

Ventura County General Plan

Excerpts:

*Goals, Policies and Programs that relate to the
Ventura River Watershed Management Plan's
Goals and Objectives*

July, 2013

Introduction..... 5

Sufficient Local Water Supplies 6

 Water Resources (§1.3)6

 Goals (§1.3.1).....6

 Policies (§1.3.2)6

 Programs (§1.3.3)7

 Mineral Resources (§1.4).....8

 Policies (§1.4.2)8

 Fire Hazards (§2.13).....8

 Policies (§2.13.2)8

 Water Supply Facilities (§4.3)8

 Goals (§4.3.1).....8

 Policies (§4.3.2)8

 Programs (§4.3.3)9

 Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities (§4.4)9

 Policies (§4.4.2)9

Clean Water..... 9

 Water Resources (§1.3)9

 Goals (§1.3.1).....9

 Policies (§1.3.2)10

 Programs (§1.3.3)10

 Mineral Resources (§1.4).....11

 Goals (§1.4.1).....11

 Policies (§1.4.2)11

 Hazardous Materials and Waste (§2.15)11

 Programs (§2.15.3)11

 Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities (§4.4)12

 Goals (§4.4.1).....12

 Policies (§4.4.2)12

 Programs (§4.4.3)13

Integrated Flood Management 13

 Mineral Resources (§1.4).....13

 Policies (§1.4.2)13

 Farmland Resources (§1.6).....13

 Programs (§1.6.3)13

 Hazards: General Goals, Policies, and Programs (§2.1)14

 Goals (§2.1.1).....14

 Policies (§2.1.2)14

Programs (§2.1.3)	14
Liquefaction (§2.4).....	15
Goals (§2.5.1).....	15
Policies (§2.5.2)	15
Programs (§2.5.3)	16
Seiche (§2.5).....	16
Goals (§2.5.1).....	16
Policies (§2.5.2)	16
Programs (§2.5.3)	16
Tsunami (2.6).....	16
Goals (2.6.1).....	16
Policies (2.6.2)	16
Programs (2.6.3)	16
Flood Hazards (§2.10).....	17
Goals (§2.10.1).....	17
Policies (§2.10.2)	17
Programs (§2.10.3)	17
Inundation from Dam Failure (§2.11).....	18
Goals (§2.11.1).....	18
Policies (§2.11.2)	18
Programs (§2.11.3)	18
Coastal Wave and Beach Erosion Hazards (§2.12)	18
Goals (§2.12.1).....	18
Policies (§2.12.2)	18
Programs (§2.12.3)	19
Flood Control and Drainage Facilities (§4.6).....	19
Goals (§4.6.1).....	19
Policies (§4.6.2)	19
Programs (§4.6.3)	19
Law Enforcement and Emergency Services (§4.7).....	19
Goals (§4.7.1).....	19
Policies (§4.7.2)	20
Programs (§4.7.3)	20
Healthy Ecosystems	21
Biological Resources (§1.5).....	21
Goals (§1.5.1).....	21
Policies (§1.5.2)	21
Programs (§1.5.3)	22
Coastal Beaches and Sand Dunes (§1.10).....	23
Goals (§1.10.1).....	23
Policies (§1.10.2)	23

Programs (§1.10.3)	23
Hazardous Materials and Waste (§2.15)	23
Goals (§2.15.1).....	23
Policies (§2.15.2)	23
Programs (§2.15.3)	24
Access to Nature	25
Biological Resources (§1.5).....	25
Goals (§1.5.1).....	25
Policies (§1.5.2)	25
Programs (§1.5.3)	26
Scenic Resources (§1.7)	27
Goals (§1.7.1).....	27
Policies (§1.7.2)	27
Programs (§1.7.3)	28
Coastal Beaches and Sand Dunes (§1.10).....	28
Goals (§1.10.1).....	28
Policies (§1.10.2)	28
Programs (§1.10.3)	28
Responsible Land and Resource Management	29
Scenic Resources (§1.7)	29
Goals (§1.7.1).....	29
Policies (§1.7.2)	29
Programs (§1.7.3)	30
Farmland Resources (§1.6).....	30
Goals (§1.6.1).....	30
Policies (§1.6.2)	30
Programs (§1.6.3)	31
Paleontological and Cultural Resources (§1.8).....	31
Goals (§1.8.1).....	31
Policies (§1.8.2)	31
Programs (§1.8.3)	32
Energy Resources (§1.9)	32
Goals (§1.9.1).....	32
Policies (§1.9.2)	32
Programs (§1.9.3)	33
Fire Hazards (§2.13).....	34
Goals (§2.13.1).....	34
Policies (§2.13.2)	34
Programs (§2.13.3)	34
General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs (§3.1).....	35

Goals (§3.1.1).....	35
Policies (§3.1.2-6)	35
Coordinated Watershed Planning	36
Water Resources (§1.3)	36
Programs (§1.3.3)	36
Water Supply Facilities (§4.3)	36
Programs (§4.3.3)	36

Introduction

This compilation of excerpts from the *Ventura County General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs* is intended to reflect the most pertinent language relative to the Ventura River watershed, but should not be considered complete. This is an unofficial document, prepared by the Ventura River watershed coordinator for the benefit of the Ventura River Watershed Council and other stakeholders.

Excerpts were compiled in 2013 and do not include text amended since then.

Each topic in the General Plan includes a set of goals, policies and programs. Goals are big-picture; programs are specific. Here are how these terms are defined in the General Plan:

Goal: The ultimate purpose of the County's effort stated in a way that is general in nature. Example: "Increase housing opportunities for households of all income levels, with special emphasis on lower-income households, the elderly, mentally ill, single heads of household, large families, farmworkers, handicapped and homeless."

The term "objectives," which are referred to in State Law, are goals that are quantified. Example: "Promote and facilitate at least a 2.3 percent market vacancy rate in owner-occupied housing and 5 percent market vacancy rate in rental housing."

Policy: A specific statement guiding day-to-day actions and implying clear commitment to carry out the goals of the General Plan in a prescribed manner. Example: "The County shall give priority in providing housing assistance to those groups with demonstrated special needs, such as the elderly, mentally ill, handicapped, large families, single heads of household, farmworkers and the homeless."

Program: A coordinated set of actions to carry out the goals of the Plan. Example: "The County Executive Office will continue to administer Federal and State funds and grants in order to facilitate the development of affordable housing for *lower-income* households, and for those with identified special needs (farmworkers, elderly, mentally ill, handicapped, homeless), and notify other housing agencies and non-profit organizations of the availability of funding for lower-income families and special needs housing."

An asterisk (*) next to a program means that particular program will not be pursued until the specified county agency/department is given direction by the Board of Supervisors to proceed with the program

This compilation is organized around the seven goals of the Ventura River Watershed Management Plan:

1. Sufficient Local Water Supplies
2. Clean Water
3. Integrated Flood Management
4. Healthy Ecosystems
5. Access to Nature
6. Responsible Land and Resource Management
7. Coordinated Watershed Planning

Sufficient Local Water Supplies

Water Resources (§1.3)

GOALS (§1.3.1)

1. Inventory and monitor the quantity and quality of the County's water resources.
2. Effectively manage the water resources of the County by adequately planning for the development, *conservation* and protection of water resources for present and future generations.
3. Maintain and, where feasible, restore the chemical, physical and biological integrity of surface and groundwater resources.
4. Ensure that the demand for water does not exceed available water resources.
5. Protect and, where feasible, enhance watersheds and aquifer recharge areas.
6. Promote reclamation and reuse of wastewater for recreation, irrigation and to recharge aquifers.
7. Promote efficient use of water resources through water conservation.

POLICIES (§1.3.2)

1. *Discretionary development* which is inconsistent with the goals and policies of the County's Water Management Plan (WMP) shall be prohibited, unless overriding considerations are cited by the decision-making body.
2. *Discretionary development* shall comply with all applicable County and State water regulations.
3. The installation of *on-site septic systems* shall meet all applicable State and County regulations.
4. *Discretionary development* shall not significantly impact the quantity or quality of water resources within watersheds, groundwater recharge areas or groundwater basins.
5. Landscape plans for *discretionary development* shall incorporate water conservation measures as prescribed by the County's Guide to Landscape Plans, including use of low water usage landscape plants and irrigation systems and/or low water usage plumbing fixtures and other measures designed to reduce water usage.
8. All *discretionary development* shall be conditioned for the proper drilling and construction of new oil, gas and water wells and destruction of all abandoned wells on-site.
10. All new golf courses shall be conditioned to 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 either: a) 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,

or b) 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 (as defined in the Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines) for the site. Where feasible, reclaimed water shall be utilized for new golf courses.

PROGRAMS (§1.3.3)

1. The Public Works Agency and the United Water Conservation District will continue to support the Seawater Intrusion Abatement Project.
2. The County Public Works Agency will continue to enforce Chapter 70 (Excavation and Grading) of the Uniform Building Code, as incorporated by reference in and amended by the Ventura County Building Code, to ensure that any proposed grading in a waterway or wetland is adequately investigated and that any *development* incorporates appropriate design provisions to protect waterways or wetlands.
3. The County will continue to support the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency Plan for both the Upper and Lower Aquifer Systems.
4. The County Environmental Health Division will take all administrative, fiscal and legal measures necessary to provide the services of County Service Area 32.
5. The Planning Division and Public Works Agency will continue to coordinate with water districts and other appropriate agencies to establish a data base on actual available supply, projected use factors for types of land use and *development*, and threshold limits for *development* within available water resources.
6. The Planning Division will continue to promote the efficient use of water through the Landscape Design Criteria Program.
7. The Public Works Agency, in cooperation with the Environmental Health Division, will continue to pursue the use of reclaimed water for agricultural irrigation.
8. The Environmental Health Division will continue to monitor, inspect and regulate underground storage tanks.
9. The Environmental Health Division will continue to identify *waste disposal sites* and seek to mitigate impacts to water resources.
10. The Planning Division will prepare, for the consideration of the Board of Supervisors, a Countywide water conservation retrofit program to fund the installation of water conservation fixtures (defined as 1.6 gallons per flush toilets, one gallon per flush urinals and 2.5 gallons per minute showerheads) for businesses and residents located within Ventura County.

Mineral Resources (§1.4)

POLICIES (§1.4.2)

3. All *discretionary permits* for in-river *mining* shall be conditioned to incorporate all feasible measures to mitigate flooding and erosion impacts as well as impacts to water resources, biological resources, and beach sediment transport.

Fire Hazards (§2.13)

POLICIES (§2.13.2)

1. All discretionary permits shall be required, as a condition of approval, to provide adequate water supply and access for fire protection and evacuation purposes.

Water Supply Facilities (§4.3)

GOALS (§4.3.1)

1. Ensure the provision of water in quantities sufficient to satisfy current and projected demand.
2. Encourage the employment of water conservation measures in new and existing *development*.
3. Encourage the continued cooperation among water suppliers in the County in meeting the water needs of the County as a whole.

POLICIES (§4.3.2)

1. *Development* that requires potable water shall be provided a *permanent potable water supply* of adequate quantity and quality that complies with applicable County and State water regulations. Water systems operated by or receiving water from Casitas Municipal Water District, the Calleguas Municipal Water District or the United Water Conservation District will be considered permanent supplies unless an Urban Water Management Plan (prepared pursuant to Part 2.6 of Division 6 of the Water Code) or a water supply and demand assessment (prepared pursuant to Part 2.10 of Division 6 of the Water Code) demonstrates that there is insufficient water supply to serve cumulative development within the district's service area. When the proposed water supply is to be drawn exclusively from wells in areas where groundwater supplies have been determined by the Environmental Health Division or the Public Works Agency to be questionable or inadequate, the developer shall be required to demonstrate the availability of a permanent potable water supply for the life of the project.
2. *Discretionary development* as defined in section 10912 of the Water Code shall comply with the water supply and demand assessment requirements of Part 2.10 of Division 6 of the Water Code.
3. *Discretionary development* shall be conditioned to incorporate water *conservation* techniques and the use of drought resistant native plants pursuant to the County's Guide to Landscape Plans.

PROGRAMS (§4.3.3)

1. The Public Works Agency will coordinate with water districts to establish a data base on actual available supply, projected use factors for types of *development* and threshold limits for *development* within available water resources.
2. The County Public Works Agency (Water Resources and Development Department) and the three major water wholesale agencies (Casitas, Calleguas and United) will continue to pursue the use of reclaimed water as a long-term source for agricultural irrigation.
3. The County Building and Safety Division will enforce the County's Efficient Plumbing Devices Ordinance (low water use plumbing fixtures).

Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities (§4.4)

POLICIES (§4.4.2)

3. In order to reduce the need for additional wastewater treatment capacity, the County shall:
 - require new discretionary development to utilize water-conserving design features;
 - encourage the retrofitting of existing uses and buildings with water-conserving devices;
 - 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.
 - periodically inspect existing lateral and trunk collection lines to identify areas subject to excessive inflow and infiltration and remedy identified problems as feasible.

Clean Water

Water Resources (§1.3)

GOALS (§1.3.1)

1. Inventory and monitor the quantity and quality of the County's water resources.
2. Effectively manage the water resources of the County by adequately planning for the development, *conservation* and protection of water resources for present and future generations.
3. Maintain and, where feasible, restore the chemical, physical and biological integrity of surface and groundwater resources.
4. Ensure that the demand for water does not exceed available water resources.
5. Protect and, where feasible, enhance watersheds and aquifer recharge areas.
6. Promote reclamation and reuse of wastewater for recreation, irrigation and to recharge aquifers.
7. Promote efficient use of water resources through water conservation.

POLICIES (§1.3.2)

1. *Discretionary development* which is inconsistent with the goals and policies of the County's Water Management Plan (WMP) shall be prohibited, unless overriding considerations are cited by the decision-making body.
2. *Discretionary development* shall comply with all applicable County and State water regulations.
3. The installation of *on-site septic systems* shall meet all applicable State and County regulations.
4. *Discretionary development* shall not significantly impact the quantity or quality of water resources within watersheds, groundwater recharge areas or groundwater basins.
5. Landscape plans for *discretionary development* shall incorporate water conservation measures as prescribed by the County's Guide to Landscape Plans, including use of low water usage landscape plants and irrigation systems and/or low water usage plumbing fixtures and other measures designed to reduce water usage.
8. All *discretionary development* shall be conditioned for the proper drilling and construction of new oil, gas and water wells and destruction of all abandoned wells on-site.
10. All new golf courses shall be conditioned to 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 either: a) 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, or b) 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 (as defined in the Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines) for the site. Where feasible, reclaimed water shall be utilized for new golf courses.

PROGRAMS (§1.3.3)

1. The Public Works Agency and the United Water Conservation District will continue to support the Seawater Intrusion Abatement Project.
2. The County Public Works Agency will continue to enforce Chapter 70 (Excavation and Grading) of the Uniform Building Code, as incorporated by reference in and amended by the Ventura County Building Code, to ensure that any proposed grading in a waterway or wetland is adequately investigated and that any *development* incorporates appropriate design provisions to protect waterways or wetlands.
3. The County will continue to support the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency Plan for both the Upper and Lower Aquifer Systems.
4. The County Environmental Health Division will take all administrative, fiscal and legal measures necessary to provide the services of County Service Area 32.

5. The Planning Division and Public Works Agency will continue to coordinate with water districts and other appropriate agencies to establish a data base on actual available supply, projected use factors for types of land use and *development*, and threshold limits for *development* within available water resources.
6. The Planning Division will continue to promote the efficient use of water through the Landscape Design Criteria Program.
7. The Public Works Agency, in cooperation with the Environmental Health Division, will continue to pursue the use of reclaimed water for agricultural irrigation.
8. The Environmental Health Division will continue to monitor, inspect and regulate underground storage tanks.
9. The Environmental Health Division will continue to identify *waste disposal sites* and seek to mitigate impacts to water resources.
10. The Planning Division will prepare, for the consideration of the Board of Supervisors, a Countywide water conservation retrofit program to fund the installation of water conservation fixtures (defined as 1.6 gallons per flush toilets, one gallon per flush urinals and 2.5 gallons per minute showerheads) for businesses and residents located within Ventura County.

Mineral Resources (§1.4)

GOALS (§1.4.1)

4. Ensure that all mineral extractions are conducted in a manner which protects the environment and the public's health, safety and welfare.

POLICIES (§1.4.2)

3. All *discretionary permits* for in-river *mining* shall be conditioned to incorporate all feasible measures to mitigate flooding and erosion impacts as well as impacts to water resources, biological resources, and beach sediment transport.
5. As existing petroleum permits are modified, they shall be conditioned so that production will be subject to appropriate environmental and jurisdictional review.

Hazardous Materials and Waste (§2.15)

PROGRAMS (§2.15.3)

2. The County Environmental Health Division is responsible for the following on-going programs involving *hazardous materials* and *hazardous waste*:
 - Monitor underground tanks to ensure that groundwater supplies are free from the intrusion of hazardous materials from that source.
 - Respond to reports of suspected and known illegal dumping of wastes and coordinate with the District Attorney's Office in enforcement and the prosecution of known offenders.

- Maintain an emergency response program to deal with hazardous waste spills in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department, Fire Protection District, Highway Patrol and all city fire and law enforcement departments.
- Inspect all hazardous wastes generators to ensure that such wastes are properly stored and disposed of in accordance with State and local ordinances and regulations.

Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities (§4.4)

GOALS (§4.4.1)

1. Ensure the provision of adequate individual and public sewage/ waste collection, treatment and disposal facilities to meet the County's current and future needs in a manner which will protect the natural environment and ensure protection of the public's health, safety and welfare.
2. Ensure continuous waste disposal capacity to meet the County's current and projected waste disposal needs.

POLICIES (§4.4.2)

1. *Community sewage treatment facilities and solid waste disposal sites* shall be deemed consistent with the General Plan only if they are designated on the Public Facilities Map. *On-site septic systems (i.e., individual sewage disposal systems), on-site wastewater treatment facilities, waste transfer stations, off-site waste treatment facilities* and on-site storage facilities are consistent with the General Plan if they conform to the *goals, policies and programs* of the General Plan.
2. Any subdivision, or discretionary change in land use having a direct effect upon the volume of sewage, shall be required to connect to a public sewer system. Exceptions to this policy to allow the use of septic systems may be granted in accordance with County Sewer Policy. Installation and maintenance of septic systems shall be regulated by the County Environmental Health Division in accordance with the County's Sewer Policy, County Building Code, and County Service Area 32.
3. In order to reduce the need for additional wastewater treatment capacity, the County shall:
 - require new discretionary development to utilize water-conserving design features;
 - encourage the retrofitting of existing uses and buildings with water-conserving devices;
 - 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.
 - periodically inspect existing lateral and trunk collection lines to identify areas subject to excessive inflow and infiltration and remedy identified problems as feasible.
4. *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.
5. Waste treatment and disposal operations shall be designed and conducted in a manner that is compatible with surrounding land uses such that the potential impacts are mitigated to less than significant levels, or, where no feasible mitigation measures are available, a statement of overriding

considerations consistent with CEQA shall be adopted. At the end of such operations, the site shall be restored to a use compatible with surrounding land uses.

6. Applicants for *discretionary development* shall be encouraged to employ practices that reduce the quantities of wastes generated and shall be requested to engage in recycling activities to further reduce the volume of waste disposed of in landfills.

PROGRAMS (§4.4.3)

1. The Public Works Agency, with the support of the Planning Division, will periodically update the County's Water Quality Management (208) Plan to incorporate revised population, land use and sewer plant capacity forecasts.
2. The County Public Works Agency will continue to work cooperatively with sanitation districts in the County toward the improvement and expansion of the existing public sewer systems consistent with the County General Plan.
3. The Environmental Health Division will continue to pursue the implementation of a *program* of regular inspection, monitoring and maintenance of *individual sewage disposal systems*, with an emphasis on public education.
4. The Solid Waste Management Department will investigate long-range solutions to solid waste management, emphasizing ecologically and environmentally sensitive solutions, including source separation, recycling, composting and the like.
5. The Solid Waste Management Department will prepare, maintain and update the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan as necessary.

Integrated Flood Management

Mineral Resources (§1.4)

POLICIES (§1.4.2)

3. All *discretionary permits* for in-river *mining* shall be conditioned to incorporate all feasible measures to mitigate flooding and erosion impacts as well as impacts to water resources, biological resources, and beach sediment transport.

Farmland Resources (§1.6)

PROGRAMS (§1.6.3)

2. The Planning Division, in conjunction with the Agricultural Commissioner, Farm Advisor and Agricultural Advisory Committee, will develop and implement standards governing *development* adjacent to agricultural uses. The standards should address fencing and spray buffers between agricultural areas and residences, off-site flood control measures, siltation control from grading operations and the development of a standard County-imposed entitlement condition which

notifies new property owners of County and State laws protecting agricultural operations. After the development of standards, they could be added as *policies* into the General Plan to guide future land use decisions.

Hazards: General Goals, Policies, and Programs (§2.1)

GOALS (§2.1.1)

1. Identify all major hazards and other physical constraints to development in Ventura County, and convey this information to all appropriate parties.
2. Protect public health, safety and general welfare from identified hazards and potential disasters.
3. Shield public and private property and *essential facilities* from identified hazards and potential disasters.
4. Minimize loss of life, injury, damage to structures, and economic and social dislocations resulting from identified hazards and potential disasters.

POLICIES (§2.1.2)

1. Applicants for land use and *development* permits shall provide all necessary information relative to identified hazards that may affect or be affected by their proposed project. Applicants shall also specify how they intend to mitigate identified hazards.
2. All geologic and soil engineering reports submitted with land use and *development* permit applications, including recommendations for measures to eliminate or mitigate possible hazards, shall be signed by qualified personnel registered and certified by the State in the appropriate discipline, such as Professional Engineers and/or Certified Engineering Geologists.
3. *Essential facilities, special occupancy structures and hazardous materials storage facilities* shall be designed and constructed to resist forces generated by earthquakes, gravity, precipitation, fire and winds.
4. Develop, maintain and enhance mutual training and aid agreements with other public agencies, and cooperatively plan to prevent and respond to regional emergencies.

PROGRAMS (§2.1.3)

1. The County Planning Division, with the technical support of the Public Works Agency and other applicable agencies, should periodically review the Hazards Appendix to identify what information needs to be updated, and where appropriate, will submit a budget request as part of the next year's County budget.
2. CEO-Risk Management, Health, Safety & Loss Prevention (HSLP) will continue to provide advisory guidance to GSA-Facilities & Materials in administration of the Seismic Management Program. The program, which is applicable to all County-owned buildings and facilities, addresses structural, nonstructural, lifelines and life safety issues related to earthquake events.
3. The County Building and Safety Division should prepare a program for Board consideration to reduce structural deficiencies through the removal, reinforcement, or modification of the

structures whose failure could cause significant numbers of injuries, substantial loss of life, or unacceptable level of economic loss.

4. California Geologic Survey (CGS) maps are periodically revised and updated and will be subsequently incorporated into the General Plan, within the budgetary limitations of the Planning Division.
5. The County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Services (OES) will continue to maintain and periodically update the Ventura County MultiHazard Functional Plan and *the Ventura County Hazard Mitigation Plan*, including mitigation measures and preparedness, response, and recovery strategies for the following twelve hazard specific contingency sections (i.e., plans): Earthquake Hazards, Hazardous Materials and Waste, Flood and Flood Hazards, Inundation from Dam Failure, Transportation Related Hazards, Civil Unrest, Terrorism, National Security Emergency, Landslides/Mudslides, Tsunami, Marine Oil Spill, and Fire Hazards. To the extent feasible, County agencies will, and other public agencies are encouraged to, participate in joint emergency planning and response training, and cooperatively respond to emergencies when they occur.
6. All agencies involved in warning and evacuation activities should periodically review and, if necessary, update their plans and procedures for the hazards defined and described in this Chapter, and shall provide updated hazard and constraint information to the Planning Division when available.
7. The Building and Safety Division will continue to enforce requirements of the California Building Code pertaining to earthquake-resistant design and construction.
8. The Building and Safety Division will comply with applicable provisions of Chapter 12.2 (commencing with Sec. 8875), Division 1, of Title 2 of the Government Code, pertaining to identification of potentially hazardous buildings in the unincorporated area of Ventura County, and establishment of a mitigation program for such potentially hazardous buildings.
9. The Planning Division and the Resource Management Agency Mapping, GIS and Graphic Services should maintain the Hazards Maps on the Geographic Information System and should update changes as needed.

Liquefaction (§2.4)

GOALS (§2.5.1)

1. Minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, collapse of *habitable structures*, and economic and social dislocations resulting from *liquefaction*.

POLICIES (§2.5.2)

2. Prior to the issuance of building or grading permits for *essential facilities, special occupancy structures, two-story single family residences, or hazardous materials storage facilities* located within areas prone to *liquefaction*, a geotechnical report that includes a seismic analysis and evaluation of liquefaction in accordance with the State of California Guidelines shall be prepared in order to assess the liquefaction potential and provide recommendations for mitigation.

PROGRAMS (§2.5.3)

1. The Liquefaction chapter should be updated as part of all updates to the Hazards Appendix of the County General Plan.
2. The Building and Safety Division will implement the requirements of the California Building Code to reduce the effects of *liquefaction on habitable structures*.

Seiche (§2.5)**GOALS (§2.5.1)**

1. Minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, collapse of *habitable structures* and economic and social dislocations resulting from a seiche.

POLICIES (§2.5.2)

1. The *Seiche Hazard Area* shall be considered during the preparation of regional and area plans and special studies, and used to guide future investigations of the hazard.
2. The seiche hazard shall be taken into account in the design of all development within a *Seiche Hazard Area*.

PROGRAMS (§2.5.3)

1. The County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Services will annually review and revise the *Multihazard Functional Plan's* Tsunami/Seiche Contingency section.
2. The Building and Safety Division will implement the requirements of the California Building Code to reduce the effects of seiche hazard on *habitable structures*.

Tsunami (2.6)**GOALS (2.6.1)**

1. Minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, and collapse of *habitable structures*, and economic and social dislocations resulting from a *tsunami*.

POLICIES (2.6.2)

1. Essential facilities, special occupancy structures and hazardous materials storage facilities should not be located in tsunami hazard areas.

PROGRAMS (2.6.3)

1. The County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Services will annually review and revise the County *Multihazard Functional Plan's* Tsunami/Seiche Contingency section.

Flood Hazards (§2.10)

GOALS (§2.10.1)

1. Minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, damage to property, and economic and social dislocations resulting from flood hazards.
2. Design and construct appropriate surface drainage and flood control facilities as funding permits.
3. Prevent incompatible land uses and development within *floodplains*.
4. Prohibit residential development within the regulatory floodway.

POLICIES (§2.10.2)

1. Land use in the *regulatory floodway* should be 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 is for safely conveying floodwater away from people and property.
2. Within areas subject to flooding as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on the latest available Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs), the County shall require the recordation of a *Notice of Flood Hazard* or dedication of a *flowage easement* with the County Recorder for all divisions of land and *discretionary permits*.
3. Development proposed within the floodplain shall be designed and built to standards intended to mitigate to the extent possible the impacts from the one percent annual chance storm.
4. The design of any structures which are constructed in *floodplain* areas as depicted on the Hazards Protection Maps ([Figure 2](#)), shall be governed by Federal regulations, specifically Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Sections 59 through 70, as well as the County Floodplain Management Ordinance and shall incorporate measures to reduce flood damage to the structure and to eliminate any increased potential flood hazard in the general area due to such construction.

PROGRAMS (§2.10.3)

1. The County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Services will continue to provide public education and evacuation notification and response information. It will also annually review and revise the *Multihazard Functional Plan's* Flood Hazard Contingency section.
2. Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency will continue to be available from the Public Works Agency.
3. The *floodplain* limits will be reviewed annually, as required by Government Code Sec. 65302(a), by the Public Works Agency. All changes will be conveyed to the Planning Division, which will process an amendment to the Hazards Protection Maps [Figure 2](#).
4. The Public Works Agency will make information available to property owners and residents in coastal inundation areas to encourage participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.
5. All new habitable and non-habitable structures proposed within the one percent annual chance floodplain as well as all interior and exterior renovations, additions, and remodeling projects proposed to existing structures within a one percent annual chance floodplain shall be reviewed by

the Public Works Agency, and the developer must obtain a Floodplain Development Permit from the Public Works Agency prior to the issuance of a Building Permit and/or a Grading Permit.

Inundation from Dam Failure (§2.11)

GOALS (§2.11.1)

1. Minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, damage to property, and economic and social dislocations resulting from inundation by *dam* failure.

POLICIES (§2.11.2)

1. *Dams* shall be designed to withstand catastrophic events. The dams should be located to ensure their safety from all maximum credible seismic events.

PROGRAMS (§2.11.3)

1. The County will conduct *dam* break studies for County-owned facilities and prepare inundation maps. Both the dam break studies and inundation maps should be updated periodically. New dams will be required to have inundation studies.
2. The County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Services will annually review and revise the Dam Failure Contingency section of the *Multihazard Functional Plan*. The Office of Emergency Services will continue to provide public information on dam failure preparedness and response.
3. Dam Inundation Maps will be maintained by the Sheriff's Department, Office of Emergency Services, and will be available to the public.

Coastal Wave and Beach Erosion Hazards (§2.12)

GOALS (§2.12.1)

1. Minimize the risk from the damaging effects of coastal wave hazards and beach erosion.
2. Reduce the rate of beach erosion.

POLICIES (§2.12.2)

1. All permits for seawalls, revetments, groins, retaining walls, pipelines and coastal outfalls shall be designed to mitigate wave hazards and protect against further beach erosion, and shall obtain a Floodplain Development Permit from the County Public Works Agency prior to the issuance of a Building Permit and/or a Grading Permit.
2. *Discretionary development* in areas adjacent to coastal beaches shall be allowed only if the Public Works Agency with technical support from the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, determines from the applicant's submitted Wave Run-up Study that wave action and beach erosion are not hazards to the proposed development, or that the hazard would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level, and that the project will not contribute significantly to beach erosion.

PROGRAMS (§2.12.3)

1. Ventura County will continue to participate in the BEACON (Beach Erosion Authority for Control Operations and Nourishment) Joint Powers Agreement, to promote beach sand replenishment and coordinate government funding efforts to fight beach erosion.

Flood Control and Drainage Facilities (§4.6)**GOALS (§4.6.1)**

1. Provide adequate and appropriate flood control and drainage facilities to protect life and property from damage or destruction from flood and storm waters.

POLICIES (§4.6.2)

1. All necessary flood control and drainage facilities shall be constructed to meet the minimum standards of the Public Works Agency and the County Flood Control District consistent with the *goals, policies* and *programs* of the General Plan.
2. *Discretionary development* shall be conditioned to provide flood control and drainage facilities deemed by the Public Works Agency and Flood Control District as necessary for the development, and shall be required to contribute toward flood control facilities necessitated by cumulative *development*.

PROGRAMS (§4.6.3)

1. The Ventura County Flood Control District will periodically update the Comprehensive Plan for Flood Control.

Law Enforcement and Emergency Services (§4.7)**GOALS (§4.7.1)**

1. Provide for the protection of the public through effective law enforcement and emergency services.
2. Ensure that *discretionary development* provides adequate private security for the prevention of local crime.
3. The *goals* of the Sheriff's Department are to:
 - Provide optimum and efficient law enforcement services within the department's jurisdiction.
 - Provide full investigative services including major crime and crime lab services as requested Countywide.
 - Maintain and operate both pre-trial and sentenced custodial facilities and services for all adult clientele.
 - Provide court services and security for both the Superior and Municipal Courts. Provide all aspects of civil court process services.

4. The overall *goal* of the Corrections Services Agency is to provide for community protection by unifying and coordinating correctional services in Ventura County.
5. The overall *goal* of the Municipal Court is to:
 - Process all vehicular violations, and certain parking violations originating from municipal police agencies, Sheriff, Highway Patrol, and various other State and district enforcement agencies.
 - Process all filings involving small claims wherein the jurisdiction does not exceed \$1,500, and civil process involving suits not exceeding \$25,000.
 - Process misdemeanor offenses punishable by fine or imprisonment in County Jail, not to exceed one year. Offenses classified as infractions, and has jurisdiction over felony preliminary hearings.
6. The overall *goal* of the Superior Court is to provide trial court judicial services for all cases presented to it within its constitutionally established jurisdiction.
7. The overall *goal* of the Ventura County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Services is to save lives and protect property by developing *programs* and emergency operational capabilities that mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from any emergency or disaster - whether peacetime or war-related.

POLICIES (§4.7.2)

1. The Sheriff's Department shall continue to review *discretionary* permits to ensure that an adequate level of law enforcement can be provided.
2. *Discretionary development* shall be conditioned to provide adequate site security during the construction phase (e.g., licensed security guard and/or fencing around the construction site, and all construction equipment, tools, and appliances to be properly secured and serial numbers recorded for identification purposes).
3. *Discretionary development* shall be conditioned to provide adequate security lighting (e.g., parking lots to be well lighted with a minimum 1 foot candle of light at ground level, lighting devices to be protected from the elements and constructed of vandal resistant materials and located high enough to discourage anyone on the ground from tampering with them).
4. *Discretionary development* shall be conditioned 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).
5. The County Sheriff's Department shall maintain mutual aid agreements with incorporated cities to assure efficient service delivery and law protection to all areas of the County.

PROGRAMS (§4.7.3)

1. The County Sheriff's Department will continue to support efforts to organize neighborhood, rural, and industrial crime prevention programs, and conduct residential security surveys.

2. The County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Services will maintain and periodically update the Ventura County Multihazard Functional Plan including mitigation measures, preparedness, response, and recovery for the following ten hazard specific contingency sections (i.e. plans):
 - Major Earthquake
 - Major Hazardous Material Incident
 - Flood Hazard
 - Dam Failure
 - Nuclear Defense Emergencies (Nuclear Attack Threat Assessment)
 - Wildland Fire
 - Major Transportation Accidents
 - Landslide
 - Tsunami (& Seiche)
 - Off Shore Oil Incidents
3. The Office of Emergency Services will conduct public education *programs* for the citizens of the County on prevention and preparedness of natural and war-related hazards.

Healthy Ecosystems

Biological Resources (§1.5)

GOALS (§1.5.1)

1. Preserve and protect significant biological resources in Ventura County from incompatible land uses and development. Significant biological resources include *endangered, threatened or rare species* and their habitats, *wetland habitats, coastal habitats, wildlife migration corridors* and *locally important species/communities*.

POLICIES (§1.5.2)

1. *Discretionary development* which could potentially impact *biological resources* shall be evaluated by a qualified biologist to assess impacts and, if necessary, develop mitigation measures.
2. *Discretionary development* shall be sited and designed to incorporate all feasible measures to mitigate any significant impacts to *biological resources*. If the impacts cannot be reduced to a less than significant level, findings of overriding considerations must be made by the decision-making body.
3. *Discretionary development* that is proposed to be located within 300 feet of a marsh, small wash, intermittent lake, intermittent stream, spring, or perennial stream (as identified on the latest USGS

7½ minute quad map), shall be evaluated by a County approved biologist for potential impacts on *wetland* habitats. *Discretionary development* that would have a significant impact on significant *wetland* habitats shall be prohibited, unless mitigation measures are adopted that would reduce the impact to a less than significant level; or for lands designated "Urban" or "Existing Community", a statement of overriding considerations is adopted by the decision-making body.

4. Discretionary development shall be sited a minimum of 100 feet from significant *wetland* habitats to mitigate the potential impacts on said habitats. Buffer areas may be increased or decreased upon evaluation and recommendation by a qualified biologist and approval by the decision-making body. Factors to be used in determining adjustment of the 100 foot buffer include soil type, slope stability, drainage patterns, presence or absence of endangered, threatened or rare plants or animals, and compatibility of the proposed development with the wildlife use of the wetland habitat area. The requirement of a buffer (setback) shall not preclude the use of replacement as a mitigation when there is no other feasible alternative to allowing a permitted use, and if the replacement results in no net loss of wetland habitat. Such replacement shall be "in kind" (i.e. same type and acreage), and provide wetland habitat of comparable biological value. On-site replacement shall be preferred wherever possible. The replacement plan shall be developed in consultation with California Department of Fish and Game.
5. The California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Audubon Society and the California Native Plant Society shall be consulted when *discretionary development* may affect significant *biological resources*. The National Park Service shall also be consulted regarding *discretionary development* within the Santa Monica Mountains or Oak Park Area.
6. Based on the review and recommendation of a qualified biologist, the design of road and floodplain improvements shall incorporate all feasible measures to accommodate wildlife passage.

PROGRAMS (§1.5.3)

1. The Planning Division, in conjunction with State and Federal agencies, will 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*.
2. The Planning Division will retain a list of qualified biological consultants for the purpose of providing information to complete Initial Studies and Environmental Impact Reports.
3. The Fire Protection District, in conjunction with the California Department of Forestry (CDF), will, under the California Vegetation Management Program, continue the use of prescribed burning to mimic the effects of natural fires in order to reduce the fire hazard to human residents and to enhance the health of biotic communities.
4. The Planning Division shall prepare a program proposal, for Board of Supervisors' consideration, to map significant *wetland habitat* areas and amend the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance in order to establish a Biological Resource Protection Overlay designation/zone which would require all development in said overlay areas to be evaluated for impacts on significant *wetland habitat* areas.

Coastal Beaches and Sand Dunes (§1.10)

GOALS (§1.10.1)

1. Protect and conserve coastal beaches and sand dunes.

POLICIES (§1.10.2)

1. *Discretionary development* which would cause significant impacts to coastal beaches or sand dunes shall be prohibited unless the *development* is conditioned to mitigate the impacts to less than significant levels.
2. *Discretionary developments* which would result in the removal of dune vegetation shall be conditioned to replace the vegetation.
3. All *shoreline protective structures* which alter natural shoreline processes shall be designed to eliminate or mitigate adverse impacts on local shoreline sand supplies.
4. Discretionary permits for all mining activities in County streams and rivers shall incorporate all feasible measures to mitigate beach sand replenishment impacts.

PROGRAMS (§1.10.3)

1. Ventura County will continue to participate in the BEACON (Beach Erosion Authority for Control Operations and Nourishment) Joint Powers Agreement, created in 1986 with Santa Barbara County and all coastal Cities, to promote beach sand replenishment and coordinate government funding efforts to fight beach erosion.

Hazardous Materials and Waste (§2.15)

GOALS (§2.15.1)

1. 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 *hazardous wastes*.
2. Locate potentially hazardous facilities and operations in areas that would not expose the public to a significant risk of injury, loss of life, or property damage.

POLICIES (§2.15.2)

1. *Hazardous wastes* and *hazardous materials* shall 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.
2. Site plans for *discretionary development* that will generate *hazardous wastes* or utilize *hazardous materials* shall include details on hazardous waste reduction, recycling and storage.
3. Any business that handles a *hazardous material* shall establish a plan for emergency response to a release or threatened release of a hazardous material. The County Fire Protection District is designated as the agency responsible for implementation of this policy.

4. Applicants shall provide a statement indicating the presence of any *hazardous wastes* on a site, prior to development. The applicant must demonstrate that the waste site is properly closed, or will be closed before the project is inaugurated.
5. Commercial or industrial uses which generate, store or handle *hazardous waste* and/or *hazardous materials* shall be located in compliance with the County Hazardous Waste Management Plan's siting criteria.

PROGRAMS (§2.15.3)

1. To assure that the use of *hazardous materials* are in compliance with Federal, State and local safety provisions, the County Fire Protection District and Environmental Health Division will continue to limit and control the manufacture, storage and use of *hazardous wastes* and *hazardous materials* in the County through the development review process.
2. The County Environmental Health Division is responsible for the following on-going programs involving *hazardous materials* and *hazardous waste*:
 - Monitor underground tanks to ensure that groundwater supplies are free from the intrusion of *hazardous materials* from that source.
 - Respond to reports of suspected and known illegal dumping of wastes and coordinate with the District Attorney's Office in enforcement and the prosecution of known offenders.
 - Maintain an emergency response program to deal with *hazardous waste* spills in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department, Fire Protection District, Highway Patrol and all city fire and law enforcement departments.
 - Inspect all *hazardous wastes* generators to ensure that such wastes are properly stored and disposed of in accordance with State and local ordinances and regulations.
3. The 1986 "Right To Know Law" requires a plan for response to the release or threatened release of a *hazardous material* (California Health & Safety Code Section 25503. (c)). The Environmental Health Division will be responsible for preparation, coordination and implementation of this plan.
4. County Health and Safety/Loss Prevention (General Service Agency) is responsible for monitoring *hazardous materials* in the work place for all County employees through the Hazardous Materials Abatement Program.
5. CEO-Risk Management, Health, Safety & Loss Prevention (HSLP) will continue administration of the Asbestos Management Program which provides a full range of asbestos abatement surveillance guidance and regulatory compliance advisory services applicable to all County owned facilities and operations.
6. The County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is responsible for enforcing all pesticide regulations, issuing licenses to applicators, distributors and dealers who handle pesticides and conducting inspections of all application and distribution facilities.

7. The County Environmental Health Division will continue to work with the appropriate State agencies to assess the public health and environmental impacts of identified waste disposal sites in the County, including abandoned and illegal sites.
8. The County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Services, in cooperation with the County Fire Protection District will annually review and revise the County *Multihazard Functional Plan's* Major Hazardous Materials Incident Contingency section.
9. The County Public Works Agency Environmental & Energy Resources Department will maintain a CHWMP that includes goals, policies, programs and an implementation schedule for management of household *hazardous waste* for action by the County and participating cities.
10. The County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Services, will coordinate with local, state and federal agencies regarding off shore oil incidents and onshore oil pipeline incidents and annually update the County *Multihazard Functional Plan's* Off Shore Oil Incidents Contingency section.
11. The Environmental Health Division is responsible to implement the requirements of Division 20, Chapter 6.5, Section 25189.5 (Health and Safety Code), involving any illegal discharge or threatened illegal discharge of a *hazardous waste* within the County.
12. The Environmental & Energy Resources Department and the Environmental Health Division will continue to coordinate with the Ventura Regional Sanitation District and local cities on the Household Hazardous Waste Program, which involves a) the collection of unused household products and pesticides that are considered hazardous, and b) a community education program on the safe use and disposal of household chemical products.

Access to Nature

Biological Resources (§1.5)

GOALS (§1.5.1)

1. Preserve and protect significant biological resources in Ventura County from incompatible land uses and development. Significant biological resources include *endangered, threatened or rare species* and their habitats, *wetland habitats, coastal habitats, wildlife migration corridors* and *locally important species/communities*.

POLICIES (§1.5.2)

1. *Discretionary development* which could potentially impact *biological resources* shall be evaluated by a qualified biologist to assess impacts and, if necessary, develop mitigation measures.
2. *Discretionary development* shall be sited and designed to incorporate all feasible measures to mitigate any significant impacts to *biological resources*. If the impacts cannot be reduced to a less than significant level, findings of overriding considerations must be made by the decision-making body.

3. *Discretionary development* that is proposed to be located within 300 feet of a marsh, small wash, intermittent lake, intermittent stream, spring, or perennial stream (as identified on the latest USGS 7½ minute quad map), shall be evaluated by a County approved biologist for potential impacts on *wetland* habitats. *Discretionary development* that would have a significant impact on significant *wetland* habitats shall be prohibited, unless mitigation measures are adopted that would reduce the impact to a less than significant level; or for lands designated "Urban" or "Existing Community", a statement of overriding considerations is adopted by the decision-making body.
4. Discretionary development shall be sited a minimum of 100 feet from significant *wetland* habitats to mitigate the potential impacts on said habitats. Buffer areas may be increased or decreased upon evaluation and recommendation by a qualified biologist and approval by the decision-making body. Factors to be used in determining adjustment of the 100 foot buffer include soil type, slope stability, drainage patterns, presence or absence of endangered, threatened or rare plants or animals, and compatibility of the proposed development with the wildlife use of the wetland habitat area. The requirement of a buffer (setback) shall not preclude the use of replacement as a mitigation when there is no other feasible alternative to allowing a permitted use, and if the replacement results in no net loss of wetland habitat. Such replacement shall be "in kind" (i.e. same type and acreage), and provide wetland habitat of comparable biological value. On-site replacement shall be preferred wherever possible. The replacement plan shall be developed in consultation with California Department of Fish and Game.
5. The California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Audubon Society and the California Native Plant Society shall be consulted when *discretionary development* may affect significant *biological resources*. The National Park Service shall also be consulted regarding *discretionary development* within the Santa Monica Mountains or Oak Park Area.
6. Based on the review and recommendation of a qualified biologist, the design of road and floodplain improvements shall incorporate all feasible measures to accommodate wildlife passage.

PROGRAMS (§1.5.3)

1. The Planning Division, in conjunction with State and Federal agencies, will 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*.
2. The Planning Division will retain a list of qualified biological consultants for the purpose of providing information to complete Initial Studies and Environmental Impact Reports.
3. The Fire Protection District, in conjunction with the California Department of Forestry (CDF), will, under the California Vegetation Management Program, continue the use of prescribed burning to mimic the effects of natural fires in order to reduce the fire hazard to human residents and to enhance the health of biotic communities.
4. The Planning Division shall prepare a program proposal, for Board of Supervisors' consideration, to map significant *wetland habitat* areas and amend the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance in order to establish a Biological Resource Protection Overlay designation/zone which would require all development in said overlay areas to be evaluated for impacts on significant *wetland habitat* areas.

Scenic Resources (§1.7)

GOALS (§1.7.1)

1. Preserve and protect the significant open views and visual resources of the County.
2. Protect the visual resources within the *viewshed* of lakes and State and County designated scenic highways, and other scenic areas as may be identified by an area plan.
3. Enhance and maintain the visual appearance of buildings and *developments*.

POLICIES (§1.7.2)

1. Notwithstanding Policy 1.7.2-2, *discretionary development* which would significantly degrade visual resources or significantly alter or obscure public views of visual resources shall be prohibited unless no feasible mitigation measures are available and the decision-making body determines there are overriding considerations.
2. *Scenic Resource Areas*, which are depicted on the Resource Protection Map ([Figure 1](#)), shall be subject to the Scenic Resource Protection (SRP) Overlay Zone provisions and standards set forth in the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance, which include the following:
 - (1) Any request for grading, structures or vegetation removal per the standards of the SRP Overlay Zone shall be evaluated through a discretionary permit.
 - (2) Removal, damaging or destruction of protected trees shall be in compliance with the County's "Tree Protection Regulations" of the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance.
 - (3) All *discretionary development* shall be sited and designed to:
 - a. Prevent significant degradation of the scenic view or vista;
 - b. Minimize alteration of the natural topography, physical features and vegetation;
 - c. Utilize native plants indigenous to the area for re-vegetation, whenever possible;
 - d. Avoid silhouetting of structures on ridge tops that are within public view.
 - e. Use colors and materials that are designed to blend in with the natural surroundings.
 - f. Minimize lighting that causes glare, illuminates adjacent properties, or is directed skyward in rural areas
 - (4) No on-site freestanding advertising signs in excess of four feet in height and no freestanding off-site advertising signs shall be permitted.

Federally-owned land is not subject to the Scenic Resource Protection Overlay Zone and is not subject to any permit requirements as specified under (1) or (2) above. To the extent possible, the agencies responsible for the administration of land use activities on Federally owned land should consider Policies 1.7.2-2(3) and (4) above in the planning and administration of new land uses within Scenic Resource Areas.

3. Proposed undergrounding of overhead utilities within *Scenic Resource Areas* shall be given first priority by the Public Works Agency in utilizing the County's allocation of Utility Undergrounding Funds.
4. The Planning Division shall continue to implement the landscaping requirements of the Zoning Ordinance and the "Guide to Landscape Plans" to enhance the appearance of *discretionary development*.

PROGRAMS (§1.7.3)

1. The Planning Division, in coordination with appropriate State and local agencies, will inventory and take steps to preserve and maintain unique natural features, and other scenic resources. These areas could be included in future *Scenic Resource Areas* for consideration by the Board of Supervisors to be incorporated into the Resource Protection Map.
2. The Planning Division will continue to seek official State Scenic Highway designations for County designated Scenic Highways.

Coastal Beaches and Sand Dunes (§1.10)

GOALS (§1.10.1)

1. Protect and conserve coastal beaches and sand dunes.

POLICIES (§1.10.2)

1. *Discretionary development* which would cause significant impacts to coastal beaches or sand dunes shall be prohibited unless the *development* is conditioned to mitigate the impacts to less than significant levels.
2. *Discretionary developments* which would result in the removal of dune vegetation shall be conditioned to replace the vegetation.
3. All *shoreline protective structures* which alter natural shoreline processes shall be designed to eliminate or mitigate adverse impacts on local shoreline sand supplies.
4. Discretionary permits for all mining activities in County streams and rivers shall incorporate all feasible measures to mitigate beach sand replenishment impacts.

PROGRAMS (§1.10.3)

1. Ventura County will continue to participate in the BEACON (Beach Erosion Authority for Control Operations and Nourishment) Joint Powers Agreement, created in 1986 with Santa Barbara County and all coastal Cities, to promote beach sand replenishment and coordinate government funding efforts to fight beach erosion.

Responsible Land and Resource Management

Scenic Resources (§1.7)

GOALS (§1.7.1)

1. Preserve and protect the significant open views and visual resources of the County.
2. Protect the visual resources within the *viewshed* of lakes and State and County designated scenic highways, and other scenic areas as may be identified by an area plan.
3. Enhance and maintain the visual appearance of buildings and *developments*.

POLICIES (§1.7.2)

1. Notwithstanding Policy 1.7.2-2, *discretionary development* which would significantly degrade visual resources or significantly alter or obscure public views of visual resources shall be prohibited unless no feasible mitigation measures are available and the decision-making body determines there are overriding considerations.
2. *Scenic Resource Areas*, which are depicted on the Resource Protection Map ([Figure 1](#)), shall be subject to the Scenic Resource Protection (SRP) Overlay Zone provisions and standards set forth in the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance, which include the following:
 - (1) Any request for grading, structures or vegetation removal per the standards of the SRP Overlay Zone shall be evaluated through a discretionary permit.
 - (2) Removal, damaging or destruction of protected trees shall be in compliance with the County's "Tree Protection Regulations" of the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance.
 - (3) All *discretionary development* shall be sited and designed to:
 - a. Prevent significant degradation of the scenic view or vista;
 - b. Minimize alteration of the natural topography, physical features and vegetation;
 - c. Utilize native plants indigenous to the area for re-vegetation, whenever possible;
 - d. Avoid silhouetting of structures on ridge tops that are within public view.
 - e. Use colors and materials that are designed to blend in with the natural surroundings.
 - f. Minimize lighting that causes glare, illuminates adjacent properties, or is directed skyward in rural areas
 - (4) No on-site freestanding advertising signs in excess of four feet in height and no freestanding off-site advertising signs shall be permitted.

Federally-owned land is not subject to the Scenic Resource Protection Overlay Zone and is not subject to any permit requirements as specified under (1) or (2) above. To the extent possible, the agencies responsible for the administration of land use activities on Federally owned land should consider Policies 1.7.2-2(3) and (4) above in the planning and administration of new land uses within Scenic Resource Areas.

3. Proposed undergrounding of overhead utilities within *Scenic Resource Areas* shall be given first priority by the Public Works Agency in utilizing the County's allocation of Utility Undergrounding Funds.
4. The Planning Division shall continue to implement the landscaping requirements of the Zoning Ordinance and the "Guide to Landscape Plans" to enhance the appearance of *discretionary development*.

PROGRAMS (§1.7.3)

1. The Planning Division, in coordination with appropriate State and local agencies, will inventory and take steps to preserve and maintain unique natural features, and other scenic resources. These areas could be included in future *Scenic Resource Areas* for consideration by the Board of Supervisors to be incorporated into the Resource Protection Map.
2. The Planning Division will continue to seek official State Scenic Highway designations for County designated Scenic Highways.

Farmland Resources (§1.6)

GOALS (§1.6.1)

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 enhance the marketing of County grown agricultural products.

POLICIES (§1.6.2)

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.
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.

PROGRAMS (§1.6.3)

1. The Planning Division, in conjunction with the Agricultural Commissioner, Farm Advisor, Agricultural Advisory Committee and Assessor's Office, will administer, periodically review, and update as necessary the County's Land Conservation Act Guidelines and standard contract language.
2. The Planning Division, in conjunction with the Agricultural Commissioner, Farm Advisor and Agricultural Advisory Committee, will develop and implement standards governing *development* adjacent to agricultural uses. The standards should address fencing and spray buffers between agricultural areas and residences, off-site flood control measures, siltation control from grading operations and the development of a standard County-imposed entitlement condition which notifies new property owners of County and State laws protecting agricultural operations. After the development of standards, they could be added as *policies* into the General Plan to guide future land use decisions.
3. The Planning Division will continue to work with State and Federal agencies to periodically update the Important Farmlands Inventory Map to reflect current conditions.
4. The Planning Division will prepare an annual status report on Land Conservation Act Contracts (LCA), agricultural acreage, and other agriculture related information.

Paleontological and Cultural Resources (§1.8)

GOALS (§1.8.1)

1. Identify, inventory, preserve and protect the *paleontological* and *cultural resources* of Ventura County (including *archaeological*, *historical* and Native American resources) for their scientific, educational and cultural value.
2. Enhance cooperation with cities, special districts, other appropriate organizations, and private landowners in acknowledging and preserving the County's *paleontological* and *cultural resources*.

POLICIES (§1.8.2)

1. *Discretionary developments* shall be assessed for potential *paleontological* and *cultural resource* impacts, except when exempt from such requirements by CEQA. Such assessments shall be incorporated into a Countywide paleontological and cultural resource data base.
2. *Discretionary development* shall be designed or re-designed to avoid potential impacts to significant *paleontological* or *cultural resources* whenever possible. Unavoidable impacts, whenever possible, shall be reduced to a less than significant level and/or shall be mitigated by extracting maximum recoverable data. Determinations of impacts, significance and mitigation shall be made by qualified archaeological (in consultation with recognized local Native American groups), historical or paleontological consultants, depending on the type of resource in question.
3. Mitigation of significant impacts on *cultural* or *paleontological resources* shall follow the Guidelines of the State Office of Historic Preservation, the State Native American Heritage Commission, and shall be performed in consultation with professionals in their respective areas of expertise

4. Confidentiality regarding locations of archaeological sites throughout the County shall be maintained in order to preserve and protect these resources from vandalism and the unauthorized removal of artifacts.
5. During environmental review of *discretionary development* the reviewing agency shall be responsible for identifying sites having potential archaeological, architectural or historical significance and this information shall be provided to the County Cultural Heritage Board for evaluation.
6. The Building and Safety Division shall utilize the State Historic Building Code for preserving historic sites in the County.

PROGRAMS (§1.8.3)

1. The County Cultural Heritage Board will continue to assist the County of Ventura in identifying and preserving significant County architectural and historical landmarks.
2. The Planning Division will continue to compile and retain a list of qualified archaeological, historical, and paleontological consultants to provide additional information to complete Initial Studies and Environmental Analyses
3. The General Services Agency will continue to develop a *cultural resources* program at Oakbrook Park emphasizing Chumash history and heritage.

Energy Resources (§1.9)

GOALS (§1.9.1)

1. Promote land use patterns which minimize energy consumption.
2. Encourage the use of *renewable* sources of *energy* and energy conservation techniques in new development.
3. Encourage retrofit programs for energy conservation.
4. Encourage increased fuel efficiency of vehicles and decreased number and length of vehicle trips.

POLICIES (§1.9.2)

1. *Discretionary development* shall be evaluated for impact to energy resources and utilization of energy conservation techniques.
2. 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.
3. Energy efficiency and *renewable energy* use shall be included as factors in designing capital improvement projects of all County agencies, departments and service areas.

4. The Building and Safety Division shall continue to implement Title 24 energy efficiency standards for buildings.
5. Tentative subdivision maps shall provide, to the extent feasible, for passive or natural heating or cooling opportunities in the subdivision.

PROGRAMS (§1.9.3)

1. The General Services Agency will review its energy consumption performance and implement programs designed to increase energy efficiency in County buildings, including, but not limited to:
 - installation of insulation where feasible,
 - installation of plumbing flow restrictors,
 - 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 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 facilities to control air conditioning and lighting systems,
 - 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.
2. The Solid Waste Management Department will seek to reduce the amount of waste disposed and energy consumed and implement where viable:
 - source reduction,
 - recycling programs,
 - waste composting programs, and
 - public information programs.
3. The County will continue to implement the Air Pollution Control District's Trip Reduction Rule 210 which reduces energy consumption and improves air quality. This would include, but is not limited to:
 - promotion of park-and-ride lots,

- promotion of Countywide Transit Information Center,
- promotion of Commuter Rail System,
- ridesharing promotion,
- modified work schedules,
- parking management programs,
- employer-sponsored van pools, and
- public transit promotion.

Fire Hazards (§2.13)

GOALS (§2.13.1)

1. Minimize the risk of loss of life injury, damage to structures, and economic and social dislocations resulting from fire hazards.
2. Ensure that *development* in high *fire hazard areas* is designed and constructed in a manner that minimizes the risk from fire hazards.

POLICIES (§2.13.2)

1. All discretionary permits shall be required, as a condition of approval, to provide adequate water supply and access for fire protection and evacuation purposes.
2. All *discretionary permits* in *fire hazard areas* shall be conditioned to include fire-resistant vegetation, cleared *firebreaks*, or a long-term comprehensive fuel management program as a condition of approval. Fire hazard reduction measures shall be incorporated into the design of any project in a *fire hazard area*.
3. New residential subdivisions shall provide not less than two means of access for emergency vehicles and resident evacuation. A deviation from this policy is only allowed when the proposed road conforms to the County Road Standards and when the County Fire Chief approves the proposed road.
4. All applicants for subdivisions, multi-unit residential complexes, and commercial and industrial complexes shall be required to obtain, prior to permit approval, certification from the Fire Protection District that adequate fire protection is available, or will be available prior to occupancy.

PROGRAMS (§2.13.3)

1. The County Fire Protection District is responsible for the prescribed burn program as mandated by the Vegetation Management Program (VMP) SB 1704, along with fuel breaks and other fire prevention measures.
2. The Fire Protection District will continue to enforce regulations for clearance of vegetation around oil production facilities.

3. The County Fire Protection District will continue to work cooperatively with the U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Forestry, adjacent county fire departments, and local city fire departments, towards managing wildland fires.
4. The County Fire Protection District will continue to revise, maintain, and make available to the Planning Division their historical burn area maps in conjunction with the State Division of Forestry.
5. The County Fire Protection District and Public Works Agency will continue to coordinate their street naming procedures with the cities in the County.
6. The Ventura County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Services will annually review and revise the County *Multihazard Functional Plan's* Wildland Fire Contingency section in conjunction with the County Fire Protection District. The Office of Emergency Services will continue to provide public information on emergency response notification, evacuation and sheltering due to fire.

General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs (§3.1)

GOALS (§3.1.1)

1. Ensure that the County can accommodate anticipated future growth and *development* while maintaining a safe and healthful environment by preserving valuable natural resources, guiding development away from hazardous areas, and planning for adequate public facilities and services. Promote planned, well-ordered and efficient land use and *development* patterns.

POLICIES (§3.1.2-6)

6. **Minimum Parcel Size:** Except as provided below, subdivisions of land shall meet the most restrictive minimum parcel size requirements established by Figures 3.1 and 3.2a & b, by the applicable Zoning Compatibility Matrix established by the respective Area Plans or by the applicable Existing Community Map contained in this Chapter commencing with [Figure 3.7](#).
 - A water well site or sites may be created on a lot for the sole purpose of transferring, by lease or sale, possession of the well and so much of the land around the well as may be necessary for its operation. Such wells shall be for agricultural purposes only.
 - Parcels for public purposes such as, but not limited to, fire, police, water wells, flood control and other public health and safety facilities, are exempt from these minimum parcel size requirements.
 - Affordable/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.
 - Parcels designated 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 natural resource conservation purposes in accordance with the Parcel Map Waiver/Conservation Subdivision process established in the Subdivision Ordinance.

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

Coordinated Watershed Planning

Water Resources (§1.3)

PROGRAMS (§1.3.3)

5. The Planning Division and Public Works Agency will continue to coordinate with water districts and other appropriate agencies to establish a data base on actual available supply, projected use factors for types of land use and development, and threshold limits for development within available water resources.
7. The Public Works Agency, in cooperation with the Environmental Health Division, will continue to pursue the use of reclaimed water for agricultural irrigation.

Water Supply Facilities (§4.3)

PROGRAMS (§4.3.3)

1. The Public Works Agency will coordinate with water districts to establish a data base on actual available supply, projected use factors for types of *development* and threshold limits for *development* within available water resources.
2. The County Public Works Agency (Water Resources and Development Department) and the three major water wholesale agencies (Casitas, Calleguas and United) will continue to pursue the use of reclaimed water as a long-term source for agricultural irrigation.