

27. Glossary

The glossary contains definitions for technical terms that are used frequently throughout the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines document. Technical terms are identified throughout the document by italicized text with a subtle dashed green underline, such as *this example*. Federal, state, and local regulations or policies are cited as the source for several definitions. Where a conflict occurs between the definition in this document and the definition used in the regulation or policy, the definition from the regulation or policy shall prevail.

A

Acre-foot. The amount of water necessary to cover one acre (43,560 square feet) to a depth of one foot, or 43,560 cubic feet, which is equivalent to 325,828 gallons.

Acutely hazardous waste. Also commonly referred to as acute hazardous waste. means any hazardous waste classified as an acutely hazardous waste in the HSC at Division 20, Chapter 6.5, Article 2.

Adjacent. May also be referred to as “abut” or “adjoin.” Nearby or in proximity to.

Affordable housing. As defined in Public Resources Code Section 21080.25, as may be amended, which means any of the following:

- housing that is subject to a recorded covenant, ordinance, or law that restricts rents or sales prices to levels affordable, as defined in Section 50052.5 or 50053 of the Health and Safety Code, to persons and families of moderate, lower, or very low income, as defined in Section 50079.5, 50093, or 50105 of the Health and Safety Code, respectively;
- housing that is subject to any form of rent or price control through a public entity’s valid exercise of its police power; or
- housing that had been occupied by tenants within five years from the date of approval of the development agreement by a primary tenant who was low income and did not leave voluntarily.

Agricultural conservation easement. A legally binding agreement/instrument that retains the land predominantly in its agricultural or open space condition. An agricultural conservation easement creates an interest in real property, is recorded in a deed and granted to a third party by, or on behalf of, the landowner and is binding upon successive owners of such land. Agricultural conservation easements must be held by a natural resource agency, a County-approved conservation organization, or the County of Ventura.

Airport Area of Influence (AAOI). An area defined for each airport that encompasses all areas within the boundaries of the 60 *decibel (dB) Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) aircraft noise contour* and the approach and transitional surfaces at altitudes of 500 feet or less above the relevant airport elevations. This is the area where airport-related noise, safety, airspace protection, and overflight factors may significantly affect land use compatibility or necessitate restrictions on certain land uses as determined by the *Airport Land Use Commission*.

Airport Land Use Commission. As defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: a commission authorized under the provisions of California Public Utilities Code, Section 21670 et seq., for the purposes of promoting compatibility between airports and the land uses surrounding them and are established, with limited exceptions, in each county where a public use airport is located. The Ventura County Transportation Commission serves as the designated ALUC for the four public, private, and military airports located within Ventura County.

Air Quality Assessment Guidelines (AQAG). An advisory document prepared by VCAPCD that

provides CEQA lead agencies, consultants, and project applicants with a framework and uniform methods for preparing air quality impact assessments and the air quality section of environmental documents for projects that require discretionary entitlements and approvals. Pursuant to CEQA, the AQAG recommend specific criteria and threshold levels for determining whether a proposed project may have a significant adverse air quality impact. The AQAG also provide mitigation measures that may be useful for mitigating the air quality impacts of proposed projects.

Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). A VCAPCD air quality planning document that presents a combined state and local strategy for attaining federal ambient air quality standards and federal Clean Air Act planning requirements. The Air Quality Management Plan includes current air quality information, emissions inventory, local and state air pollutant control measures, new emission forecasts and projections, a new federal conformity budget for transportation projects, a reasonable further progress demonstration for precursors of *ozone*, a new countywide emission carrying capacity, and a demonstration how Ventura County will attain the federal *ozone* standard.

Ambient noise level. Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: the composite of noise from all sources; the normal or existing level of environmental noise at a given location. The ambient noise levels are expressed as L_{eqT} or *CNEL* as judged appropriate to the situation.

Archaeological resources. The locations where human activity has measurably altered the earth or left deposits of prehistoric or historic-era physical remains (e.g., stone tools, bottles, former roads, house foundations). The material remains (artifacts, structures, refuse, etc.) may have been produced purposely or accidentally by members of prehistoric human cultures.

Area Plan. As defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: the land use plans for specific geographic subareas within the unincorporated area. The area plans govern the distribution, general location, and extent of uses of

the land for housing, business, industry, open space, agriculture, and public facilities.

B

Base flood elevation. The elevation shown on the digital *Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)* for flood zones 'AE', 'AH', 'A1-A30', 'VE', and V1-V30' that indicates the water surface elevation resulting from a flood that has a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

Basin Plans. The Water Quality Control Plans, as may be amended, for three California Regional Water Quality Control Boards covering the Ventura County area: the Central Coast Region (Region 3), the Los Angeles Region (Region 4); and the Central Valley Region (Region 5).

C

Candidate species.

- **Federal candidate species.** Plants and animals for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has sufficient information on their biological status and threats to propose them as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, but for which development of a proposed listing regulation is precluded by higher priority listing activities.
- **State candidate species.** Native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant that the California Fish and Game Commission has formally noticed as being under review by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for addition to either the list of endangered species or the list of threatened species, or a species for which the commission has published a notice of proposed regulation to add the species to either list. State candidate species have equal legal protection as State listed threatened and endangered species under Fish

and Game Code Section 2050 et seq., Section 2081, and Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 670.1.

Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). The agency designated under the California Health and Safety Code for enforcement of regulations pertaining to hazardous materials. The County Environmental Health Division serves as the CUPA within Ventura County (except the City of Oxnard, where the City's Fire Department serves as the Oxnard CUPA). The City of Ventura Fire Department is a Participating Agency that implements the *Hazardous Materials Business Plan*, Aboveground Petroleum Storage, California Accidental Release Prevention and *Underground Storage Tank* programs within the city of Ventura.

Coastal Initial Study Biological Assessment (CISBA). A site-specific environmental assessment and impact and compensatory mitigation analysis prepared pursuant to County standards for an *Initial Study Biological Assessment* and the requirements of Coastal Zoning Ordinance Sections 8178-2.3, 8178-2.11.2(a) and Appendix E1, Section AE-1.3 for projects within or partially within the coastal zone.

Coastal sand dunes. A series of low hills of sand formed as a result of a combination of erosional forces, wind, and topographic features. Coastal dunes are generally divided into: (a) foredunes, which are small hillocks directly facing the ocean; and (b) backdunes, which are a series of hills that are usually higher and more continuously vegetated than the foredunes.

Community character. The distinctive physical quality, attributes, or features of an *established community* that set it apart from other communities or areas. These can include existing land uses, architectural form and style, lot area and the density of development.

Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL). Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: the average A-weighted noise level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of five decibels to noise levels occurring in the evening from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and the addition of 10 decibels to sound levels measured in the night between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Conservation easement. Defined in the Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance, as may be amended, which states: A legally binding instrument that retains the land predominantly in its natural, scenic, agricultural, forested, or open space condition or that preserves and protects native plants, animals and biotic communities. A conservation easement creates an interest in real property, is recorded in a deed and granted to a third party by, or on behalf of, the landowner and is binding upon successive owners of such land. Conservation easements should be held by a natural resource agency, a County-approved conservation organization as defined in the Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance, or the County of Ventura.

Conservation instrument. Defined in the Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance section 8172-1, as may be amended, which states: A legal mechanism used to ensure the protection of sensitive resources (e.g., biological, archaeological, tribal cultural, historic, paleontological, etc.) from development in the form of a deed restriction executed by, or on behalf of, the owner of the land that is binding upon successive owners of the land. Such instruments should contain a written description of the legal arrangements including site ownership, management, and enforcement of any use restrictions – and be legally sufficient, enforceable, properly recorded in the chain of title, and able to ensure the protection of the resource in perpetuity.

Constituent. An informal term used to describe a detectable element, component, or attribute of waste or effluent.

Core habitat areas. Areas of habitat composed of a *habitat patch* (species dependent) or aggregation of *habitat patches* that are of sufficient size to support the long-term survival of a self-sustaining population of a species, which are not fragmented in a way that isolates populations of that species.

County View. The publicly available geographic information systems web application that consists of various publicly available data depicted as map layers. Examples of map layers include, but are not limited to zoning, cities, political districts, and designated hazard areas.

Criteria pollutants. Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: the criteria pollutants are the six principal pollutants harmful to public health and the environment for which the Environmental Protection Agency has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The pollutants are: carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), *ozone* (O₃), *particulate matter* (PM), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂).

Critical Wildlife Passage Area (CWPA). An overlay zone within the larger Ventura County Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor (HCWC) overlay zone that is subject to additional land use limitations within the Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance (Sec. 8109-4.9). CWPAs are identified as critical chokepoints within the larger HCWC overlay zone where the loss of *landscape connectivity* is a foreseeable threat and would cause the overall *habitat connectivity corridor* to be defunct in its purpose to connect isolated coastal ecosystems (e.g., Santa Monica Mountains) to inland *regional landscape linkages* (e.g., Simi Hills, Los Padres Forest).

Cultural heritage site. Defined in the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Ordinance, as may be amended, which generally states: An improvement, natural feature, site, or district that has completed the legally required procedures stipulated in the Cultural Heritage Ordinance to have it designated by the Cultural Heritage Board or the Board of Supervisors as a District, Landmark, Site of Merit, or Point of Interest as defined in the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Ordinance.

D

Decibel (dB). Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: a physical unit commonly used to describe noise levels. It is a unit for describing the amplitude of sound, as heard by the human ear. A dB is the logarithmic ratio of two like pressure quantities, with one pressure quantity being a reference sound pressure. For sound pressure in air the standard reference quantity is generally

considered to be 20 micropascals, which directly corresponds to the threshold of human hearing and is equivalent to 0 dB, the quietest sound a human can hear. The use of the decibel is a convenient way to handle the million-fold range of sound pressures to which the human ear is sensitive.

Development envelope. An area of land that consists of the proposed maximum limits of allowable temporary and permanent direct land and vegetation disturbance for a project, including but not limited to the building pad(s), driveways or roads/road improvements, entry gates/fences, grading, septic systems, wells, drainage improvements, fuel modification zones, water tanks, landscaping, storage/stockpile areas, construction staging areas, fire department turnarounds, utility trenches and other site grading.

Direct impacts. Shall have the same meaning as “direct or primary effects” as defined in the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15358, as may be amended, which states: Effects which are caused by the project and occur at the same time and place.

Disability glare. A type of glare that ranges from causing temporary incapacity to causing damage to the eye.

Discomfort glare. A type of glare that viewers find distracting and objectionable but does not cause damage to the eye.

Dwelling Unit. One or more rooms with internal access between all rooms, which provide complete independent living facilities for one *household*, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, bathing, and sanitary facilities but containing only one kitchen. Accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and junior accessory dwelling units (JADUs) are also dwelling units, except for purposes of calculating the maximum allowable densities for the lots on which they are located, in which case the ADUs and/or JADUs shall not be counted as additional dwelling units.

E

Element occurrence. A biological unit that has practical conservation value for a species or ecological community and sustains or contributes to the survival of a species or ecological community. An element occurrence is a population of a species that is present and would be impacted by the project. The following examples of element occurrences are provided as guidance:

- a. Plants: A population or group of populations found within 0.25 miles of one another and not separated by significant habitat discontinuities.
- b. Animals with Limited Mobility (e.g., most invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, and resident birds). For example, these animals may take several generations to move through the landscape.
- c. Mobile Animals (e.g., migratory birds, fish and larger mammals): The location of breeding areas (including nesting territories, dens, and leks) or parts of the range of a mobile population that contribute to the persistence of that population, such as roosts, overwintering areas, migration areas and staging areas.

Endangered, rare, or threatened species. Defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15380, as may be amended, which states:

- a. "Species" means a species or subspecies of animal or plant or a variety of plant.
- b. A species of animal or plant is:
 1. "Endangered" when its survival and reproduction in the wild are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, overexploitation, predation, competition, disease, or other factors; or
 2. "Rare" when either:
 - a) Although not presently threatened with extinction, the species is existing in such small numbers throughout all or a

significant portion of its range that it may become endangered if its environment worsens; or

- b) The species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range and may be considered "threatened" as that term is used in the Federal Endangered Species Act.
- c. A species of animal or plant shall be presumed to be endangered, rare or threatened, as it is listed in:
 1. Sections 670.2 or 670.5, Title 14, California Code of Regulations; or
 2. Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations Sections 17.11 or 17.12 pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act as rare, threatened, or endangered.
- d. A species not included in any listing identified in subdivision (c) shall nevertheless be considered to be endangered, rare or threatened, if the species can be shown to meet the criteria in subdivision (b).
- e. This definition shall not include any species of the Class Insecta which is a pest whose protection under the provisions of CEQA would present an overwhelming and overriding risk to man as determined by:
 1. The Director of Food and Agriculture with regard to economic pests; or
 2. The Director of Health Services with regard to health risks.

Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA).

Defined in the Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance, as may be amended, which states: Any area in the Coastal Zone in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and development. For a definition of habitats classified as ESHA, see Section 8178-2.4 of the Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance.

Established community. An inhabited area within a city or county that is comprised of no less than 10 *dwelling units adjacent* or in close proximity to one another.

Existing Community Designated Area. Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: The boundaries of *and* areas within Existing Communities in the 2040 General Plan and areas identified in the Save Open Space & Agricultural Resources (SOAR) initiative as “Existing Community Land Use Designation.” These areas identify existing urban residential, commercial, or industrial enclaves outside of incorporated areas and urban centers. Existing Community Designated Areas include uses, densities, intensities, and zone classifications that area normally found in incorporated areas or urban centers, but which do not qualify as urban centers.

F

Feasible. Defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15364, as may be amended, which states: capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors.

Fire hazard. Defined in the Ventura County Fire Code, as may be amended, which states: the potential loss of life and/or property due to fire. Fire hazard is further defined as a condition, arrangement, or act which will increase or may cause an increase of the hazard or menace of fire to a greater degree than customarily recognized as normal by persons in the public service of preventing, suppressing or extinguishing fire; or conditions which may obstruct, delay, or hinder egress from a facility or building, or may become the cause of obstruction, delay or hindrance to the prevention, suppression, or extinguishment of a fire.

Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ). Defined in the Ventura County Fire Code, as may be amended, which states: geographical areas designated pursuant to California Public Resources Codes Sections 4201 through 4204 and classified as Moderate, High, and Very High in State Responsibility

Areas or as Moderate, High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Areas designated pursuant to California Government Code Sections 51175 through 51189.

Fire Protection Plan. Defined in the Ventura County Fire Code, as may be amended, which states: a document prepared for a specific project or development that describes methods for monitoring, controlling, and extinguishing spot fires. Specific requirements of a Fire Protection Plan are included in Section 4903 of the Ventura County Fire Code.

Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The official map produced using digital methods on which the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) delineates *Special Flood Hazard Areas* and risk premium zones applicable to a community, including any FEMA-issued amendments and/or revisions thereto.

Flood Insurance Study. Defined in the Ventura County Floodplain Management Ordinance, as amended, which states: the official report provided by the Federal Insurance Administration that includes flood profiles, the *Flood Insurance Rate Map*, the Flood Boundary and Floodway Map, and the water surface elevation of the base flood.

Forest land. Land that can support 10-percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits.

Fossils. Any remains, trace, or imprint of a plant or animal that has been preserved in the Earth’s crust from some past geologic or prehistoric time.

Fuel break. Defined in the Ventura County Fire Code, as amended, which states: an area strategically located for fighting anticipated fires where the native vegetation has been permanently modified or replaced so that fires burning into it can be more easily controlled. Fuel breaks divide fire-prone areas into smaller areas for easier fire control and to provide access for firefighting.

Fully protected species. Animals which are rare or face possible extinction and are protected by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife pursuant to

Fish & Game Code Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515.

G

Greenhouse gases (GHGs). Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: any gas that absorbs infrared radiation in the atmosphere. The principal greenhouse gases associated with global warming and climate change that are commonly included in GHG emissions inventories include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆).

Groundwater basin. Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: an aquifer or system of aquifers that has reasonably well-defined boundaries and more or less definite areas of recharge and discharge. Refers to subsurface deposits and geologic formations that are capable of yielding usable quantities of water to a well or spring. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) defines “basin” as a groundwater basin or subbasin identified and defined in the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118, or as modified pursuant to Section 10722 of the Act.

H

Habitat connectivity corridor. Also referred to as “wildlife corridor” or “habitat connectivity features.” Defined in the Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance, as may be amended, which states: An area of contiguous natural habitats of sufficient width to facilitate the movement, migration, foraging, reproduction, and dispersal of multiple animal or plant species between two or more *core habitat areas*. Riparian habitats, waters and wetlands, *stepping stones*, canyons, *habitat patch*, surface water feature as defined in the Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance, crossing structures and their adjacent areas, and ridgelines function as

habitat connectivity corridors or habitat connectivity features. In some cases, areas of natural vegetation within a matrix of unsuitable habitat may serve as a *habitat patch* or movement corridor for species.

Habitat patch. Any discrete area with a definite shape and spatial configuration that contains specific resources for an organism to survive (reproduction, shelter, water, overwintering, dispersal, etc.). It can be defined by discontinuities in vegetation, soils, waters, home range size, or defined as habitat or non-habitat depending on the species.

Hazardous Fire Areas (HFA). Defined in the Ventura County Fire Code, as may be amended, which states: land which is covered with grass, grain, brush, or forest, whether privately or publicly owned, which is so situated or is of such inaccessible location that a fire originating upon such land would present an abnormally difficult job of suppression or would result in great and unusual damage through fire or resulting erosion and includes any location within 500 feet of a forest or brush, grass, or grain covered land, exclusive of small individual lots located outside of a brush, forest, or grain covered area. Such areas are designated by the Fire Code Official. The Fire Code Official is authorized to utilize, as references, the definition of Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), State Responsibility Area *FHSZ* maps, Local Responsibility Area *FHSZ* designated pursuant to California Government Code, Sections 51175 through 51189 and the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code. Areas classified as a HFA are designated as a WUI area pursuant to the Ventura County Fire Code.

Hazardous Materials Business Plan. Also known as “Business Plan” as defined in HSC Section 25501. A plan that includes a chemical inventory, emergency response plans and procedures, and employees training. The Business Plan is required to be prepared by every business that handles hazardous materials (pursuant to HSC Section 25116) in quantities equal to or greater than 500 pounds, 55 gallons, or 200 cubic feet at standard temperature and pressure for a compressed gas.

Household. All the persons who occupy a *dwelling unit*; the occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who

share living arrangements, unless otherwise specified by state law.

Human-wildlife conflict. Refers to the many ways, perceived or real, in which humans and wild animals may compete for resources, such as food, water, and/or space. It may include instances of violent or deadly interactions between animals and humans. Such conflict may occur anywhere that human communities overlap with wild animal habitats, including in both urban and rural areas.

Hydrogeologic unit. Soil or rock unit or zone that has a distinct influence on the storage and/or movement of groundwater from its hydraulic properties.

Hydrologic unit. A drainage area boundary delineated by DWR as a hydrologic unit, subunit or subarea which may contain one or more *groundwater basins*.



Important Farmland. Land with soil recorded by the California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program as one of the following categories:

- **Farmland of Local Importance.** Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: a category that consists of local soils that are listed as Prime or Statewide Importance. This farmland is not irrigated and includes such dry land crops as beans or grain.
- **Farmland of Statewide Importance.** Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: a category that generally includes lands with a good combination of physical and chemical features for the production of agricultural crops. The criterion is basically like that of Prime Farmland but there is no minimum soil depth limitation and no permeability restriction. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

- **Prime Farmland.** Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: a category that has the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long-term agricultural production. This land has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields. Prime Farmland must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.
- **Unique Farmland.** Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: a category that consists of lesser quality soils used for the production of the state's leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated but may include non-irrigated orchards or vineyards as found in some climatic zones in California. Land must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

Indirect impacts. Shall have the same meaning as “indirect or secondary effects” as defined in the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15358, as may be amended, which states: Effects which are caused by the project and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect or secondary effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density, or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems.

Individual water system. A system which obtains water from an onsite water well or wells used to supply domestic water to no more than four (4) service connections and serves less than 25 individuals at least 60 days out of the year.

Initial Study Biological Assessment (ISBA). Also commonly known as a “biological resource assessment.” A comprehensive biological resource assessment prepared and conducted to County standards by a *qualified biologist* to identify, analyze, and mitigate a project's adverse impacts on biological resources.

J

K

L

Landscape connectivity. The physical arrangement of habitat within the landscape (e.g., trees, shrubs, habitat) that links separate biological populations and the degree to which it facilitates and/or impedes the response or movement of an organism to that arrangement of habitat and/or ecological processes.

Lead Agency. Defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15367, as may be amended, which states: The public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project. The Lead Agency will decide whether an EIR or ND will be required for the project and will cause the document to be prepared. Criteria for determining which agency will be the Lead Agency for a project are contained in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15051.

Littoral cell. A section of shoreline where the flow of sand begins at a major sediment source such as a river, and terminates at a major sediment sink, such as a submarine canyon.

Local Enforcement Agency. Refers to the Environmental Health Division of the Resource Management Agency of the County of Ventura. The Environmental Health Division is designated as the Local Enforcement Agency by the California Integrated Waste Management Board pursuant to Public Resources Code Division 30, Part 4, Chapter 2, Article 1. The Local Enforcement Agency is responsible for the enforcement of state statutes and

regulations relative to the storage, transfer, processing, handling and disposal of solid waste.

Locally important plant communities. Identified in the Ojai Valley Area Plan and includes the following plant communities: Southern Sycamore-Alder, Riparian Woodland, California Walnut Woodland, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, Oak Woodlands, and Coastal Sage-Scrub Community.

Locally important species. Species designated by the County of Ventura as locally important species are sensitive and/or unique to the County because they may occur in different microsite conditions than at the rest of their range, represent the limits of their natural range, are genetically distinct from the main population of the species, and/or they are differentiated from the main population due to other circumstances. Locally important species exclude species that are listed as, or are under consideration for designation as *endangered*, *rare*, or *threatened* at the state or federal level; and species that are listed as extinct, non-native, or endemic to the Channel Islands. The following criteria define a locally important species:

- a. Locally important plant species: Taxa that are declining throughout the extent of their range and have a maximum of five (5) or fewer presumed extant *element occurrences* in Ventura County.
- b. Locally important animal species: Taxa for which habitat in Ventura County is crucial for their existence either globally or in Ventura County. This includes:
 1. Taxa for which the population(s) in Ventura County represents 10 percent or more of the known extant global distribution; or
 2. Taxa for which there are five or fewer presumed extant *element occurrences*, or less than 1,000 individuals, or less than 2,000 acres of habitat that sustains populations in Ventura County; or
 3. Native taxa that are generally declining throughout their range or are in danger of extirpation in Ventura County.

Low vehicle miles traveled (VMT) area. A *Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ)* with the applicable development

VMT metric at least 15 percent below the regional (unincorporated area) average as modeled by the *Ventura County Transportation Model (VCTM)*.

Lower income. Income that is low income, very low income, extremely low income, or acutely low income, as defined in Government Code section 65582, as may be amended.

Luminance histogram. A method developed by Ball State University Professors Schiler, Japee and Culp. This determination consists of inputting a set of digital photographs from a subject glare source into a computer simulation program and generating a graph that identifies brightness levels of different sections of the scene, from darkest to brightest.

M

Maximum contaminant level (MCL). Defined in Health and Safety Code Section 116275(f), as may be amended, which states: The maximum permissible level of contaminant in water. Refer to the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 15 for MCL levels for drinking water standards.

Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e). Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: The unit “CO₂e” is the measure of how much heat trapping potential a given type of greenhouse gas has on average over a 100-year time period, based on its molecular structure compared to carbon dioxide (CO₂). CO₂ has a baseline of one, while other gases can be tens to thousands of times higher. The carbon dioxide equivalent for a gas is derived by multiplying the tons of the gas by the associated global warming potential. Carbon dioxide equivalents are commonly expressed as “metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents” (MTCO₂e).

Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs). Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) investigates and designates lands underlain by mineral resources as a Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) based on the known or inferred presence of mineral resources. The

MRZ consists of four categories: MRZ-1, *MRZ-2*, MRZ-3, and MRZ-4.

Mobile source. Sources of air pollution such as automobiles, motorcycles, trucks, off-road vehicles, boats, and airplanes.

Moderate income. The income for *households* exceeding the limit for *lower income households* and that does not exceed 120 percent of area median income, as set forth in Health and Safety Code section 50093. “Area median income” is the median family income of a geographic area of the state as reflected in the official State Income Limits published annually by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

MRZ-2. A *Mineral Resource Zone* category that consists of areas underlain by mineral deposits where geologic data show that significant measured or indicated resources are present (2a) or where such resources are inferred (2b).

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Permit. Permit setting forth *Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)* for Storm Water and Non-storm Water Discharges from the MS4 within Ventura County, and the incorporated cities therein, more specifically titled *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit* No. CAS004002, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) Order No. R4-2010-0108, or the then-current MS4 Permit, as amended.

N

Noise contours. Lines drawn, based on noise modeling or measurements, indicating equal levels of noise exposure for a known source of noise. In practice, noise contours are often shown as calculated for the dominant source of noise only.

Noise sensitive uses. Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: land uses where noise exposure could result in health-related risks to individuals, as well as places where quiet is an essential element of their intended purpose. These uses include residences; schools; nursing homes;

historic sites; cemeteries; parks, recreation, and open space areas; hospitals and care facilities; hotels and others short-term lodging (e.g., bed and breakfasts, motels); places of worship; and libraries.

Nonattainment area. Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: an area or air basin that does not meet California or National ambient air quality standards for a given *criteria pollutant*.

No net loss. A principle where if a development project cannot avoid the loss of a valued natural resource, the project mitigates the impacts by replacing the impacted habitat with a newly created or restored habitat of the same size and similar functional condition so that there is no loss of ecological functions and values of that habitat type for a defined area. Similar functional condition means the relative ability to support and maintain the same species composition, diversity, and functional organization as the impacted habitat.

Nonunique archaeological resource. Shall have the same meaning as used in and defined by CEQA Section 21083.2(h), as may be amended, which generally states: An archaeological artifact, object, or site which does not meet the criteria in PRC Section 21083.2(g). A nonunique archaeological resource need not be given further consideration, other than the simple recording of its existence by the *Lead Agency* if it so elects.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. - A water quality permit allowing a discrete discharge of water or wastes to “navigable waters”, or surface waters, of the United States, as established under the federal Clean Water Act’s NPDES and administered by the LARWQCB.

O

Onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS). Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: Includes individual disposal systems, community collection and disposal systems, and alternative collection and disposal systems that use a subsurface disposal method. OWTS do not include

“graywater” systems as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 17922.12(a).

Overdrafted basin. The condition of a *groundwater basin* in which the amount of water withdrawn by pumping exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin over a period of years during which water supply conditions approximate average conditions.

Oxides of Nitrogen (“NOx”). A general term pertaining to compound of nitric oxide (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and other oxides of nitrogen. Nitrogen oxides are typically created during combustion processes and are major contributors to smog formation and acid deposition. NO₂ is a criteria air pollutant and may result in numerous adverse health effects.

Ozone. A strong smelling, pale blue, reactive toxic chemical gas consisting of three oxygen atoms. It is a product of the photochemical process involving the sun’s energy and ozone precursors such as hydrocarbons and *oxides of nitrogen*. Ozone exists in the upper atmosphere ozone layer (stratospheric ozone) as well as at the Earth’s surface in the troposphere (ozone). Ozone in the troposphere causes numerous adverse health effects and is a criteria air pollutant. It is a major component of smog.

Ozone precursors. Chemicals such as non-methane hydrocarbons and *oxides of nitrogen*, occurring either naturally or as a result of human activities, which contribute to the formation of *ozone*, a major component of smog.

P

Paleontological importance. Reflects the potential productivity of a geologic formation and the importance of the particular *fossils* located in the formation.

Paleontological resources. Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: the fossilized remains of ancient plants and animals.

Particulate matter (PM). Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: Also known as

particle pollution, is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. Particle pollution is made up of a number of components, including acids (such as nitrates and sulfates), organic chemicals, metals, and soil or dust particles. Dust and other particulates exhibit a range of particle sizes. Particulate matter is measured by two sizes:

- **PM10.** Course particles, or particles between 2.5 and 10 micrometers in diameter.
- **PM2.5.** Fine particles (PM2.5), or particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter.

Public viewing location. Any physical area that is accessible to the public and from which a *scenic resource* is visible. Examples of *public viewing locations* include (but are not limited to) public roads, parks, trails, bike paths, lakes, and beaches.

Public water system. Defined in Health and Safety Code Section 116275(h), as may be amended, which states: A system for the provision of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves an average of at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days of the year and is permitted and regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water.

Q

Qualified biologist. Standards for a qualified biologist are established as part of the Ventura County Qualified Biologist Program administered by the Resource Management Agency Planning Division. The qualified biologist shall have the training and expertise in the taxonomic group or species on which field surveys are focused, as well as the County's data review procedures and survey methods recommended by natural resource agencies or commonly accepted standards in the taxonomic group, community, or species (e.g., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife survey protocols). Standards are established as part of the Ventura County Qualified Biologist Program administered by the Resource

Management Agency Planning Division. A Lead Agency may also establish its own additional minimum qualifications for biological consultants to identify qualified biologists for purposes of environmental review pursuant to CEQA.

R

Reactive organic compounds (ROC). Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: photochemically reactive and are composed of nonmethane hydrocarbons. These gases contribute to the formation of smog.

Regional landscape linkage. A large, regional area of land containing *habitat connectivity corridors* (not necessarily linear) between *core habitat areas* intended to support the long-term movement of multiple species and the essential flows of ecosystem processes across the landscape. The Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor (HCWC) overlay zone as defined in the Ventura County Non-Coastal Ordinance, as amended, represents a regional landscape linkage. The HCWC include the following regional landscape linkages: Santa Monica Mountains – Simi Hills; Santa Monica Mountains – Santa Susana Mountains; Simi Hills- Sierra Madre; Santa Clara River, Ventura River.

Regional Road Network. Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: the road system in Ventura County that consists of roads classified as Primary (6 lanes or more), Secondary (4 lanes) or Collector (2 lanes), as well as freeways, expressways and conventional State highways.

Regulatory Floodway. Also commonly referred to as a Floodway. Defined in the Ventura County Floodplain Management Ordinance, as amended, which states: the channel of a river or other watercourse and the *adjacent* land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot prior to encroachment into the floodplain.

Renewable energy. Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: a form of energy

derived from a natural resource that is not depleted by use and is available as natural flows of energy and materials in the environment, such as solar, wind, tide, waves, plant matter, geothermal, and by-products of human activities.

Resource Management Agency Geographic Information System Viewer (RMA GIS Viewer). The geographic information systems web application used by County of Ventura staff, which consists of various data depicted as map layers, some of which are not publicly available on *County View*.

Restricted material. Pesticides and materials listed in section 6400 of title 3 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), except for those designated and established as “exempt materials” under section 6402 of title 3 of the CCR.

Risk Management Plan. A document that describes a risk management program to proactively prevent and prepare for accidental releases. A Risk Management Plan is required of any facility which handles, manufactures, uses, or stores more than a threshold quantity of a regulated substance as listed in the California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 5, Chapter 2, Article 9.

S

Scenic vista. Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: a viewpoint that provides expansive views of a highly valued landscape for the benefit of the general public.

Sensitive biological resources. Biological resources including but not *necessarily* limited to: *sensitive plant communities*, *special-status species* and the habitats that support them, beaches, dunes, coastal bluffs, rocky outcrops, colonial roosting sites, fresh and salt *water and/or wetland* and their associated riparian and alluvial vegetation, native tree woodlands/savannahs, and *habitat connectivity corridors*.

Sensitive plant communities. Plant communities that are ranked as G1 or S1 (critically imperiled globally or statewide), G2 or S2, or G3 or S3 in the

California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and the Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program (VegCAMP), both of which are administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife; oak woodlands, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21083.4; *ESHA*; and *locally important plant communities*.

Sensitive receptors. Defined in the General Plan, as may be amended, which states: populations or uses that are more susceptible to the effects of air pollution than the general population, such as long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, retirement homes, convalescent homes, residences, schools, childcare centers, and playgrounds.

Shoreline protective device. A permanent or semi-permanent structure intended to reduce or prevent coastal erosion from wave action and other natural forces, including but not limited to seawalls, revetments, breakwaters, jetties, groins, bluff retaining walls, or other such engineered construction that alters shoreline processes.

Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Defined in the Ventura County Floodplain Management Ordinance, as amended, which states: an area in the floodplain subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. It is shown on the *Flood Insurance Rate Map* as Zone A, AO, A1-A30, AE, A99, AH, V1-V30, VE, or V.

Special-status species. Species listed as *locally important species*, *endangered*, *rare*, or *threatened species*, *candidate species*, *fully protected species*, and pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15380(d), all other species tracked by the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) which are considered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to be those species of greatest conservation concern. Plant species with a California Rare Plant Rank of 1, 2 or 4 are included in this definition, but plant species with a Rank of 3 are not included in this definition.

State small water system. Defined in Health and Safety Code Section 116275(n), as may be amended, which generally states: A system for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption that serves at least five, but not more than 14, service connections and does not regularly serve drinking

water to more than an average of 25 individuals daily for more than 60 days out of the year.

Stationary sources. A non-*mobile source* of air pollution such as a power plant, refinery, distribution center, chrome plating facility, dry cleaner, port, rail yard, or manufacturing facility. Stationary sources of air pollution generally require an VCAPCD Permit to Operate.

Stepping stones. A type of wildlife movement corridor which consists of a series of isolated patches of suitable habitat, often only for temporary occupancy, that relatively mobile organisms use to move in steps from one survival patch to another.

Substantial evidence. Defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15384, as may be amended, which states: Enough relevant information and reasonable inferences from this information that a fair argument can be made to support a conclusion, even though other conclusions might also be reached. Whether a fair argument can be made that the project may have a significant effect on the environment is to be determined by examining the whole record before the *Lead Agency*. Argument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment does not constitute substantial evidence.

T

Timberland. Land, other than land owned by the federal government and land designated by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as experimental *forest land*, which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of a commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees.

Toxic air contaminant (TAC). Air pollutants (excluding *ozone*, carbon monoxide, *PM10*, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide) that may reasonably be anticipated to cause cancer, developmental effects, reproductive dysfunctions, neurological disorders,

heritable gene mutations or other serious or irreversible acute or chronic health effects in humans. Toxic air pollutants are regulated under different federal and state regulatory processes than *ozone* and the other criteria air pollutants. Health effects from exposure to toxic air pollutants may occur at extremely low levels.

Traffic analysis zone (TAZ). Also commonly referred to as a transportation analysis zone. The unit of geography used in transportation planning models dividing a planning region into relatively similar areas of land use or land activity and constructed by census block information of socio-economic data.

Transit use. Transit use is a public transportation option that conveys passengers such as, but not limited to a bus, light rail system, or passenger train.

Traffic Impact Study. An engineering study which describes how a new development or redevelopment would affect the area's local and regional transportation system and identifies measures to mitigate impacts from the project.

Tribal cultural resources. Defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 21074, as may be amended, which generally states that tribal cultural resources are either of the following:

- a. Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
 1. Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources or in a local register of historic resources.
 2. Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k).
- b. A resource determined by the *Lead Agency*, in its discretion and supported by *substantial evidence*, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in PRC Section 5024.1(c). In applying the criteria set forth in PRC Section 5024.1(c) for the purposes of this paragraph, the *Lead Agency* shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

- c. A cultural landscape that meets the criteria of CEQA Section 21074(a) is a tribal cultural resource to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape.
- d. A historical resource described in PRC Section 21084.1, a *unique archaeological resource* as defined in PRC Section 21083.2(g), or a *nonunique archaeological resource* as defined in PRC Section 21083.2(h) may also be a tribal cultural resource if it conforms with the criteria of CEQA Section 21074(a).

Trustee Agency. Defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15386, as may be amended, which states: A State agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project which are held in trust for the people of the State of California. Trustee agencies include: the California Department of Fish and Wildlife with regard to the fish and wildlife of the State, to designated rare or endangered native plants, and to game refuges, ecological reserves, and other areas administered by the department; the State Lands Commission with regard to State owned “sovereign” lands such as the beds of navigable waters and State school lands; the State Department of Parks and Recreation with regard to units of the State Park System; and the University of California with regard to sites within the Natural Land and Water Reserves System.

U

Underground storage tanks. Any one or combination of tanks, including pipes connected thereto, which is used for the storage of hazardous substances as defined in the California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.7, and which is substantially or totally beneath the surface of the ground.

Unique archaeological resource. Identified as a recorded cultural resource by the South Central Coast Information Center with the trinomial naming convention CA-VEN-“NUMBER,” and which shall have the same meaning as used in and defined by Stated CEQA Guidelines Section 21083.2(g), as may

be amended, which generally states: An archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

- a. Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- b. Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
- c. Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

V

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT). As defined in Section 15064.3 of the State CEQA Guidelines, as may be amended, which states: The amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project.

Ventura County Transportation Model (VCTM). A county-wide model developed by the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) consistent with regional and subregional models, including the base year and forecast year land-use projections and transportation networks. The VCTM provides data for transportation impact assessments, *VMT* forecasts for CEQA analysis, and air quality GHG emissions applications.

Vibration sensitive uses. Defined in the Federal Transit Administration’s Transit Noise and Vibration Assessment Manual, as amended, as:

- **Vibration sensitive use category 1 (high sensitivity).** Buildings where vibration levels, including those below the threshold of human annoyance, would interfere with operations within the building. Examples include buildings where vibration sensitive research and manufacturing is conducted, including computer chip manufacturing, hospitals with

vibration sensitive equipment, and universities conducting physical research operations. The building's degree of sensitivity to vibration is dependent on the specific equipment that will be affected by the vibration. Equipment moderately sensitive to vibration, such as high-resolution lithographic equipment, optical microscopes which can be impacted at vibration levels below the threshold of human annoyance, and electron microscopes with vibration isolation systems are included in this category. For equipment that is more sensitive, a Detailed Vibration Analysis must be conducted.

- **Vibration sensitive use category 2 (residential).** All residential land uses and buildings where people normally sleep, such as hotels and hospitals. Transit-generated ground-borne vibration and noise from subways or surface running trains are considered to have a similar effect on receivers. Even in noisy urban areas, the bedrooms will often be in quiet buildings with effective noise insulation. However, ground-borne vibration and noise are experienced indoors, and building occupants have practically no means to reduce their exposure. Therefore, occupants in noisy urban areas are just as likely to be exposed to ground-borne vibration and noise as those in quiet suburban areas.
- **Vibration sensitive use category 3 (institutional).** Institutions and offices that have vibration-sensitive equipment and have the potential for activity interference such as schools, places of worship, medical offices. Commercial or industrial uses including office buildings are not included in this category unless there is vibration sensitive activity or equipment within the building. As with noise, the use of the building determines the vibration sensitivity.

Viewshed. The area that is visible from a *public viewing location*.

W

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). The requirements adopted by order of the regional boards that regulate discharges of waste to surface water and discharges of waste to land. All waste discharges, including discharges to surface water and groundwater, are subject to California Water Code Sections 13260 and 13263 and are issued Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). WDRs include individual WDRs, general WDRs, or waivers of WDRs. Examples of relevant WDRs include Conditional Waiver for Discharges from Irrigated Lands Order No. R4-2021-0045 or as amended, and Conditional Waiver for Discharges of Trash from Nonpoint Sources Order No. R4-2020-0112 or as amended. Typical discharge types include domestic or municipal wastewater, food processing related wastewater, and industrial wastewater.

Water Availability Letter (WAL). Defined in the Ventura County Waterworks Manual, as may be amended, which states: A letter from a *water purveyor* declaring that the purveyor's water system has the necessary water capacity available to supply the domestic and fireflow requirements for the project or service area identified in the letter. The Water Availability Letter must be approved by the County Public Works Agency and signed by a member of the purveyor's Board of Directors or General Manager as compliant with all required criteria outlined in the Ventura County Waterworks Manual.

Water purveyor. A public utility, a mutual water company, a governmental body, or other entity, owning and operating a water system and holding a legal permit to purvey water from the State Division of Drinking Water or Ventura County Environmental Health Division. In the case of a public utility, it must also hold a valid "certificate of convenience and necessity" from the California Public Utilities Commission.

Water quality-based effluent limitations. Any restriction imposed by the *MS4 Permit* on quantities, discharge rates, and concentrations of pollutants, which are discharged from point sources to a

waterbody necessary to achieve a specific water quality standard.

Water quality objectives. The allowable limits or levels of water quality *constituents* or characteristics which are established for the reasonable protection of beneficial uses of water or the prevention of nuisance within a specific area as outlined in the *Basin Plans*.

Water quality standards. Provisions of state, territorial, authorized tribal or federal law approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that describe the desired condition of a waterbody and the means by which that condition will be protected or achieved.

Waters and/or wetlands. For the purposes of impact assessment, waters and wetlands that meet the definition for waters, wetlands, non-wetland waters, streams, rivers, or streambeds used by one or more of the following agencies with jurisdiction over the resource: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act), the State and Regional Waterboards (section 401 of the and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act), CDFW (California Fish and Game Code, Section 1602), and the California Coastal Commission.

Williamson Act contract. Also commonly referred to as a Land Conservation Act Contract (LCA), Farmland Security Zone Area Contract (FSZA/LCA), or Open Space Contract (OS/LCA), which are intended to preserve agricultural or open space land and discourage its premature conversion to other uses.

Z

X

Y
