



Ventura County Locally Important Species

County of Ventura • Resources Management Agency • Planning Division
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Definition:

The following definition for *Locally Important Species* is excerpted from the Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines.

The Ventura County General Plan defines a *Locally Important Species* as a plant or animal species that is not an endangered, threatened, or rare species, but is considered by qualified biologists to be a quality example or unique species within the County and region. The following criteria further define what local qualified biologists have determined to be *Locally Important Species*:

Locally Important Plants

- Taxa that are declining throughout the extent of their range AND have five (5) or fewer *element occurrences* in Ventura County.

Locally Important Animals

Taxa for which habitat in Ventura County is crucial for their existence either globally or in Ventura County. This includes:

- Taxa for which the population(s) in Ventura County represents 10 percent or more of the known extant global distribution; or
- Taxa for which there are five or fewer *element occurrences*, or less than 1,000 individuals, or less than 2,000 acres of habitat that sustains populations in Ventura County; or,
- Native taxa that are generally declining throughout their range or are in danger of extirpation in Ventura County.

Lists:

Lists of species known to meet the criteria for Locally Important Plants and Locally Important Animals are found on the Planning Division's website. These lists will be updated annually. The Planning Division will solicit recommendations for additions to and removals from the lists from biologists with expertise regarding the biological resources of Ventura County (e.g., State and federal agencies, universities, qualified consulting biologists) and will compile the proposed changes to the lists and review supporting evidence provided with the recommendations against the criteria for Locally Important Species. The Planning Division will circulate the proposed changes to the Locally Important Species Lists among the biologists with expertise regarding the biological resources of Ventura County and the public for review and comment. If evidence supports the changes to the lists, the lists will be updated each January.