation, to conduct targeted outreach to homeowners and contractors to encourage installation of electric appliances upon routine replacement of natural gas appliances and heaters and provide information regarding financial incentives. <strong>[Source: New Program]</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COS-W</strong> Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program</td>
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<td>The County shall develop a behavior change program for energy efficiency and conservation. This program would provide energy literacy training for low-income customers on buying energy-efficient products or using energy more efficiently; develop and offer digital applications offering real-time energy use information to residents and businesses; offer anonymized data on community energy use for residents to compare performance; and provide rewards or rebates for improved energy conservation. <strong>[Source: New Program]</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COS-X</strong> Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Implementation</td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall implement the General Plan GHG Strategy through specific policies, programs, and implementing actions integrated throughout the General Plan and summarized in Appendix B. <strong>[Source: New Program]</strong></td>
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<td><strong>COS-Y</strong> Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Monitoring</td>
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<td>The County shall implement, under the overall direction of the CEO and with support of RMA, PWA, GSA, AGC, FD, and other departments as appropriate, the GHG Strategy through specific policies, programs, and implementing actions integrated throughout the General Plan and summarized in Appendix B, Climate Action Plan, as well as other appropriate actions adopted from time to time. The greenhouse gas reduction strategy shall consist of a comprehensive program to systematically reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet adopted emission reduction targets and deadlines from all sectors – transportation, buildings, solid waste, stationary sources, agriculture, water and wastewater, and off-road equipment. <strong>[Source: New Program]</strong></td>
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<td>COS-Z</td>
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<td><strong>Public Reporting on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Progress</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall prepare public reports on the results of GHG Strategy implementation and monitoring and present these reports to the Board of Supervisors. The first report shall be submitted to the Board of Supervisors two years after the approval of the General Plan, after which the Board of Supervisors will determine the appropriate reporting interval. The County shall also present a more detailed progress report to the Board of Supervisors, including results of the latest GHG inventory update, every five years. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>COS-AA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Updates</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall update the County’s GHG emissions inventory at least every five years. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>COS-BB</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy Amendments</strong></td>
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<td>The County may amend the GHG Strategy to ensure that the County is on track to achieve its 2030 target and making substantial progress towards achieving its longer-term, post-2030 goals. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>COS-CC</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Climate Emergency Council</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall establish a Climate Emergency Council to advise the Board of Supervisors on climate action planning and implementation of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) goals, policies, and programs. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<tr>
<td>COS-DD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Budget and Staffing Plan for CAP Implementation</strong></td>
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<td>The CEO shall, within six months from the adoption of the General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan, present to the Board of Supervisors a proposed budget and staffing plan (including qualified technical consultants) to implement the Climate Action Plan, and shall update the budget and staffing plan each year. [Source: New Program]</td>
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</table>
B. Climate Change

COS-EE Streamlining Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Analysis for Projects Consistent with the General Plan
Projects subject to environmental review under CEQA may be eligible for tiering and streamlining the analysis of GHG emissions, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5, provided they incorporate applicable GHG reduction measures included in the GHG Strategy contained in the General Plan and Program EIR. The County shall review such projects to determine whether the following criteria are met:

- Proposed project is consistent with the current General Plan land use designation and applicable zoning designations for the project site;
- Proposed project incorporates all applicable GHG reduction measures (as documented in Appendix B to the General Plan and analyzed in the GHG Section of the Program EIR) into project design and/or as binding and enforceable mitigation measures in the project-specific CEQA document prepared for the project; and,
- Proposed project clearly demonstrates the method, timing and process for which the project will comply with applicable GHG reduction measures and/or conditions of approval.

The County may develop more specific tiering and streamlining tools or procedures, such as a consistency review checklist, or more detailed guidance for determining consistency with the GHG Strategy. Similarly, the County may incorporate appropriate elements of such guidance and procedures into the County’s Initial Study Assessment Guidelines (ISAGs). [Source: New Program]

7. HAZARDS AND SAFETY ELEMENT

HAZ-1.1 Fire Prevention Design and Practices
The County shall continue to require development to incorporate design measures that enhance fire protection in areas of high fire risk. This shall include but is not limited to incorporation of fire-resistant structural design, use of fire-resistant landscaping, and fuel modification around the perimeter of structures. (RDR, PI) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 2.13.2.2]

HAZ 1.2 Defensible Space Clear Zones
The County shall require adherence to defensible space standards, or vegetation “clear zones,” for all existing and new structures in areas that are designated as Hazardous Fire Areas by the Ventura County Fire Protection District and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. (IGC, PI, RDR) [Source: New Policy]
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<th>Policy/Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>HAZ-1.3 Controlled Burns and Other Fire Prevention Measures</td>
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<td>The County shall continue to recognize the role of fire in local ecosystems by supporting controlled burns and other fire prevention measures. (IGC) [Source: Existing Ojai Valley Area Plan Goal 1.4.1.3, Ojai Valley Area Plan Goal 2.3.1.3, Ojai Valley Area Plan Program 2.3.3.1, Piru Area Plan Goal 2.3.1.3, and Thousand Oaks Area Plan Goal 1.3.1.8]</td>
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<td>HAZ-1.4 Development in High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and Hazardous Fire Areas</td>
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<td>The County shall require the recordation of a Notice of Fire Hazard with the County Recorder for all new discretionary entitlements (including subdivisions and land use permits) within areas designated as Hazardous Fire Areas by the Ventura County Fire Department or High Fire Hazard Severity Zones by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). (RDR) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>HAZ-1.6 Wildfire Risk Education</td>
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<td>The County shall continue to develop and distribute educational materials and conduct educational outreach activities informing the public about wildfire risk and protection strategies. (PSR, IGC, PI) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>HAZ-3.1 Sea Level Rise Planning and Adaptation</td>
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<td>The County shall continue to actively plan for sea level rise by using the best available science to analyze critical vulnerabilities, identify measures to conserve coastal resources, minimize impacts on residents and businesses, maintain public services, and strengthen resiliency. (MPSP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAZ-3.2 County Infrastructure Projects and Sea Level Rise</td>
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<td>County-initiated infrastructure projects sited along or seaward of Highway 101, such as bridges and levees, that will provide 100 years or more of service, shall be planned with the potential to be easily modified to accommodate 100-years of projected sea level rise in accordance with the H+++ extreme risk aversion sea level rise scenario. (PSR, IGC) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>HAZ-3.3 Sea Level Rise Educational Outreach</td>
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<td>To the extent feasible, the County shall incorporate education elements into coastal adaptation projects to inform the public about the risks of sea level rise and options for adaptation. (RDR, SO, JP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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### B. Climate Change

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<td><strong>HAZ-10.1 Air Pollutant Reduction</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall strive to reduce air pollutants from stationary and mobile sources to protect human health and welfare, focusing efforts on shifting patterns and practices that contribute to the areas with the highest pollution exposures and health impacts. (MPSP, RDR, SO, IGC, PI, JP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-10.5 Air Pollution Impact Mitigation Measures for Discretionary Development</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall work with applicants for discretionary development projects to incorporate bike facilities, solar water heating, solar space heating, incorporation of electric appliances and equipment, the use of zero and/or near zero emission vehicles and other measures to reduce air pollution impacts and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. (RDR) [Source: Existing Piru Area Plan Policy 1.7.2.4, modified]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-10.6 Transportation Control Measures Programs</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall continue to work with the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to develop and implement Transportation Control Measures (TCM) programs consistent with the APCD’s Air Quality Management Program (AQMP) to facilitate public transit and alternative transportation modes within the county. (IGC, FB) [Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.2.2.4 and Existing El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan Program 1.1.3.1, modified]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-10.7 Fuel Efficient County Vehicles</strong></td>
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<td>When purchasing new County vehicles, the County shall give strong preference to fuel efficient vehicles, including the use of zero emission vehicles when feasible. (SO, FB) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-10.8 Alternative Transportation Modes</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall promote alternative modes of transportation that reduce single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) travel and enhance “last-mile” transportation options to improve air quality. (IGC, JP, PI) [Source: El Rio/Del Norte Area Plan Goal 1.1.1.2, modified]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-11.1 Critical Vulnerable Infrastructure</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall identify and protect critical infrastructure locations that are vulnerable to damage from extreme heat. (SO, FB, PSR, IGC) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-11.2 Climate Change-Related Partnerships</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall partner with Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), utilities, nonprofit organizations and other entities to implement future and ongoing heat-related climate change initiatives. The County’s partnership in ongoing programs and future initiatives could include helping other organizations increase participation in existing programs through education and promotion, and by using and integrating them in County programs and activities, where feasible. (JP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-11.3 Limit Impacts of Climate Change on Designated Disadvantaged Communities</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall work with public, private, and nonprofit partners to limit impacts of climate change on Designated Disadvantaged Communities by focusing planning efforts and interventions on communities with the highest need and ensuring representatives of these communities have a role in the decision-making process for directing climate change response. (MPSP, SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-11.4 Education and Outreach on Effects of Climate Change</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall support efforts of agencies and organizations that provide effective education and outreach to Designated Disadvantaged Communities on the effects of climate change, including increasing temperatures, wildfires, flooding, sea level rise, poor air quality, extreme weather events, disease prevention, and other public health effects. (PI) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-11.5 Outdoor Worker Protection</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall work with State and County health agencies and local organizations to provide educational programs and resources targeted at reducing the impacts of exposure to sun and heat. (ICG, JP, PI) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-11.6 Accessible Cooling Centers</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall expand partnerships with local governments, non-government organizations, churches, and businesses to provide additional cooling centers, particularly in designated disadvantaged communities. (SO, IGC, JP, PI) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>HAZ-11.7 Green Building Design Features</td>
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<td>The County shall encourage development to include retrofits to improve building performance and market value through strategic building design features, including insulation and strategic orientation of buildings to reduce energy usage, solar-reflective white roofs, solar panels, green roofs (vegetation on roofs), and battery storage for energy. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>HAZ-11.8 Undergrounding Utilities</td>
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<td>The County shall work with utility providers to underground overhead power lines (both existing and as part of discretionary development) to increase the resilience of the energy grid and reduce wildfire potential, especially in Existing Communities. (JP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>HAZ-11.9 Urban Greening</td>
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<td>The County shall promote the use of urban greening techniques, such as cool pavement technology, parking lot shading, landscaping, and other methods to offset climate change impacts and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for discretionary development and County-initiated projects. (RDR, FB, SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>HAZ-11.10 Solar Photovoltaic Carports</td>
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<td>The County shall promote the use of solar photovoltaic carports for discretionary development and County initiated projects. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAZ-A Develop and Implement Educational Programs for Wildfire Resilience</td>
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<td>In coordination with federal, state, and local partners (e.g., CAL FIRE), the County shall update and maintain educational programs related to such issues as:</td>
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<td>- Learning how to recognize the first signs of fire and take appropriate action;</td>
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<td>- Living with the risks of fire within the wildland/urban interface; and</td>
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<td>- Methods of improving the resilience of homes and other structures.</td>
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<td>[Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-B</strong> Wildfire Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping</td>
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<td>In collaboration with the federal, state, and local partners (e.g., CAL FIRE), U.S. Forest Service, other agencies involved in wildfire response planning), the County shall update and map new locations that may be vulnerable to wildfire hazards including: damage to electrical, transportation, and communication infrastructure; increased rates of erosion, landslide, and water quality degradation; loss of residential, commercial, and industrial structures; and ecological disturbance. [[Source: New Program]]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-F</strong> Develop Climate Change Impact Assessment</td>
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<td>The County shall work with the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), other jurisdictions, the Oxnard Harbor District (OHD), California Department of Conservation, and the Department of Defense (DOD) to develop a Climate Change Impact Assessment that addresses issues related to climate change and military installations, including sea level rise, wildfires, and stormwater runoff intensities. [[Source: New Program, NBVC JLUS Strategy CC-1A]]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-G</strong> Communication Program for Property Owners At-Risk from Sea Level Rise</td>
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<td>The County shall seek funding to prepare and implement a communication program that periodically provides updates to the Board of Supervisors, and other stakeholders regarding impacts from sea level rise and planning decisions to address those impacts. [[Source: New Program]]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-H</strong> Sea Level Rise Analysis in Siting and Design of New Development</td>
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<td>The County shall consider the feasibility of amending the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance and Coastal Zoning Ordinance to require technical analysis of projected sea level rise exposure for the siting and design of new discretionary development. [[Source: New Program]]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HAZ-I</strong> Estuaries, Wetlands, and Groundwater Basins Resilience</td>
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<td>The County shall coordinate with regional stakeholders to assess vulnerabilities from the effects of, and opportunities to enhance the resiliency to, sea level rise on estuaries, wetlands, and groundwater basins. This assessment should consider factors that influence the conditions of an estuary or wetland, including sea level rise, rainfall, surface heat budget, wind, and ocean acidification. [[Source: New Program]]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-P</strong> Identify Critical Infrastructure Vulnerable to Extreme Heat</td>
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<td>The County shall map locations of county-owned facilities and infrastructure that may be vulnerable to the effects of extreme heat. When necessary, the County will develop a plan to upgrade such infrastructure to be more resilient to periods of high heat, which may include the use of heat-tolerant, reflective, or other resilient types of materials. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-Q</strong> Standards for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Carports in County Lots</td>
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<td>The County shall establish standards for inclusion of solar PV carports in County-owned parking lots. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-R</strong> Adaptation Grant Funding</td>
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<td>The County shall apply for grant funding for climate change adaptation planning efforts from available private and public sources. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-S</strong> Extreme Heat Education and Outreach</td>
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<td>The County shall provide multilingual education and outreach to residents and businesses to publicize the symptoms and dangers of heat-related illness, cooling center locations, how to sign up for the Ready Ventura County VC Alert Program, worker-related protections, and practical methods for preventing heat-related illness during periods of high heat. [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-T</strong> Cool Roof Ordinance</td>
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<td>The County shall adopt a Cool Roof Ordinance that exceeds the prescriptive cool roof requirements of the 2019 California Building Energy Efficiency Standard for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings by 25 percent (California Energy Code). Under a Cool Roof Ordinance, the County would require new construction to replace or re-coat 2,500 square feet for nonresidential and 1,250 square feet of roof space for residential buildings, or 72.5 percent or more of roofs. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>HAZ-U</strong> Incentive Program for Passive Solar Home Design and Use of Green Roofs and Rooftop Gardens</td>
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<td>The County shall develop incentive programs to promote passive solar home design and the use of green roofs and rooftop gardens. The program shall include but may not be limited to, permit streamlining and permit fee reductions to apply passive solar home design to future residential buildings. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>HAZ-V Cool Pavements Standards</td>
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<td>The County shall incorporate cool pavement standards into the County’s development standards for County and private development projects, in both new construction and changes to existing on-site paved surface areas (e.g., parking lots, private roadways, other hardscapes). [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>HAZ-W Incentive Programs for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Carports</td>
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<td>The County shall establish incentive programs, which may include rebate programs, permit fee reductions, and tax deductions, to incentivize the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) carports in existing and future parking lots. [Source: New Program]</td>
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8. AGRICULTURE ELEMENT

| AG-1.1 Agricultural Land Protection and Preservation | | | |
| The County shall continue to protect and preserve agricultural land by directing growth away from productive agricultural lands into cities, unincorporated urban areas, or existing communities and by supporting the acquisition or voluntary dedication of agriculture conservation easements. (RDR, MPSP) [Source: New Policy] |
| AG-3.2 Integrated Pest Management Practices | | | - |
| The County shall encourage and support the use of Integrated Pest Management practices to reduce pesticide use and human health risks. (JP, PI) [Source: New Policy] |
| AG-3.3 Public Education for Agricultural Products and Integrated Pest Management | | | - |
| The County shall collaborate with the agricultural community to provide information on Integrated Pest Management and agricultural products and practices in Ventura County. (JP, PI) [Source: New Policy] |
| AG-4.1 Connections to Local Produce | | | - |
| The County shall strive to enhance access to and consumption of fresh, local produce by encouraging direct connections between local farmers/ranchers and markets, restaurants, institutions, schools, hospitals, food banks, and other businesses. (JP) [Source: New Policy] |
| AG-4.3 Technological Innovation | | | - |
| The County shall encourage the use of technology that supports agricultural production, while enhancing environmental sustainability and natural resource conservation. (JP) [Source: New Policy] |
# B. Climate Change

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<td>AG-4.4 Pest Management</td>
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<td>The County shall continue to monitor leading research findings on methods and technologies for reducing harm to the agricultural sector from invasive plants, pests, and diseases and modify and expand agricultural practices when appropriate and feasible. (SO)</td>
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<td>[Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>AG-5.1 Inorganic Nitrogen Based Fertilizers</td>
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<td>The County shall encourage farmers to reduce fertilizer application and transition to products that reduce or avoid nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions, such as organic composting and enhanced efficiency fertilizers. (MPSP)</td>
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<td>[Source: Source: Existing El Rio/Del Norte Program 1.2.3.1, modified]</td>
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<td>AG-5.2 Electric- or Renewable-Powered Agricultural Equipment</td>
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<td>The County shall encourage and support the transition to electric- or renewable-powered or lower emission agricultural equipment in place of fossil fuel-powered equipment, when feasible. (PI, JP)</td>
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<td>[Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>AG-5.3 Electric- or Renewable- Powered Irrigation Pumps</td>
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<td>The County shall encourage farmers to convert fossil fuel-powered irrigation pumps to systems powered by electric or renewable energy sources, such as solar-power, and encourage electric utilities to eliminate or reduce stand-by charges. (SO)</td>
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<td>[Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>AG-5.4 Alternative Irrigation Techniques</td>
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<td>The County shall encourage farmers to continue and enhance the water-saving irrigation techniques designed to reduce water consumption. (RDR, JP)</td>
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<td>[Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>AG-5.5 Carbon Farming Practices</td>
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<td>The County shall encourage and support the efforts of resource conservation districts, farmers, and other stakeholders to expand carbon farming practices, such as reduced tilling, cover-cropping, composting, biochar, and other activities that both reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increase carbon sequestration and storage, when feasible. (JP)</td>
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<td>[Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>AG-6.1 Monitor Climate Change Research</td>
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<td>The County shall support and monitor research on the effects of a changing climate on the agricultural industry within Ventura County. (PSR)</td>
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<td>[Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>AG-6.2 Crop Resiliency</strong>&lt;br&gt;The County shall engage the agricultural sector to understand the tolerance of current crop mixes to withstand the impacts of climate change, including increased temperatures, disease, and pests, and explore options to diversify crops. (JP) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>AG-B Regionally-Grown Products Sales Incentives</strong>&lt;br&gt;The County shall develop a program that encourages sales and distribution of regionally-grown (in Ventura County or neighboring counties of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, or Kern) produce to local retailers, restaurants, and markets, and encourage chain stores to develop local distribution centers. The program will encourage residents to select locally grown food products for freshness, local economic development benefits, and reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>AG-C County Procurement</strong>&lt;br&gt;The County shall develop a program to identify opportunities to continue to provide organic and locally grown foods into cafeteria services, the jail, Ventura County Medical Center, and other County-sponsored services and events that provide food service, to the extent feasible. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>AG-D Agricultural Tourism Development Standards</strong>&lt;br&gt;The County shall revise the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance to include regulations and development standards for agricultural tourism while protecting both the grower and the public. Ordinance revisions may also include additional development standards for agricultural promotional uses, if necessary. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>AG-E Specialty Farming Education</strong>&lt;br&gt;The County shall continue to collaborate with and support the UC Cooperative Extension Office on education programs that inform and assist local farmers, ranchers, and agricultural managers in diversifying and establishing expertise in specialty agricultural products. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td><strong>AG-F Enhanced Access to Locally Grown Products</strong>&lt;br&gt;The County shall conduct a study to identify barriers to local farm stands and take action to remove these barriers as part of the next update to the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance. [Source: New Program]</td>
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## B. Climate Change

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<th>Policy/Program</th>
<th>GHG Reduction Measure</th>
<th>Climate Adaptation Measure</th>
<th>Both</th>
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| **AG-G** Farm-to-Front Door | | | ![Both]
| The County shall study the feasibility of encouraging “Farm-to-Front Door” business model and its potential benefits to businesses and residents in Ventura County. [Source: New Program] |
| **AG-H** Nutrient Management Plans | | | ![Both]
| The County shall continue to collaborate with the UC Cooperative Extension Office and UC Agriculture and Natural Resources to implement Nutrient Management Plans for commonly grown local crops featuring best management practices for nitrous oxide (N\(_2\)O) emission reductions. [Source: New Program] |
| **AG-I** Fossil Fuel-Powered Equipment Replacement | | | ![Both]
| The County shall coordinate with the Air Pollution Control District and electric utilities to develop a program to establish a countywide fossil fuel-powered equipment conversion target, track progress on conversions to renewable energy sourced electric powered systems and provide technical assistance to users considering replacement of pumps. [Source: New Program] |
| **AG-J** Alternative Fuel Funding for Agricultural Operations | | | ![Both]
| The County shall coordinate with the Air Pollution Control District to develop a program to identify funding sources or develop financial or regulatory incentives to encourage the switch to electric or alternatively fueled agricultural equipment, when feasible. [Source: New Program] |
| **AG-K** Water-Saving Irrigation Techniques Program | | | ![Both]
| The County shall continue to collaborate with and support the UC Cooperative Extension Office on educational programs on irrigation techniques to maximize water use efficiency, when feasible. [Source: New Program] |
| **AG-L** Encourage and Facilitate Carbon Farming | | | ![Both]
| The County shall develop a program to encourage and facilitate carbon farming projects, including development of demonstration projects and site-specific carbon farm plans, to guide implementation of carbon farming practices throughout the county, when feasible. [Source: New Program] |
AG-M Biogas Control Systems
The County shall review and update regulations to allow the development of appropriate biogas facilities near the source of organic waste materials and develop a program to coordinate public-private local investment in biogas control systems to encourage their development. [Source: New Program]

AG-N Research on Effects of Climate Change
The County shall research the potential effects of climate change on the county’s existing agricultural industry as well as the resulting challenges and opportunities associated with these changes. Research partners may include the California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN), University of California Cooperative Extension, Ventura County Farm Bureau, and the Agricultural Commissioner’s Office. The research shall address, but may not be limited to, loss of chill hours, increased populations of or new species of pests, higher rates of evapotranspiration, and opportunities created by warmer climate to grow crops that were previously unsuitable based on historic climate conditions. [Source: New Program]

AG-O Subsidies for Resilient Crop Production
The County should encourage programs and obtain grants to seek funding to subsidize efforts to breed crops that are resilient to high heat, shade crops and installation of light reflectors, and reduce rates of tilling to promote soil health and combat increased temperatures as recommended by federal, state, and local agencies. [Source: New Program]

9. WATER RESOURCES ELEMENT

WR-3.1 Non-Potable Water Use
The County shall encourage the use of non-potable water, such as tertiary treated wastewater and household graywater, for industrial, agricultural, environmental, and landscaping needs consistent with appropriate regulations. (RDR) [Source: Existing GPP Goal 1.3.1.6, modified]
## B. Climate Change

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<th>GHG Reduction Measure</th>
<th>Climate Adaptation Measure</th>
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<td><strong>WR-3.2 Water Use Efficiency for Discretionary Development</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The County shall require the use of water conservation techniques for</td>
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<td>discretionary development, as appropriate. Such techniques include</td>
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<td>low-flow plumbing fixtures in new construction that meet or exceed the state</td>
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<td>Plumbing Code, use of graywater or reclaimed water for landscaping,</td>
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<td>retention of stormwater runoff for direct use and/or groundwater recharge,</td>
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<td>and landscape water efficiency standards that meet or exceed the</td>
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<td>standards in the California Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance.</td>
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<td>(IGC, RDR) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>WR-3.3 Low-Impact Development</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall require discretionary development to incorporate low</td>
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<td>impact development design features and best management practices,</td>
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<td>including integration of stormwater capture facilities, consistent with</td>
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<td>County’s Stormwater Permit. (RDR) [Source: NBVC JLUS, Strategy BIO-1A]</td>
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<td><strong>WR-3.4 Reduce Potable Water Use</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall strive for efficient use of potable water in County</td>
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<td>buildings and facilities through conservation measures, and technological</td>
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<td>advancements. (SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>WR-4.1 Groundwater Management</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall work with water suppliers, water users, groundwater</td>
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<td>management agencies, and groundwater sustainability agencies to implement the</td>
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<td>Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and manage groundwater</td>
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<td>resources within the sustainable yield of each basin to ensure that county</td>
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<td>residents, businesses, agriculture, government, and the environment have</td>
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<td>reliable, high-quality groundwater to serve existing and planned land uses</td>
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<td>during prolonged drought years. (IGC, RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>WR-4.3 Groundwater Recharge Projects</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall support groundwater recharge and multi-benefit</td>
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<td>projects consistent with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the</td>
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<td>Integrated Regional Water Management Plan to ensure the long-term</td>
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<td>sustainability of groundwater. (IGC, RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td><strong>WR-4.4 In-Stream and Recycled Water Use for Groundwater Recharge</strong></td>
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<td>The County shall encourage the use of in-stream water flow and recycled</td>
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<td>water for groundwater recharge while balancing the needs of urban and</td>
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<td>agricultural uses, and healthy ecosystems, including in-stream waterflows</td>
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<td>needed for endangered species protection. (RDR) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>Policy/Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>WR-6.1 Water for Agricultural Uses</td>
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<td>The County should support the appropriate agencies in their efforts to effectively manage and enhance water quantity and quality to ensure long-term, adequate availability of high quality and economically viable water for agricultural uses, consistent with water use efficiency programs. (IGC) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>WR-6.2 Agricultural Water Efficiency</td>
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<td>The County should support programs designed to increase agricultural water use efficiency and secure long-term water supplies for agriculture. (PI) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>WR-6.3 Reclaimed Water Use</td>
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<td>The County should encourage the use of reclaimed irrigation water and treated urban wastewater for agricultural irrigation in accordance with federal and state requirements in order to conserve untreated groundwater and potable water supplies. (IGC, RDR, SO) [Source: New Policy]</td>
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<td>WR-C Regional Collaboration on Water issues and Sustainability</td>
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<td>The County shall continue to provide data and staff resources to support collaboration on climate change and sustainability, and for planning and implementing projects that address local and regional water issues. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>WR-E Well Guidelines Update</td>
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<td>The County shall coordinate with the local groundwater management agencies and local groundwater sustainability agencies to update County of Ventura Ordinance 4468 and related guidelines on the location, construction, and abandonment of water wells, if necessary. [Source: New Program]</td>
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<td>WR-F Discretionary Development Review for Adequate Water and Wastewater</td>
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<td>The County shall verify that all discretionary development proposals demonstrate an adequate long-term supply of water, adequate methods for sewage disposal, provide adequate drainage to avoid flooding, prevent erosion, and prevent contamination of local water. [Source: New Program]</td>
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**Policy/Program**

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<th>WR-G</th>
<th>Water Conservation</th>
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<td>The County shall work with the state and local water suppliers to educate County residents and offer incentives for water conservation features, including drought-tolerant landscaping, removal of turf, graywater, and water-saving plumbing technologies. [<em>Source: Existing GPP Policy 1.3.2.5 and Goal 4.3.1.2, modified</em>]</td>
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<tr>
<th>WR-H</th>
<th>County Water Efficiency</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ventura County GSA shall work with County departments and agencies to review water usage and develop recommendations for water saving practices or facility improvements, including turf removal to conserve water. [<em>Source: New Program</em>]</td>
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| 10. ECONOMIC VITALITY ELEMENT |
| EV-4.4 Renewable Energy Facilities |
| The County shall identify appropriate locations to allow for development of renewable energy generation and storage facilities and encourage the development of innovative approaches to renewable energy deployment, including solar power, wind power, wave energy, distributed power systems and micro-grids, and other appropriate renewable sources and storage and distribution systems. (MPSP, JP) [*Source: New Policy*] |
B.4 References

AWA. See Association of Water Agencies in Ventura County.


CAL FIRE. See California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

CARB. See California Air Resources Board.


CDPH. See California Department of Public Health.

CNRA. See California Natural Resources Agency.


OPR, CNRA, and CEC. See Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, California Natural Resources Agency, and California Energy Commission.

B. Climate Change


SCAG. See Southern California Association of Governments.

SCE. See Southern California Edison.


VCFD. See Ventura County Fire Department.


VCFPD. See Ventura County Fire Protection District.

VRWC. See Ventura River Watershed Council.
Appendix C: SOAR (Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources)
Please see the next page.
SECTION 1. Findings and Purpose.

A. Nearly two decades ago, the voters of Ventura County adopted the Save Open-space and Agricultural Resources Ordinance (SOAR) in order to protect the County’s agricultural, rural, and open space lands, to strengthen the local agricultural economy, and to preserve the County’s quality of life. SOAR has been highly successful in achieving these goals, while allowing for reasonable residential development, allowing the County to meet its housing requirements under state law. Accordingly, for the benefit of existing and future residents, visitors and investors, the people of Ventura County hereby declare their intent to reaffirm, update and extend the provisions of SOAR until the year 2050.

B. Agriculture has been and remains a major contributor to the economy of the County of Ventura, directly and indirectly creating employment for many people, creating enormous actual income which multiplies through the community and generating substantial tax revenues for the County.

Specifically, the Ventura County General Plan provides as follows:

“Agriculture plays an important role in the National, State, and County economy. Ventura County is one of the principal agricultural counties in the State ranking tenth in 1987, with a total income of over 610 million dollars and ranking seventeenth in farm earnings out of 3,175 counties nationally.

This high productivity is made possible by the County’s abundance of the natural resources required for agricultural production; primarily soils, water, climate and topography.” [General Plan, ¶1.6].

C. The County of Ventura with its unique combination of soils, microclimate and hydrology has become one of the finest growing regions in the world. Vegetable and fruit production from the county of Ventura and, in particular, production
from the soils and silt from the Santa Clara and Ventura rivers have achieved international acclaim, enhancing the County’s economy and reputation and standard of living.

D. For agriculture to be sustainable in Ventura County, it must remain economically viable. This SOAR ordinance seeks to add and improve necessary goals and policies to encourage agriculture to remain viable in the County for the life of the ordinance and beyond.

E. Open space likewise contributes to the welfare of the County, as recognized in paragraph 3.2 of the General Plan, not only through the productive use of the land for grazing and other non-irrigated usage, such as forest lands, rangelands, and agricultural lands not designated agricultural, but through the preservation of unique natural resources including but not limited to areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life, habitat for fish and wildlife, areas required for ecological and other scientific study purposes, rivers, bays, estuaries, wetlands, coastal beaches, lakeshores, banks of rivers and streams and watershed lands. Open space continues to contribute to the public health and safety additionally by setting aside from development those lands which require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, flood plains, watersheds, areas presenting high fire risks, areas required for the protection of water quality, and water reservoirs and areas required for the protection and enhancement or air quality. Open space has worked to promote and continues to promote the formation and continuation of cohesive communities by defining the boundaries and by helping to prevent urban sprawl. Open space promotes efficient municipal services and facilities by confining urban development to defined development areas.

F. Open space designations also include productive lands that are used for agriculture and grazing. These lands are important to the overall economy of the County and the long-term economic viability of these productive lands shall be supported.

G. As importantly, the Rural designation under the General Plan serves not only to buffer intense urban usage from agricultural and open space lands, but it fosters small scale agricultural production while allowing for low-density and low intensity land uses and is a critical component in accommodating the full range of residential and farming/ranching environments.

H. Urban encroachment into Agricultural, Open Space and Rural designated areas can negatively impact agriculture by lessening cultivated acreage, threatening the viability of the agricultural industry and could threaten the public health, safety and welfare by causing increased traffic congestion, associated air pollution, and potentially serious water problems, such as pollution, depletion and sedimentation of available water resources. Such urban encroachment could eventually result in the unnecessary and expensive extension of public services and facilities as well as create inevitable conflicts
between urban and open space and agricultural uses, degrading wildlife habitat and connectivity. To the extent possible, farm worker housing, located in existing urban areas, should be encouraged in order to help sustain the viability of agriculture.

I. The unique character of the County of Ventura and quality of life of County residents depend on the protection of a substantial amount of open space, agriculture, and rural lands. The protection of such lands not only ensures the continued viability of agriculture, but also protects the available water supply and contributes to flood control and the protection of wildlife, environmentally sensitive areas, and irreplaceable natural resources.

J. The purpose of this initiative is to continue to ensure that agricultural, rural and open space lands are not prematurely or unnecessarily converted to other more intensive development uses incompatible with the purposes of the Agricultural, Open Space and Rural land use designations. Thus, this initiative seeks to further Agricultural, Rural and Open Space objectives which could include, for example, adequate farm worker housing. This initiative further proposes to restate and readopt, with minor amendments, the section of the Ventura County General Plan document entitled Goals, Policies and Programs to support Agricultural, Rural and Open Space objectives thereby helping to ensure that agriculture will remain economically viable in the County for the life of the ordinance and beyond, and the beneficial aspects of the Rural and Open Space designations continue to be protected. Accordingly, the initiative ensures that until December 31, 2050 the General Plan provisions governing Agricultural, Rural and Open Space land use designations and intent, as amended herein, may not be changed except by vote of the people. In addition, the initiative provides that any lands designated as "Agricultural," "Rural" or "Open Space" on the County of Ventura’s General Plan "General Land Use Maps" (North Half and South Half of each) [attached as exhibits A and B] adopted by the Board of Supervisors May 24, 1988 as revised through October, 2015 will remain so designated until December 31, 2050 unless the land is redesignated to another land use category by vote of the people, or redesignated by the Board of Supervisors for the County of Ventura pursuant to the procedures set forth in this initiative.

K. This initiative allows the Board of Supervisors to redesignate Rural, Agricultural, and Open Space lands to other more intensive land use designations only if certain findings can be made, including (among other things) that the land is proven to be unsuitable for any form of utilitarian use, and redesignation is necessary to avoid an unconstitutional taking of property without just compensation.

Section 2. General Plan Amendment.

1. Except as otherwise provided herein, this Save Open-space and Agricultural Resources Initiative hereby amends, reaffirms, restates, and readopts until December 31, 2050 the following aspects of the Ventura County General Plan. Deletions
Pursuant to the provisions of the SAVE OPEN-SPACE and AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES (S.O.A.R.) INITIATIVE the following shall obtain until December 31, 2050:

a) Until December 31, 2050, the Agricultural, Open Space and Rural land use designations, and the goals and policies as they specifically apply to those land use designations in Sections 3–1.6 and 3.2 Ventura County General Plan - GOALS, POLICIES & PROGRAMS (10-20-15 edition) of this General Plan shall not be further amended unless such amendment is approved by vote of the people or by the Board of Supervisors pursuant to the procedures set forth herein.

b) All those lands designated as "Agricultural," "Open Space" or "Rural on the "General Land Use Maps" or the "Resources Protection Maps" adopted by the Board of Supervisors for Ventura County on May 24, 1988, and amended through September 16, 1997 October 20, 2015, shall remain so designated until December 31, 2050, unless redesignated to another general plan land use category by vote of the people, or redesignated by the Board of Supervisors pursuant to the procedures set forth herein. [Said Maps are attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit's A and B. The General Land Use maps cover the mainland only. Anacapa Island is designated "Open Space" and San Nicholas Island is designated "State or Federal Facility."]

c) The Board of Supervisors, following at least one public hearing for presentations by an applicant and the public, and after compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, may place any amendment to land use designations of Agricultural, Open Space or Rural, or any provision, goal or policy as set forth in subsection paragraph "a", above, on the ballot pursuant to the mechanisms provided by State Law.

d) The Board of Supervisors without a vote of the people may reorganize, reorder or renumber individual provisions, including the provisions set forth herein in the course of ongoing updates of the General Plan in accordance with the requirements of state law. Additional technical, non-substantive language modifications may be made to the General Plan with reference to Agricultural, Open Space or Rural designations for clarification and internal consistency provided such modifications are
consistent with the Findings and Purpose of the initiative creating these provisions.

e) The Board of Supervisors, without a vote of the people, may re-designate Rural properties otherwise designated (e.g., residential or commercial) to Rural, Agricultural, or Open Space; may redesignate Rural properties to either Agricultural or Open Space; or, may re-designate Open Space to Agricultural pursuant to the provisions for making such amendments set forth in state law and Board adopted policies. Once redesignated, those redesignated lands become subject to the rules contained in this initiative for any further redesignation. Moreover, the Board of Supervisors without a vote of the people may increase the minimum lot size for any land use designation, but may not decrease Rural, Agricultural or Open Space minimum lot sizes.

f) The Board of Supervisors, without a vote of the people, may redesignate “Agricultural” designated properties to Open Space if the Board of Supervisors makes all of the following findings supported by substantial evidence:

i) The land proposed for redesignation has not been used for agricultural purposes in the past 2 years and is unusable for agricultural due to its topography, drainage, flooding, adverse soil conditions, or other physical reasons;

ii) The land proposed for redesignation is immediately adjacent to areas developed in a manner compatible with the uses allowed under Open Space;

iii) Adequate public services and facilities are available and have the capacity and capability to accommodate the Open Space uses allowed;

iv) The proposed redesignation is compatible with agricultural uses, does not interfere with accepted agricultural practices, and does not adversely affect the stability of land use patterns in the area; and

v) The land proposed for redesignation does not exceed 40 acres for any one landowner in any calendar year, and one landowner may not obtain redesignation pursuant to this subdivision (f) more often than every other year. Landowners with any unity of interest are considered one landowner for purposes of this limitation; and

vi) Notice of such Proposed Modification is given according to the County’s standard notice requirements to neighboring properties; and as well, not less than 30 days prior to the proposed modification appearing on the Board of Supervisors’ agenda, to LAFCO, to the City in whose Area of Interest the property to be redesignated is located, and to all individuals or organizations.
who or which have indicated a desire for such Notice by requesting the same by placing his/her/its name and contact information with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors, following at least one public hearing for presentations by an applicant and the public, and after compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, may amend, without a vote of the people, the Rural, Agricultural, or Open Space land use designations to comply with state law regarding the provision of housing for all economic segments of the community. Such amendment may be adopted only if the Board of Supervisors, based on substantial evidence makes each of the following findings:

i) The land is immediately adjacent to existing compatibly developed areas and the applicant for the amendment has provided to the County evidence that the Fire Department, Police Department, Department of Public Works, the Resource Management Agency applicable water and sewer districts, and the school districts with jurisdiction over such land have or will provide adequate capacity to accommodate the proposed development and provide it with adequate public services; and,

ii) That the proposed development will address the highest priority need identified in the analysis by which the County has determined it is not in compliance with state law, i.e., low and very low income housing; and,

iii) That there is no existing residentially designated land available to accommodate the proposed development; and,

iv) Notice of such proposed amendment is given according to the County’s standard notice requirements to neighboring properties; and as well, not less than 30 days prior to the proposed modification appearing on the Board of Supervisors’ agenda, to LAFCo, to the City in whose Area of Interest the property to be redesignated is located, and to all individuals or organizations who or which have indicated a desire for such Notice by requesting the same by placing his/her/its name and contact information with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

g) The Board of Supervisors, without a vote of the people, may redesignate Agricultural, Open Space or Rural properties provided the Board complies with the following two conditions:

i) The Board makes a finding based upon the advice of the County Counsel that the designation of the property effects an unconstitutional taking of the landowners’ property; and

ii) In permitting the redesignation, the Board allows a less restrictive designation to be applied to the property only to the extent necessary to avoid the unconstitutional taking of the landowner’s property.
i) Approval by a vote of the people is accomplished when a General Plan amendment is placed on the ballot through any procedure provided for in the Election Code, and a majority of the voters vote in favor of it. Whenever the Board of Supervisors adopts an amendment requiring approval by a vote of the people pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, the Board’s action shall have no effect until after such a vote is held and a majority of the voters vote in favor of it. The Board of Supervisors shall follow the provisions of the Election Code in all matters pertaining to such an election.

h) j) The Board of Supervisors, without a vote of the people, may amend the provisions of the General Plan which apply to the Agricultural, Open Space or Rural designations, as set forth in subsection “a”, above, for the express purpose of further protecting and preserving resources identified in the General Plan, provided that said amendment(s) are consistent with the Findings and Purpose of the initiative adopting these provisions of the General Plan.

i) In recognition of the urban nature of the Piru community and to provide essential flexibility to the Board of Supervisors to address the special needs of that community, the Board of Supervisors, without a vote of the people, may amend the land use designations on the General Plan Land Use Map(s), as set forth in subsection “b”, above, for land located within the Piru Redevelopment Area or land described by the following Assessor Parcel Numbers:

- 056-0-180-01 056-0-180-08
- 056-0-180-02 056-0-190-05
- 056-0-180-06 056-0-190-06
- 056-0-180-07 056-0-190-09

The total land represented by this subsection “i” is set forth on Exhibit “A”

k) This initiative is not intended to impede The Board of Supervisors, without a vote of the people, from being able to rezone land consistent with the Existing Community Land Use designations on the General Plan Land Use Map(s), and related text, as set forth herein. Consistent with this subsection k), Thomas Aquinas College, 10000 Ojai Rd., Santa Paula, CA 93060 shall be deemed an Existing Community, and may be rezoned appropriately and developed according to its needs as a college subject to standard rules and regulations and permit requirements of the Board of Supervisors. The boundaries of the college are set forth herein as Exhibit “C.”

l) Following December 31, 2020 2050, redesignations of then existing General Plan designations may be occasioned by the Board of Supervisors without a vote of the people. Until then, approval by a vote of the people is
accomplished when a General Plan amendment is placed on the ballot through any procedure provided for in the Election Code, and a majority of the voters vote in favor of it. Whenever the Board of Supervisors adopts an amendment requiring approval by a vote of the people pursuant to the provisions of this subsection initiative measure the Board's action shall have no effect until after such a vote is held and a majority of the voters vote in favor of it.

m) To preserve the maximum amount of land in agricultural production as possible, the processing of food beyond the limits currently allowed by Ventura County's general plan and policies should take place in existing urban areas that have appropriate supporting infrastructure.

Notwithstanding the foregoing limitations on the Board of Supervisors, in order to support the processing of locally grown food, before January 1 of 2030 the Board of Supervisors may, without a vote of the people, re-designate up to a total of 12 acres of land, dispersed throughout the County, provided they comply with the following conditions:

i) The Board has amended the appropriate provisions of the County's General Plan and other planning policies, and the amendment(s) conform with state laws governing such land use designations;

ii) The Board finds the re-designation will allow for the processing of locally grown food that would otherwise likely be transported out of county for processing;

iii) The re-designated land is no greater than 3 acres in size and does not require the expansion or extension of new sewer lines to the facility; and,

iv) The Board of Supervisors approved the action with at least four of the five Supervisors voting in the affirmative.

n) The Board of Supervisors, without a vote of the people, may amend the land use designations on the General Land Use Maps, as set forth in subsection “b”, above, to any Existing Community designation for land which, prior to the effective date of the ordinance setting forth these provisions, is found to contain lawfully established urban building intensities or urban land uses, to the minimum extent necessary to validate such pre-existing uses consistent with the Findings and Purpose of the ordinance adopting these provisions of the General Plan.

2. In addition, this initiative* General Plan Amendment hereby reaffirms This initiative restates and readopts the following referenced Goals and Policies (omissions do not indicate deletion, just irrelevance to the purposes of this initiative) of the Ventura County General Plan until December 31, 2050. Deletions continue to be indicated by strike-out; additions by italics:
1.6 Farmland Resources

1.6.1 Goals
1. Preserve and protect irrigated agricultural lands as a nonrenewable resource to assure the continued availability of such lands for the production of food, fiber and ornamentals.
2. Encourage the continuation and development of facilities and programs that support agricultural production and enhance the marketing of County grown agricultural products.
3. Improve the economic viability of agriculture through policies that support agriculture as an integral business to the County.
4. Encourage opportunities for Ventura County residents to buy local agricultural products.

1.6.2 Policies
1. Discretionary development located on land designated as Agricultural (see Land Use Chapter) and identified as Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance on the State's Important Farmland Inventory, shall be planned and designed to remove as little land as possible from potential agricultural production and to minimize impacts on topsoil.
2. Hillside agricultural grading shall be regulated by the Public Works Agency through the Hillside Erosion Control Ordinance.
3. Land Conservation Act (LCA) Contracts shall be encouraged on irrigated farmlands and Open Space lands.
4. The Public Works Agency shall plan transportation capital improvements so as to mitigate impacts to important farmlands to the extent feasible.
5. The County shall preserve agricultural land by retaining and expanding the existing Greenbelt Agreements and encouraging the formation of additional Greenbelt Agreements.
6. Discretionary development adjacent to Agricultural-designated lands shall not conflict with agricultural use of those lands.

3.2 Land Use Designations

Six basic land use designations are utilized on the General Land Use Map: Urban, Existing Community, Rural, Agricultural, Open Space, and State and Federal Facilities. In addition, the General Land Use Map includes an overlay designation of Urban Reserve. These designations are defined as follows:

- The Urban land use designation is utilized to depict existing and planned urban centers which include commercial and industrial uses as well as residential uses where the building intensity is greater than one principal dwelling unit per two acres.
  This designation has been applied to all incorporated lands within a city's
Sphere of Influence as established by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), and unincorporated urban centers within their own Areas of Interest which may be candidates for future incorporation.

* * *

- The **Existing Community** designation identifies existing urban residential, commercial or industrial enclaves located outside Urban designated areas. An Existing Community may include uses, densities, building intensities, and zoning designations which are normally limited to Urban designated areas but do not qualify as urban centers. This designation has been established to recognize existing land uses in unincorporated areas which have been developed with urban building intensities and urban land uses; to contain these enclaves within specific areas so as to prevent further expansion; and to limit the building intensity and land use to previously established levels. *Thomas Aquinas College is newly designated in this initiative as Existing Community, with the intention that it be confined to its current boundaries with the understanding that it may continue to intensify its building for its educationally related purposes.*

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

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

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

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

- The **Agricultural** designation is applied to irrigated lands which are suitable for the cultivation of crops and the raising of livestock.

  Because of the inherent importance of agriculture as a land use in and of itself, agriculture is not subsumed under the Open Space land use designation, but has been assigned a separate land use designation.

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

  - Open space for the preservation of natural resources including, but not limited to, areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life,
including habitat for fish and wildlife species; areas required for ecologic and other scientific study purposes; rivers, streams, wetlands, bays and estuaries; and coastal beaches, lakeshores, banks of rivers and streams, and watershed lands.

- Open space used for the managed production of resources, including but not limited to, forest lands, rangeland, agricultural lands not designated agricultural; areas required for recharge of groundwater basins; bays, wetlands, estuaries, marshes, rivers and streams which are important for the management of commercial fisheries; and areas containing major mineral deposits, including those in short supply.

- Open space for outdoor recreation, including but not limited to, areas of outstanding scenic, historic and cultural value; areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes, including access to lakeshores, beaches, and rivers and streams; and areas which serve as links between major recreation and open-space reservations, including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails, and scenic highway corridors.

- Open space for public health and safety, including, but not limited to, areas which require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, flood plains, watersheds, areas presenting high fire risks, areas required for the protection of water quality and water reservoirs and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality.

For purposes of the County General Plan, "open space" also includes the following:

- Open space to promote the formation and continuation of cohesive communities by defining the boundaries and by helping to prevent urban sprawl.

- Open space to promote efficient municipal services and facilities by confining urban development to defined development areas.

- The State or Federal Facility

- The Urban Reserve overlay

The following goals and policies apply to land use designations:

3.2.1 Goals

1. Urban:

   (1) Recognize areas within the County planned for urban development which are currently incorporated or which are candidates for future incorporation.

   (2) Direct urban development to existing cities and unincorporated urban centers within their own Area of Interest, and maintain open space between urban areas.

   (3) Discourage outward expansion of urban development when suitable developable areas exist within cities and unincorporated urban centers.
2. Existing Community:
Recognize and confine existing urban enclaves which are outside Urban
designated areas, even though the enclaves may include uses, densities, and
zoning designations normally limited to Urban designated areas.

3. Rural:
Recognize and plan for low density rural residential and recreational
development, while preserving resources, avoiding hazards, and providing
adequate public facilities and services.

4. Agricultural:
(1) Identify Recognize the farmlands within the County that are critical to the
maintenance of the local agricultural economy and which are important to the
State and Nation for the production of food, fiber and ornamentals.
(2) Preserve and protect agricultural lands as a nonrenewable resource to assure
their continued availability for the production of food, fiber and ornamentals.
(3) Promote the economic viability of agricultural lands by assisting
agricultural producers and establishing zoning policies that support long term
investments in agriculture.
(4) Maintain agricultural lands in parcel sizes which will assure that viable
farming units are retained.
(5) Establish policies and regulations which restrict encourage agricultural
land to remain in farming and related uses. rather than other development
purposes.
(6) Restrict the introduction of conflicting uses into farming areas.
(7) Subject to state law, the Guidelines for Orderly Development, and applicable
zoning requirements, actively promote infrastructure, sized not larger than
necessary for the specific project, for farm worker housing to support the
continuing viability of agriculture.

5. Open Space:
(1) Preserve for the benefit of all the County's residents the continued wise use
of the County's renewable and nonrenewable resources by limiting the
encroachment into such areas of uses which would unduly and prematurely
hamper or preclude the use or appreciation of such resources.
(2) Acknowledge the presence of certain hazardous features which urban
development should avoid for public health and safety reasons, as well as for the
possible loss of public improvements in these areas and the attendant financial
costs to the public.
(3) Retain open space lands in a relatively undeveloped non-urbanized state so
as to preserve the maximum number of future land use options.
(4) Retain open space lands for outdoor recreational activities, parks, trails and
for scenic lands.
(5) Define urban areas by providing contrasting but complementary areas which
should be left generally undeveloped non-urbanized.
(6) Recognize the intrinsic value of open space lands and not regard such lands
as "areas waiting for urbanization."

(7) Land Conservation Act (LCA) Contracts shall be encouraged on farming and grazing and open space lands.

(8) Support the productive agricultural activities of Open Space designated lands that are commonly used for agriculture, grazing, and ranching and that are important to the overall economy of Ventura County.

3.2.2 Policies

2. Existing Community:
(1) The Existing Community designation shall include existing unincorporated urban enclaves located outside cities and unincorporated urban centers.
(2) The Existing Community designation may recognize the range of zones present in the area, be they residential, commercial, or industrial, or otherwise as well as the range of existing population densities and building intensities.

3. Rural:
(1) Lands designated Rural are those located outside areas designated Urban or Existing Community which are deemed suitable and appropriate for low-density rural residential or recreational development.
(2) The smallest minimum parcel size consistent with the Rural land use designation is two acres. Subzones may require larger minimum parcel sizes.

4. Agricultural:
(1) The Agricultural land use designation shall primarily include lands which are designated as Prime Farmlands, Farmlands of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmlands in the State's Important Farmland Inventory (IFI), although land may not be designated Agricultural if small areas of agricultural land are isolated from larger blocks of farming land (in such cases, the agricultural land is assigned to the Open Space or Rural designation of the surrounding properties).
(2) The smallest minimum parcel size consistent with the Agricultural land use designation is 40 acres. Subzones may require larger minimum parcel sizes.
(3) Agricultural land shall be utilized for the production of food, fiber and ornamentals; animal husbandry and care; uses accessory to agriculture and limited temporary or public uses.

5. Open Space:
(1) Open Space should include areas of land or water which are set aside for the preservation of natural resources, including, but not limited to, areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life, including habitat for fish and wildlife species; areas required for ecologic and other scientific study purposes; rivers, streams, bays, wetlands, and estuaries; and coastal beaches, lakeshores, banks of rivers and streams, and important watershed lands.
(2) Open Space should also include areas set aside for managed production of resources, including, but not limited to, forest lands, rangeland, agricultural lands not otherwise designated Agricultural; areas required for the recharge of groundwater basins; bays, estuaries, marshes, rivers, and streams which are important for the management of commercial fisheries; and areas containing major mineral deposits, including those in short supply.

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

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

(5) Open Space should also include undeveloped natural areas surrounding urban designated areas which have been set aside to define the boundaries of the urban-designated areas, to prevent urban sprawl, and to promote efficient municipal services and facilities by confining the areas of urban development.

(6) The smallest minimum parcel size consistent with the Open Space land use category is 10 acres. Subzones may require larger minimum parcel sizes.

(7) The minimum parcel size for Open Space properties contiguous with the Agricultural land use designation shall be 20 acres.

Section 3. Implementation.

A. Upon the effective date of this initiative, the General Plan Amendment shall be deemed inserted in the Ventura County General Plan, Goals, Policies and Programs document as an amendment thereof; except, that if the four amendments of the mandatory elements of the general plan permitted by state law for any given calendar year have already been utilized in 2016, prior to the effective date of this initiative, this General Plan amendment shall be deemed
inserted in the County General Plan on the first day of January of the following calendar year.

B. The provisions of this General Plan Amendment shall prevail over any conflicting revisions to the County of Ventura's General Plan as amended through the date of this initiative, or to the County of Ventura's "General Land Use Maps" as amended through the date of this initiative which conflict with the initiative. The County of Ventura is hereby authorized and directed to amend the Ventura County General Plan, all specific plans, the Ventura County Zoning Ordinance, the Ventura County Land Use and related zoning maps and other ordinances and policies affected by this initiative as soon as possible and in the manner and time required by any applicable state law, to ensure consistency between the policies adopted in this initiative and other elements of the Ventura County General Plan, all specific plans, the Ventura County Zoning Ordinance, the Ventura County Land Use and related zoning maps and other ordinances and policies. Upon the adoption date all General Plan amendments, rezonings, specific plans, tentative or final subdivision maps, parcel maps, conditional use permits, building permits or other ministerial or discretionary entitlements for use not yet approved or issued shall not be approved or issued unless consistent with the policies and provisions of this initiative. Other than for the exceptions provided herein, upon the effective date of this General Plan Amendment, the County and its departments, boards, commissions, officers and employees shall not grant, or by inaction allow to be approved by operation of law, any general plan amendment, rezoning, specific plan, subdivision map, conditional use permit, building permit or any other ministerial or discretionary entitlement, which is inconsistent with the purposes of this General Plan Amendment unless in accordance with the provisions of this General Plan Amendment.

C. The date that the notice of intention to circulate this initiative measure was submitted to the elections official of the County of Ventura is deemed the "submittal date." The County General Plan in effect on the submittal date and the General Plan as amended by this initiative comprise an integrated, internally consistent and compatible statement of policies for the County of Ventura. In order to ensure that nothing in this initiative measure would prevent the County of Ventura General Plan from being an integrated, internally consistent and compatible statement of the policies of the County, as required by state law, and to ensure that the actions of the voters in enacting this initiative are given effect, any amendment to the General Plan that is adopted between the submittal date and the date that the General Plan is amended by this initiative measure shall, to the extent that such interim-enacted provision is inconsistent with the General Plan provisions adopted by Section 2 of this initiative measure, be amended as soon as possible and in the manner and time required by state law to ensure consistency between the provisions adopted by this initiative and other elements of the Ventura County General Plan.
Section 4. Exemptions for Certain Projects.
This General Plan Amendment initiative shall not apply to or affect the following:

A. Any project which has acquired any of the following:
   i. A vested right pursuant to state or local law;
   ii. A validly approved and fully executed development agreement with County; or,
   iii. Approval of a vesting tentative map.

B. This initiative shall not be interpreted to apply to any land or use that, under state or federal law, is beyond the power of the local voters to affect by the initiative power reserved to the people via the California Constitution. Nothing in this Initiative shall be applied to preclude the County's compliance with state laws governing second units or the use of density bonuses where authorized by state law.

Section 5. Severability.
This measure shall be interpreted so as to be consistent with all federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, part, or portion of this measure is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this measure. The voters hereby declare that this measure, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, part, or portion thereof would have been adopted or passed even if one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases, parts, or portions are declared invalid or unconstitutional. If any provision of this initiative is declared invalid as applied to any person or circumstance, such invalidity shall not affect any application of this measure that can be given effect without the invalid application. This initiative shall be broadly construed in order to achieve the purposes stated in this initiative. It is the intent of the voters that the provisions of this measure shall be interpreted by the County and others in a manner that facilitates the confinement of urban uses thereby protecting and promoting agricultural, open space and rural lands, and preventing urban sprawl for the duration of the Ordinance.

Section 6. Amendment or Repeal.
Until December 31, 2020-2050, this General Plan Amendment initiative may be amended or repealed only by the voters at a general County-wide election.
Appendix D: Guidelines for Orderly Development
Please see the next page.
RESOLUTION NO. 222  
December 10, 1996

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPTING REVISIONS TO THE VENTURA COUNTY GUIDELINES FOR ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has reviewed and considered the proposed revisions to the County Guidelines as recommended by the Guidelines Task Force, comprised of representatives from the city councils of the ten cities in Ventura County, from the Local Agency Formation Commission, and from the Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has made the necessary changes to the Countywide General Plan on December 10, 1996, to ensure consistency between the General Plan and the revised Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that there is no possibility that the proposed revisions to the Guidelines could have a significant effect on the environment and that the proposed project is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under the General Rule, Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the proposed revisions clarify the application of the Guidelines and are consistent with the basic intent of the existing Guidelines.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Ventura hereby adopts the revised Guidelines for Orderly Development as presented in the transmittal letter to the Board dated December 10, 1996.

Upon motion of Supervisor Kildee and seconded by Supervisor Mikels, and duly carried, the foregoing resolution is approved on this 10th day of December, 1996.

Chair, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

RICHARD D. DEAN, County Clerk  
County of Ventura, State of California and Ex-Officio  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors thereof.

By Deputy
1996 Guidelines for Orderly Development

Preface:

In a cooperative effort to guide future growth and development, the cities, County and Local Agency Formation Commission have participated in the creation of these "Guidelines for Orderly Development." The following guidelines are a continuation of the guidelines which were originally adopted in 1969, and maintain the theme that urban development should be located within incorporated cities whenever or wherever practical.

The intent of these guidelines is to clarify the relationship between the cities and the County with respect to urban planning, serve to facilitate a better understanding regarding development standards and fees, and identify the appropriate governmental agency responsible for making determinations on land use requests. These guidelines are a unique effort to encourage urban development to occur within cities, and to enhance the regional responsibility of County government.

These guidelines facilitate the orderly planning and development of Ventura County by:

- Providing a framework for cooperative intergovernmental relations.
- Allowing for urbanization in a manner that will accommodate the development goals of the individual communities, while conserving the resources of Ventura County.
- Promoting efficient and effective delivery of community services for existing and future residents.
- Identifying in a manner understandable to the general public the planning and service responsibilities of local governments providing urban services within Ventura County.

General Policies:

1. Urban development should occur, whenever and wherever practical, within incorporated cities which exist to provide a full range of municipal services and are responsible for urban land use planning.

2. The cities and the County should strive to produce general plans, ordinances and policies which will fulfill these guidelines.

Policies Within Spheres of Influence:

The following policies shall apply within City Spheres of Influence (Spheres of Influence are created by LAFCO, as required by State law, to identify the probable boundaries of cities and special districts, realizing that spheres may be amended from time to time as conditions warrant):

3. Applicants for land use permits or entitlements for urban uses shall be encouraged to apply to the City to achieve their development goals and discouraged from applying to the County.
4. The City is primarily responsible for local land use planning and for providing municipal services.

5. Prior to being developed for urban purposes or to receiving municipal services, land should be annexed to the City.

6. Annexation to the City is preferable to the formation of new or expansion of existing County service areas.

7. Land uses which are allowed by the County without annexation should be equal to or more restrictive than land uses allowed by the City.

8. Development standards and capital improvement requirements imposed by the County for new or expanding developments should not be less than those that would be imposed by the City.

**Policies Within Areas of Interest Where a City Exists:**

The following policies apply within Areas of Interest where a City exists, but outside the City's Sphere of Influence (Areas of Interest are created by LAFCO to identify logical areas of common interest within which there will be no more than one City):

9. Applications for discretionary land use permits or entitlements shall be referred to the City for review and comment. The County shall respond to all comments received from the City.

10. The County is primarily responsible for local land use planning, consistent with the general land use goals and objectives of the City.

11. Urban development should be allowed only within Existing Communities as designated on the County General Plan.

12. Existing Communities as designated on the County General Plan should financially support County-administered urban services which are comparable to those urban services provided by Cities.

**Policies Within Areas of Interest Where No City Exists:**

13. The County is responsible for local land use planning and for providing municipal services.

14. Urban development should only be allowed in Unincorporated Urban Centers or Existing Communities as designated in the County General Plan.

15. Urban development in Unincorporated Urban Centers should only be allowed when an Area Plan has been adopted by the County, to ensure that the proposed development is consistent with the intent of the Guidelines.
Definitions for Implementing Guidelines for Orderly Development:

"Urban Development":

Development shall be considered urban if it meets any of the following criteria:

- It would require the establishment of new community sewer systems or the significant expansion of existing community sewer systems;
- It would result in the creation of residential lots less than two (2) acres in area, or
- It would result in the establishment of commercial or industrial uses which are neither agriculturally-related nor related to the production of mineral resources.

"Existing Community":

Existing Community is a land use designation of the County General Plan which identifies existing urban residential, commercial, or industrial enclaves located outside Urban designated areas (i.e., cities or Unincorporated Urban Centers). An Existing Community may include uses, densities, building intensities, and zoning designations which are normally limited to Urban designated areas but do not qualify as Unincorporated Urban Centers. This designation has been established to recognize existing land uses in unincorporated areas which have been developed with urban building intensities and urban land uses; to contain these enclaves within specific areas so as to prevent further expansion; and to limit the building intensity and land use to previously established levels.

"Unincorporated Urban Center":

Unincorporated Urban Center is a term of the County General Plan which refers to an existing or planned urban community which is located in an Area of Interest where no city exists. The Unincorporated Urban Center represents the focal center for community and planning activities within the Area of Interest, and may be a candidate for future incorporation.