

# Oil Policy Excerpts

## Ventura County General Plan

The General Plan, which is mandated by state law, sets forth the goals, policies and directions the County will take in managing its future. The General Plan is the embodiment of the citizen's vision for the future of unincorporated Ventura County.

Ventura County's General Plan includes the following documents:

- *Goals, Policies and Programs* containing four chapters: Resources, Hazards, Land Use, and Public Facilities and Services.
- Four appendices which contain background information and data in support of the *Goals, Policies and Programs* document:
  1. Resources
  2. Hazards
  3. Land Use
  4. Public Facilities and Services
- Several Area Plans which contain specific goals, policies and programs for specific geographical areas of the County.

**The excerpts below from the General Plan *Goals, Policies and Programs* document directly relate to oil and gas development.**

### 1. Resources

- 1.3 Water Resources
  - 1.3.2 Policies
- 1.4 Mineral Resources
  - 1.4.1 Goals
  - 1.4.2 Policies

### 2. Hazards

- 2.1 General Goals, Policies and Programs
  - 2.1.3 Programs
- 2.7 Subsidence
  - 2.7.2 Policies
- 2.14 Fire Hazards
  - 2.14.3 Programs
- 2.15 Hazardous Materials and Waste
  - 2.15.3 Programs

### 4. Public Facilities and Services

- 4.7 Law Enforcement and Emergency Services
  - 4.7.3 Programs

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## 1. Resources

### 1.3 Water Resources

#### 1.3.2 Policies

8. All **discretionary development** shall be conditioned for the proper drilling and construction of new oil, gas and water wells and destruction of all abandoned wells on-site.

### 1.4 Mineral Resources

#### 1.4.1 Goals

1. Manage mineral resources in a manner which effectively plans for the access to, development and conservation of mineral resources for existing and future generations.
2. Identify and manage mineral resources in order to:
  - o Safeguard future access to the resource.
  - o Facilitate a long-term supply of mineral resources within the County.
  - o Minimize incompatibility between the extraction and production of the resource and neighboring land uses and the environment.
  - o Provide notice to landowners and the general public of the presence of significant mineral resource deposits.
3. Promote the utilization of mineral resources located close to urbanized areas before their extraction is precluded by urbanization.
4. Ensure that all mineral extractions are conducted in a manner which protects the environment and the public's health, safety and welfare.

#### 1.4.2 Policies

1. Applications for **mineral resource development** shall be reviewed to assure minimal disturbance to the environment and to assure that lands are reclaimed for appropriate uses which provide for and protect the public health, safety and welfare.
4. Petroleum exploration and production shall comply with the requirements of the County Zoning Ordinance and standard conditions, and State laws and guidelines relating to oil and gas exploration and production.
5. As existing petroleum permits are modified, they shall be conditioned so that production will be subject to appropriate environmental and jurisdictional review.
6. All General Plan amendments, zone changes, and discretionary developments shall be evaluated for their individual and cumulative impacts on access to and extraction of recognized mineral resources, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

#### 1.4.3 Programs

1. As new information regarding mineral resources is received from authoritative sources, the Planning Division will update the Mineral Resources Section of the County General Plan, where appropriate.
2. The Planning Division will continue to check for the existence of abandoned oil and gas wells on parcels of land before **development** occurs, with the highest priority being in those areas where there are existing or historic oil fields.
3. The Planning Division will continue the Oil Enforcement Program to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance and conditions of **discretionary permits**.

4. The Planning Division will prepare, and update as necessary, maps and other data indicating oil and gas reserves and production areas.

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## **2. Hazards**

### **2.1 General Goals, Policies and Programs**

#### **2.1.3 Programs**

4. The County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Services will continue to maintain and periodically update the Ventura County Multihazard Functional Plan including mitigation measures and preparedness, response, and recovery strategies for the following ten hazard specific contingency sections (i.e. plans):
  - o "Major Earthquake"
  - o "Major Hazardous Material Incident"
  - o "Flood Hazard"
  - o "Dam Failure"
  - o "Nuclear Defense Emergencies" (Nuclear Attack Threat Assessment)
  - o "Wildland Fire"
  - o "Major Transportation Accidents"
  - o "Landslide"
  - o "Tsunami" (and Seiche)
  - o "Off Shore Oil Incidents"

### **2.7 Subsidence**

#### **2.7.2 Policies**

1. Potential **subsidence** shall be evaluated prior to approval of new oil or gas well drilling permits.

### **2.14 Fire Hazards**

#### **2.14.3 Programs**

2. The Fire Protection District will continue to enforce regulations for clearance of vegetation around oil production facilities.

### **2.15 Hazardous Materials and Waste**

#### **2.15.3 Programs**

10. The County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Services, will coordinate with local, state and federal agencies regarding off shore oil incidents and annually update the County Multihazard Functional Plan's Off Shore Oil Incidents Contingency section.

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## **4. Public Facilities and Services**

## **4.7 Law Enforcement and Emergency Services**

### **4.7.3 Programs**

2. The County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Services will maintain and periodically update the Ventura County Multihazard Functional Plan including mitigation measures, preparedness, response, and recovery for the following ten hazard specific contingency sections (i.e. plans):
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  - o "Off Shore Oil Incidents"