

COMPACT FOR A SUSTAINABLE VENTURA COUNTY

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

July 20, 2009

BACKGROUND

A partnership between Ventura County public agencies, residents, and civic groups, the *Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County* works to address issues of mutual concern. The Compact will envision a sustainable—*lasting*—future for Ventura County, building on its many assets and unique features, among them:

- A history of cooperation to address growth-related challenges
- a diverse population of optimistic residents;
- a vibrant agricultural base, and abundant forest and open space lands;
- great potential for economic growth;
- a desire to sustain the mutually beneficial relationships supported and enjoyed by residents and different sectors of the county and

PREAMBLE

Encouraged by our past success in working together on common issues, and desiring to forge a model for cooperative action toward a sustainable future, we, the Partners of the Ventura County Compact, agree to let the following mutually-developed Principles guide the development and updating of the Compact. These Guiding Principles are living and may be revised as necessary based on this and future countywide dialogues.¹

Vision

- We should have a living, countywide vision to help local governments make decisions that consider regional and long-term consequences.

Integrated Planning

- We will integrate our land use, housing, and transportation plans and processes.
- We will coordinate local plans with nearby cities and with county and regional planning efforts
- We seek to reduce our transportation needs through integrated planning.

Agriculture

- We should aim to grow enough food to meet our own needs by sustaining local agriculture.

¹The original impetus for the Guiding Principles is conceptual land use work accomplished by the Faulkner House Group between 2000-2006.

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Climate Change

- We will do our part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to help address climate change.

Economy

- We encourage creation of an economy that is broad based, competitive, and prosperous so that residents will have the opportunity to work and thrive within their own communities.

Energy

- We support the conservation of energy and the use of renewable energy as an alternative to fossil fuels.

Environment

- We will protect and improve the health of our natural environment.

Equity

- We will minimize disparities and improve the prosperity and quality of life for all segments of Ventura County's population.

Housing

- We will provide a range of housing choices to meet the needs of residents of all life stages and incomes.

Inclusion

- We will facilitate diverse participation, including people of color, youth, low-income people, and senior citizens that are historically underrepresented in the public planning process."

Managed Growth

- We will continue our legacy of locating urban development within incorporated cities.
- We will grow within our means.

Open Space

- We will protect our open spaces and encourage public access to them

Resources

- We will protect and sustain natural and non-renewable resources.

Transportation

- We will provide a variety of transportation choices to efficiently move people and goods.

Waste

- We encourage consumers and producers to reduce waste.

Water

- We will conserve our water resources and ensure an adequate water supply for the future.