

Where practicable, this document also reflects an understanding that the insights of community members should strive to be included throughout the County's emergency planning process, particularly those who are most at-risk and/or vulnerable during disasters. It identifies opportunities to ensure that all community members' needs are understood and met throughout all phases of the emergency management cycle: preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

The cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Ventura, Simi Valley, and Thousand Oaks are each responsible for maintaining their own EOPs, consistent with policies and procedures established by this plan. However, this plan provides the structure for coordination and support of the cities (in compliance with SEMS) when an incident spans multiple jurisdictions, when needs exceed the resources available within one or more jurisdictions, or when an incident is otherwise complex and assistance is requested.

## **1.2 PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS**

- The County will commit available resources to save lives, minimize injury to individuals, minimize damage to property, and protect the environment.
- The Sheriff, as the County's Director of Emergency Services will coordinate the County's disaster response in conformance with the County's Emergency Services Ordinance.
- Ventura County Sheriff's Emergency Services is the lead coordinating agency for the Ventura County Operational Area, which includes the County and its political subdivisions (i.e. cities and special districts).
- The County of Ventura uses the Incident Command System (ICS), SEMS and NIMS in emergency response operations. The resources of the County of Ventura will be made available to cities, local agencies, and citizens to cope with disasters affecting this area.
- The County will commit its resources to a reasonable degree before requesting mutual aid assistance.
- Mutual aid assistance will be requested when disaster relief requirements exceed the combined capacities of the cities' and County's ability to meet them.