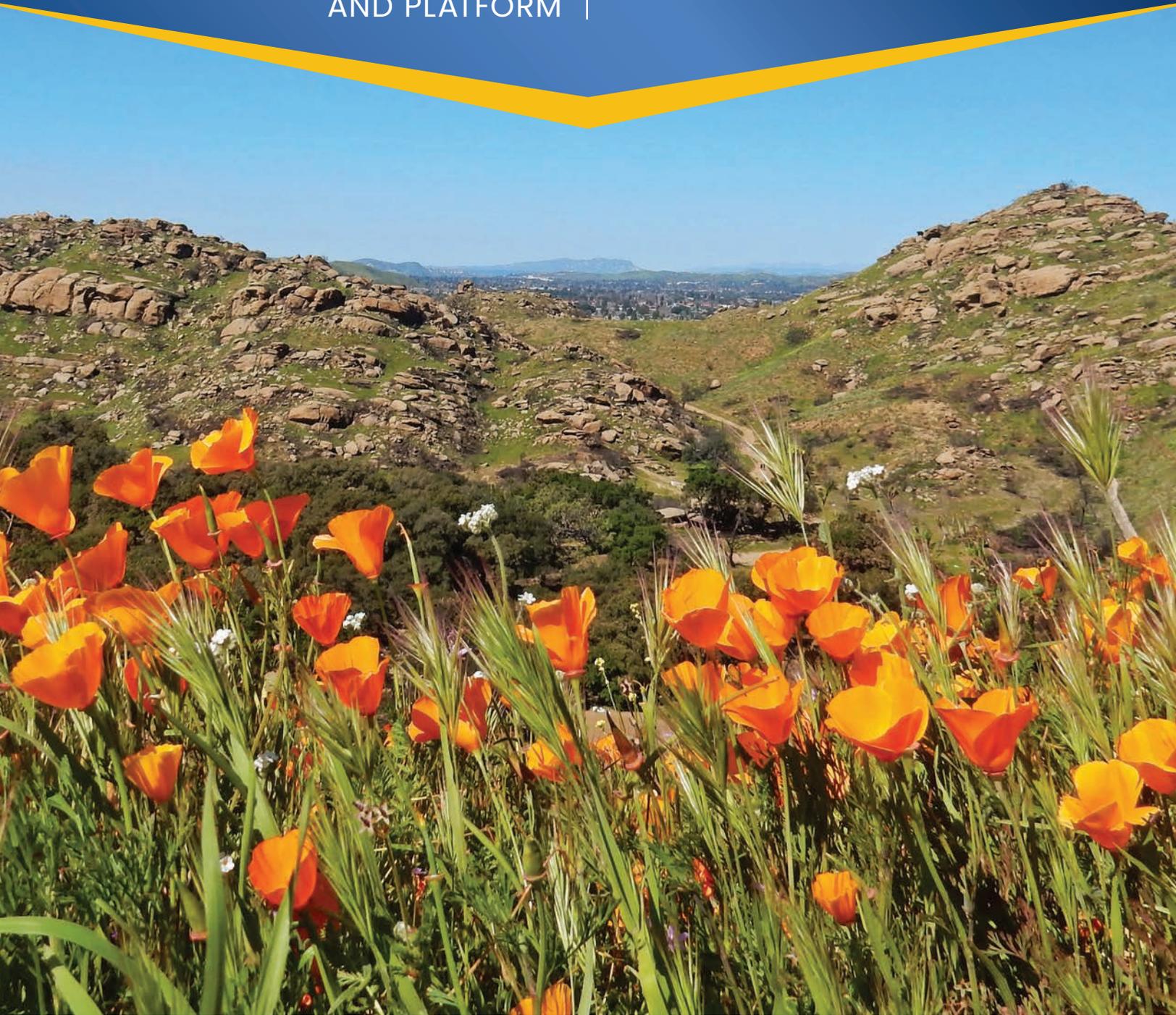


# COUNTY OF VENTURA

STATE & FEDERAL  
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA  
AND PLATFORM

**2025-26**



**COUNTY** *of* **VENTURA**

*Adopted by*  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
January 28, 2025



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Supervisor Matt LaVere  
First District



Supervisor Jeff Gorell  
Second District



Supervisor Kelly Long  
Third District



Supervisor Janice S. Parvin  
Fourth District



Supervisor Vianey Lopez  
Fifth District

## ABOUT VENTURA COUNTY

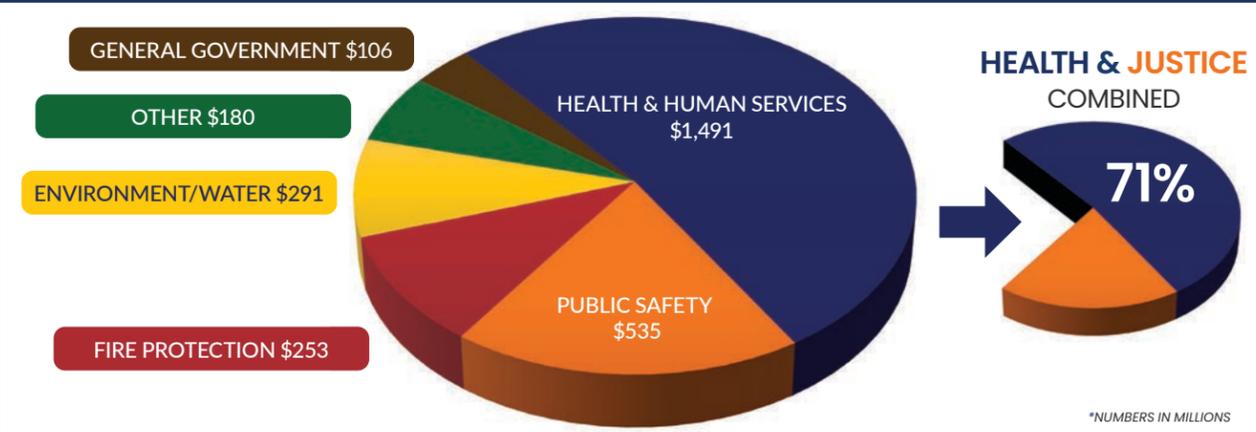
### Our County and Community

Known for its quality education, safety and economic vibrancy amidst stunning geographical diversity, Ventura County is located on California's "Gold Coast," approximately 35 miles northwest of Los Angeles and 20 miles southeast of Santa Barbara. The County's nearly 850,000 residents enjoy rolling hills and sweeping ocean views in a temperate Mediterranean climate with an average annual temperature of 74 degrees.

The County's 1,873 square miles include ten incorporated cities and house national attractions such as the Channel Islands National Park, Los Padres National Forest and Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum. In 2022, Ventura County was named the safest large county in the State, with the lowest rates of reported crimes among California's 16 largest counties. All of this, coupled with a diverse economic base from tourism to agriculture to high-tech enterprises in beautifully planned communities, make the region one of the most desirable in California.

Ventura County is a "general law" county, governed by a five-member, elected-by-district, Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors appoint a County Executive Officer (CEO) to oversee the County budget, day-to-day operations, and to advise, assist and act as an agent for the Board of Supervisors in all matters under the Board's jurisdiction. The County provides a broad variety of services that include public safety, health and human services, healthcare, airports, harbor, resource management, parks, information technology, and public works. There are six elected department heads in addition to the Board of Supervisors: Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Clerk-Recorder Registrar of Voters, District Attorney, Sheriff, and Treasurer-Tax Collector. The work of the County is supported by a total budget of approximately \$2.8 billion and more than 10,000 employees spread across 25 agencies and departments.

### TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS – \$2,857,156,500



### CONTACTS

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dgilchrest@twaltersinc.com

## ABOUT VENTURA COUNTY

<b>#8</b>	Ventura County ranked eighth of the 58 counties in California in community health (Data from University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute).		<b>17</b>	Focused on housing, with 17 affordable housing projects in progress to provide up to 1,609 housing units.	
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<b>46%</b>	of the County's landmass hosts the Los Padres National Forest		<b>230</b>	Ranked "High" on the Innovation Intelligence Index – Ranked 230 compared to 3,110 counties in the U.S.	
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### I N F R A S T R U C T U R E

	<b>42</b> Miles of Coastline		<b>200</b> Drainage Channels		<b>500</b> Miles of County Roads		Two Airports, Generating <b>\$281</b> Million in Revenue for 2022
	<b>2,735</b> Storm Drains		<b>262</b> Miles of Water Main Pipes Over 45,932 Acres		<b>50</b> Dams		<b>158</b> Bridges

### G R E E N S P A C E

	<b>18</b> County Parks		<b>12</b> Campgrounds		<b>3</b> Golf Courses
	<b>200</b> Acres of Land and	<b>110</b> Acres of Water	Channel Islands Harbor Hosts		

### S E R V I C E S

	<b>2</b> Public Hospitals and <b>80</b> Clinics		<b>13</b> Libraries		<b>2</b> Animal Services Locations
	<b>33</b> Fire Stations		<b>5</b> Police Stations and <b>2</b> Jails		
	<b>14</b> in Residents Served by Human Services Agency		Information Technology, Resource Management, Planning, Environmental Health		Records, Licenses, Permits, Weddings, Elections, Assessments & Appraisals

## ABOUT VENTURA COUNTY

### Ventura County's Legislative Program

Ventura County's legislative program is designed to develop and provide the framework for maintaining good, sound, and effective local government. The purpose of the legislative program is to secure legislation that benefits the County and its residents while seeking to mitigate or oppose legislation that would adversely impact the County's delivery of service; to secure state funding through the grant and/or appropriations process; and to shape public policy in priority areas that impact County government.

The State and Federal Legislative Agenda and Platform is adopted by the Board of Supervisors each year to provide a framework from which the legislative program will operate and a foundation for more effective advocacy on behalf of Ventura County. It contains principles that are basic to County government and can be used to shape State policies for the benefit of Ventura County.

The Legislative Agenda and Platform provides aligned, specific parameters within which the Board, County Executive Officer, County agencies and departments, and the County's legislative advocates may represent County positions on legislation when time is an issue and immediate communication on behalf of the County is necessary. Once adopted, it serves as a tool for focusing on and achieving the County's legislative goals while providing a reference for evaluating pending legislation under consideration at the State level.

### Overall Policy Pillars

Ventura County's advocacy is grounded in a set of core policy pillars that reflect its role as both a frontline service provider and a responsible steward of public resources. These four pillars serve as the foundation for most of the County's legislative efforts and guide strategic action across priority areas. To that end, the County supports:



**Protecting Local Revenue:** Proposals that would provide counties with greater decision-making authority over the use of State and Federal funds and opposes new unfunded or underfunded mandates



**Local Autonomy:** Efforts to ensure local discretionary control over governance issues, land use authority, and delivery of services



**Access and Efficiency:** Streamlining efforts that reduce barriers, improve service, increase efficiency, and expand equity of public programs



**Limiting Liability:** Legislation that would limit or minimize the County's exposure to tort/liability claims

## ABOUT VENTURA COUNTY

### Strategic Priorities 2024–2027

The mission of the County of Ventura is to provide superior public service and support so that all residents have the opportunity to improve their quality of life while enjoying the benefits of a safe, healthy, and vibrant community. In alignment with key focus areas established in the 2024-2027 County Strategic Plan, the Legislative Agenda and Platform seeks to guide legislation that will support the County's goals of:



**Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities:** Maintain the highest standard of health and remain one of the safest and most resilient counties in the nation



**Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Vitality:** Make responsible and efficient use of public funds and promote economic stability and growth during a changing economy.



**Reliable Infrastructure and Sustainability:** Provide robust infrastructure, facilities, technology, and land-use policies to enable vibrant and sustainable communities.



**Addressing Homelessness and Lifting Up the Most Vulnerable:** Continue to relentlessly pursue an end to homelessness in collaboration with our cities and community partners. Strengthen our safety net to support those in need.



**Diverse and Innovative Workforce Dedicated to Service Excellence:** Attract, hire, develop, and retain a diverse workforce empowered to meet the needs of our customers.



## State and Federal Legislative Issues by Policy Area

### Healthy, Safe and Resilient Communities



#### Health and Wellbeing

##### The County supports:

<p><b>1.1</b> Efforts that enhance access to high-quality health care for all residents, improve system integration and data sharing across County agencies, and fully integrate mental health, substance use treatment, and physical health services to provide coordinated, comprehensive care; regardless of health care coverage status or ability to pay</p>	<p><b>1.5</b> Preservation or enhancement of funding programs that foster early literacy, school readiness, adult literacy, career development, vocational support, and robust early childhood development—including science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) to empower vulnerable populations and strengthen the workforce</p>
<p><b>1.2</b> Preservation or enhancement of funding and policies that support comprehensive disease and substance misuse prevention, including chronic and infectious disease initiatives, and response strategies, particularly for low-income and Medi-Cal eligible clients</p>	<p><b>1.6</b> Legislation that facilitates family access to child support program services while easing administrative burdens</p>
<p><b>1.3</b> Preservation of the Medical Director's authority, under the guidance of the Board of Supervisors, to plan, implement, and evaluate a countywide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system to provide equitable service to residents</p>	<p><b>1.7</b> <i>Federal only</i> - Protection of Medicare, Medicaid, and other federal health programs, including efforts to maintain sufficient funding levels to serve eligible populations that do not rely on county financial participation</p>
<p><b>1.4</b> Policies that allow for innovative animal welfare programming that emphasizes the human-animal bond, promotes humane care, and enhances the well-being and protection of animals</p>	<p><b>1.8</b> <i>Federal only</i> - Efforts to increase the amount of funding available for mental health response and to repeal or reform the institutions for mental disease (IMD) exclusion</p>
	<p><b>1.9</b> <i>Federal only</i> - Legislation protecting participants in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program from deportation, and that provides a pathway for permanent status</p>



### Public Safety

#### The County supports:

<p><b>2.1</b> Comprehensive diversion, rehabilitation, and reentry initiatives to lower recidivism, enhance public safety, and promote successful community reintegration</p>	<p><b>2.5</b> Preservation or enhancement of funding for victim-based crime investigation, prosecution, and trauma-informed support services, especially for victims of child sexual abuse, human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault, to ensure equitable, compassionate, and effective justice</p>
<p><b>2.2</b> Efforts to provide equitable funding and access to indigent defense services, ensuring fairness and integrity in the criminal legal system</p>	<p><b>2.6</b> Preservation or enhancement of funding for local governments to acquire lifesaving public safety equipment, ensuring effective emergency response and community protection</p>
<p><b>2.3</b> Legislation and strategies that address emerging crime trends, including fentanyl distribution, gun violence, ghost guns, and organized retail theft, and that remove firearms from prohibited persons, while strengthening gun violence restraining orders</p>	<p><b>2.7</b> <i>Federal only</i> - A multi-agency approach to implementing the Stepping Up Initiative to reduce the number of adults with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders in County jail</p>
<p><b>2.4</b> Proposals and funding to plan and modernize correctional facilities, including correctional health facilities, incorporating evidence-based environments that support rehabilitation and protect the safety of both incarcerated individuals and staff</p>	<p><b>2.8</b> <i>Federal only</i> - Reauthorization and increased funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)</p>



## Resiliency

### The County supports:

**3.1** Efforts and funding that strengthen local hazard mitigation planning, enhance resilient and accessible infrastructure, and ensure timely resource allocation for comprehensive disaster preparation, response, and recovery—including mass care and shelter operations that address the needs of individuals with disabilities, access, and functional needs

**3.2** Legislation that would fully fund mass care and shelter efforts, covering planning, preparation, operations, and equitable support for individuals with disabilities, access, and functional needs, to ensure effective response and recovery



**3.3** Measures that provide access to reasonably priced fire insurance that recognize local fire hazard risk reduction efforts and ensures availability of insurance even in previously impacted areas, as well as support the ongoing sustainability of the State's FAIR Plan

**3.4** Efforts to improve fire prevention such as hardening homes, industrial and commercial buildings, enforcing defensible space, undergrounding utilities and removing hazardous vegetation to safeguard communities and natural resources from wildfire risks

**3.5** *Federal only* - Preservation or enhancement of funding for disaster programs supported through Federal Emergency Management Agency, including the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER)

## Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Vitality



### Fiscal Responsibility

#### The County supports:

**4.1** Efforts to address the financing model and financial shortfall for safety net systems, including timely reimbursement from payors for services provided

**4.3** *Federal only* - Full funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program and authorization of mandatory payments to provide stability to the program

**4.2** Local fiscal autonomy by preventing State appropriation of local resources, ensuring full cost recovery for employee-related costs, enhancing flexibility in labor relations, and granting the Board of Supervisors sole authority over retirement benefits to maintain long-term financial stability without increasing the County's fiscal obligations

**4.4** *Federal only* - The repeal of the caps on the amount of State and Local Taxes (SALT) that can be deducted on individual tax returns



## Economic Vitality

### The County supports:

**5.1** The efforts of our local partners to secure State and Federal funding to further support residents when projects are beyond the County's scope, ensuring residents benefit from broader collaboration and resources

**5.4** Efforts to retain and strengthen local military installations, including Naval Base Ventura County, recognizing their importance to regional economic vitality and workforce stability

**5.2** Legislation that enhances consumer protection through improved standards in weights and measures, agricultural products, food safety, and organic production, ensuring fairness and quality for consumers and producers

**5.5** *Federal only* - Legislation and incentives that offer crop insurance and disaster relief to specialty crop growers impacted by pest quarantines, while promoting sustainable agriculture through United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service farmland conservation programs and encouraging a transition to renewable energy

**5.3** Policies and investments that stimulate business growth and enhance quality job creation through industry sector diversification, reducing barriers to access capital and resources, and strengthening economic vitality across key sectors, including the creative economy, advanced manufacturing, business services, healthcare, agriculture, tourism and hospitality, biotech and emerging technologies to support prosperous communities and strengthen economic resilience



## Reliable Infrastructure and Sustainability



### Protecting Infrastructure

#### The County supports:

<p><b>6.1</b> Flexible design standards for State highways serving as local roads and ensuring adequate funding and policies for maintaining, repairing, and modernizing aging infrastructure, including multimodal transportation systems and levee assistance programs</p>	<p><b>6.8</b> Funding and initiatives to modernize public safety technology and infrastructure, ensuring effective emergency response and community protection</p>
<p><b>6.2</b> Resources and policies that help non-hub airports develop and sustain viable air service, while ensuring compatible land use and development around these facilities</p>	<p><b>6.9</b> Sustainable pest management strategies, including invasive pest prevention, eradication, and education on best practices, while advocating for increased funding to protect and maintain safe, healthy ecosystems</p>
<p><b>6.3</b> Preservation or enhancement of funding for broadband equity and digital literacy to ensure unserved and underserved communities have reliable access to critical online resources</p>	<p><b>6.10</b> Preservation or enhancement of funding for coastal infrastructure, ocean water quality, and the protection of existing coastal resources</p>
<p><b>6.4</b> Legislation to increase the environmental review of new school sites to minimize negative impacts to agricultural land, community health, and educational outcomes</p>	<p><b>6.11</b> <i>Federal only</i> - Funding policies and incentives that ensure maximum resources for maintaining, repairing, and rehabilitating aging public works infrastructure, and reduce unnecessary administrative barriers to the effective use of federal funds</p>
<p><b>6.5</b> Funding and flexible policies that enable the retrofitting of County buildings to improve accessibility and ensure seismic safety</p>	<p><b>6.12</b> <i>Federal only</i> - Reauthorization and increased funding of the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), which provides funding for safety, security, noise abatement, and capacity enhancement programs</p>
<p><b>6.6</b> Legislation establishing guidance, funding, and reimbursement for managing Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) contamination; encompassing testing, cleanup, and compliance with federal mandates to safeguard public health and the environment</p>	<p><b>6.13</b> <i>Federal only</i> - Full funding through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to reconstruct runways and taxiways to ensure existing infrastructure meets community needs</p>
<p><b>6.7</b> Efforts to ensure that oil and gas development activities do not pose a significant risk to water supplies, people, or natural resources; and establish finite time limits on idle wells to maintain environmental and community safety.</p>	<p><b>6.14</b> <i>Federal only</i> - Funding through the United States Army Corps of Engineers for activities related to dredging of Federally authorized channels and sand deposition areas, jetty maintenance and repair, and environmental enhancement</p>

## Sustainability

### The County supports:

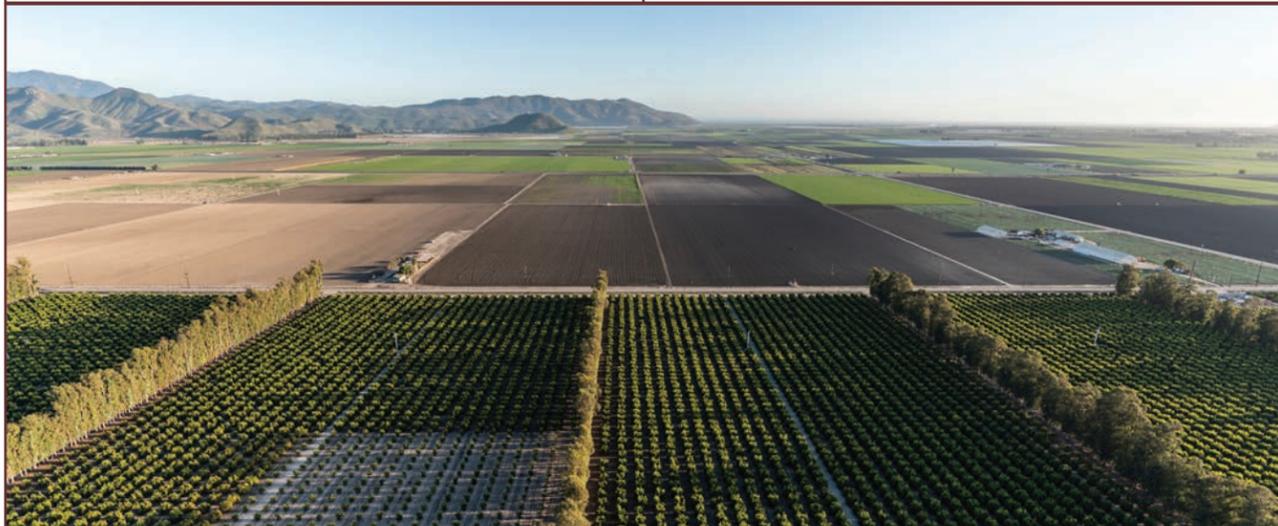
<p><b>7.1</b> Efforts to improve the efficiency of environmental review processes, especially in post-disaster recovery, and to refine resource protection regulations to support the timely, cost-effective delivery of essential public works and development projects while maintaining high environmental quality standards and fostering collaboration among State and Federal agencies</p>	<p><b>7.6</b> Initiatives that streamline the implementation of energy efficiency retrofits, renewable energy installations, energy storage solutions, and decarbonization projects; promote integrated distributed energy resources; enhance local energy resilience; and create opportunities for local governments to administer greenhouse gas reduction programs</p>
<p><b>7.2</b> A regional strategy to address sea level rise, ensuring critical coastal infrastructure, public health, safety, and welfare are protected for future generations</p>	<p><b>7.7</b> <i>Federal only</i> - A multi-year authorization of the National Flood Insurance Program and amortization periods for newly mapped areas before mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements and higher insurance rates go into full effect</p>
<p><b>7.3</b> Policies, and permitting efficiencies that support environmental sustainability, protect water resources, enhance regional water supplies, encourage diversion of reusable and recyclable materials, and invest in renewable energy, energy conservation, habitat preservation, and alternative transportation modes</p>	<p><b>7.8</b> <i>Federal only</i> - Funding for County watershed projects under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service PL- 566 Watersheds Program</p>
<p><b>7.4</b> Development and transition to alternative piston engine aviation fuels that minimize environmental impact while maintaining the viability of general aviation</p>	<p><b>7.9</b> <i>Federal only</i> - Development of Federal regulations and procedures that promote efficient and consistent compliance with Federal and State resource protection laws</p>
<p><b>7.5</b> Efforts to balance preservation of agriculture and habitat preservation, water supply considerations, and other resource constraints with housing production, including support for farmland preservation incentives such as Williamson Act subventions, necessary to meet state housing element goals sustainably</p>	

## Address Homelessness and Lift Up the Most Vulnerable



The County supports:

<p><b>8.1</b> Efforts to expand financial resources for affordable, accessible housing and fund the development, construction, operations, acquisition, and rehabilitation of shelters for individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness</p>	<p><b>8.5</b> Efforts to ensure that those disproportionately impacted by economic downturns and historically underrepresented in receiving public relief receive critical services and benefits</p>
<p><b>8.2</b> Legislation that addresses any challenges related to the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act, including support and flexibility for services that support foster youth</p>	<p><b>8.6</b> Efforts to increase awareness, funding, and support to prevent and prosecute child, elder, and dependent adult abuse, ensuring justice and safety for the most vulnerable residents</p>
<p><b>8.3</b> The preservation and enhancement of services across the continuum of need, including prevention, early intervention, after-care, workforce support, and pathways to self-sufficiency for families and individuals in poverty</p>	<p><b>8.7</b> <i>Federal only</i> - Reauthorization and increased funding for the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program (SNAP), and related anti-poverty programs</p>
<p><b>8.4</b> Legislation that enables seniors and adults with disabilities to reside in a community setting to support aging with dignity and provide them with engaging, equitable services in a community setting</p>	<p><b>8.8</b> <i>Federal only</i> - The enhancement and expansion of the Older Americans Act (OAA) to address the growing older adult population and their increasingly diverse and complex needs</p>



## Diverse and Innovative Workforce Dedicated to Service Excellence



The County supports:

<p><b>9.1</b> Sustained funding to build a modern workforce and infrastructure across County departments, enabling effective responses to evolving challenges and ensuring the health, safety, and wellbeing of residents</p>	<p><b>9.5</b> Public Records Act (PRA) revisions that uphold government transparency while ensuring timeframes and exemptions balance public access with the need to protect personal information, deliberative process privilege, attorney-client privilege, employee safety, prevent overextension of government resources for overly burdensome requests and prevent unnecessary litigation by giving public agencies the opportunity to reconcile an alleged violation of the PRA before a lawsuit can be filed</p>
<p><b>9.2</b> Efforts that expand the pipeline of qualified professionals in critical fields, including health care, public safety, infrastructure, and administrative services, by supporting education and training opportunities for current and prospective County employees</p>	<p><b>9.6</b> Efforts to modernize the Brown Act to expand remote access to the public and legislative body members, promote equity, ensure robust public participation, and enable effective, well-managed meetings that uphold decorum and transparency</p>
<p><b>9.3</b> Initiatives that support the mental health and wellness of the County workforce, including first responders and public safety personnel, through enhanced training, standards, and access to mental health resources</p>	
<p><b>9.4</b> Legislation and resources for Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools that enhance service delivery, safeguard privacy, ensure accurate outputs, and respect local implementation autonomy</p>	



## STATE AND FEDERAL BUDGET REQUESTS

**A. New Animal Shelter.** Funding is requested to expand the existing footprint of the property and construct several new structures to increase the capacity of animal services for the unincorporated area and eight of the County's ten cities.

**B. Ventura County Family Justice Centers.**

Funding is requested for administrative services and emergency shelter beds for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who have been displaced because of their victimization.

**C. Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC).**

Funding is requested for the renovation of an existing County building to provide placements for intensive support and rehabilitative services for adults with severe mental health disorders.

**D. Public Works Projects**

Funding is requested for the following projects, which is vital to the County's infrastructure:

- i. Hueneme Road Widening Project
- ii. Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project
- iii. Regional Desalter Projects
- iv. Santa Paula Creek Flood Control Restoration Project
- v. Santa Clara River Watershed Protection Plan/Capital Facilities Plan
- vi. Santa Clara River Levee (SCR-1) Improvements Project
- vii. Ventura River Levee (VR-1) Improvements Project

**E. Channel Islands Harbor.**

Funding is requested via the US Army Corps of Engineers' Operations and Maintenance/Navigation account for maintenance dredging to clear the Channel Islands Harbor sand trap.

**F. Harvest Medical Pavilion.**

Funding is requested for the construction of a rural- based acute care hospital and accompanying ambulatory medical clinics in the Heritage Valley to provide medical, dental and optometry services to disadvantaged and underserved individuals residing in areas geographically separated from more urban areas of the County.

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**COUNTY** *of* **VENTURA**

STATE & FEDERAL  
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND PLATFORM