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## 5. Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element

This element provides the framework for decisions in Ventura County concerning public and private infrastructure, utilities, and services. Existing and planned development in the county is dependent on a complicated network of public facilities and services. At the same time, infrastructure and services to residents and businesses in Ventura County are provided by a range of public and private institutions, and organizations. Each type of facility and service has a unique set of challenges and must adapt to growth and change differently. The County is responsible for providing and maintaining certain facilities and services necessary to maintain safe communities and to support the existing and future development described in the Land Use and Community Character Element.

The goals, policies, and programs in this element support the provision and maintenance of infrastructure, facilities, and services in appropriate areas of the unincorporated county and provide for their timely expansion, if required to maintain adequate services. The goals and policies indicate where those facilities and services will be most beneficial to meet the needs of county communities, residents, and businesses. The element also includes policies, in coordination with the Health and Safety Element, for the provision of facilities and services to ensure the safety and welfare of residents and visitors and the protection of property and with the Water Element for water supply and delivery.

Goals, policies, and implementation programs in this element are organized under the following headings:

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Goals, policies, and implementation programs concerning water are in Chapter 9, Water Resources Element.

### 5.1 Public Facilities and Services

The County is responsible for providing many public facilities and services, including a number that are essential to protection of public health and safety. It is vital to the provision of those facilities and services that the County secure funding for new services and maintenance of existing facilities. The County must ensure that adequate funding and resources are available to provide necessary public facilities and services to meet the needs of existing and future residents and businesses. The County must be responsive to meeting service needs, while also ensuring that new facilities are strategically located to maximize use and efficiency.

This section is intended to guide the overall provision of public facilities and services in the unincorporated area, ensuring that sufficient capacity exists to meet demand, funding exists for construction and maintenance, and collaboration occurs among partners to enhance efficiency.

#### PFS-1

To equitably provide residents and businesses with quality, cost-effective, and accessible facilities and services.

##### PFS-1.1



##### **Equitable Provision of Public Facilities and Services**

The County shall require that facilities and services that are essential for public health and safety shall be equitably provided for all residents and businesses. (SO)

##### PFS-1.2



##### **Resilient Facilities and Services**

The County shall monitor the projected impacts of climate change and natural disasters to make adaptive improvements and upgrades to public facilities and services. (SO)

##### PFS-1.3



##### **Location of New Essential Public Facilities**

The County shall review plans for constructing new essential public facilities, such as hospitals, health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency command centers, or emergency communications facilities, so that these facilities are located outside of at-risk areas whenever feasible. If such a location is infeasible, then the County shall require the use of construction methods and site design features to minimize potential damage to these facilities. (RDR, SO)



Information on hazards in the county are in Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element.

##### PFS-1.4



##### **Collaboration on Infrastructure and Public Service Deficiencies**

The County shall collaborate with the cities in Ventura County, neighboring jurisdictions, special districts, and regional agencies to address issues of mutual interest and concern, including infrastructure and public service deficiencies, particularly in designated disadvantaged communities. (IGC)

- PFS-1.5**      **Infrastructure Expansion Coordination with Naval Base Ventura County**  
The County shall coordinate with Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) when planning for infrastructure expansions, improvements, and maintenance that may impact any NBVC facility or operation. (IGC)
- PFS-1.6**      **Capital Improvements Prioritizations**  
**EJ**      The County shall prioritize non-emergency capital improvement projects that provide the greatest benefit to county residents, including repairing or replacing inadequate facilities; updating or upgrading aging facilities and structures that exceed their planned lifecycles; protecting sensitive resources; and addressing deficiencies in designated disadvantaged communities. (IGC)
- PFS-1.7**      **Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Availability**  
**EJ**      The County shall only approve discretionary development in locations where adequate public facilities, services, and infrastructure are available and functional, under physical construction, or will be available prior to occupancy. (RDR)
- PFS-1.8**      **Annexation Priority**  
Within a city's Sphere of Influence, annexation to that city is preferable to formation of new or expansion of existing County Service Areas. (RDR)
- PFS-1.9**      **Requirements Inside City Spheres of Influence**  
County shall only approve a discretionary development within a city's Sphere of Influence if the required public facilities and infrastructure meets or exceeds those required by the associated city. (RDR)
- PFS-1.10**      **Efficient County Operation and Maintenance**  
**CAP**      The County shall operate and maintain County facilities in an efficient manner that meets community needs while conserving financial and natural resources. (SO)

## 5.2 Energy Efficiency for County Operations

The County is dedicated to investing in renewable energy to promote efficiency and economic vitality and to minimize impacts on the environment. Energy infrastructure that is resilient to changing climate conditions is essential for public safety and overall quality of life for future generations. This section focuses on becoming a leader in energy efficiency through new projects and enhancements to County operations.

### PFS-2

To be a regional leader in energy efficiency.

- PFS-2.1**      **Sustainable Plans and Operations**  
**CAP**      The County shall encourage energy efficiency, greenhouse gas reduction features, and resiliency planning into County facility and service plans and operations. (MPSP, SO)
- PFS-2.2**      **Sustainable Community Facility Design**  
**HC CAP**      The County shall encourage the incorporation of sustainable design features in community facilities to reduce energy demand and environmental impacts, such as solar reflective roofing, permeable pavement, and incorporation of shade trees. (SO, IGC)

- PFS-2.3** **Energy Efficient Facility Construction, Purchases, Leases, Retrofits, and Expansions**  
**CAP** The County shall prioritize energy efficiency and water conservation as key design features when constructing, purchasing, leasing, retrofitting or expanding County facilities. (SO)
- PFS-2.4** **Recycling Receptacles and Biodegradable/Recycled-Materials Products**  
**HC CAP** The County shall provide recycling and composting receptacles and use of biodegradable or recycled-material products at County facilities and events, where feasible. (SO)
- PFS-2.5** **County Employee Trip Reduction**  
**CAP** The County shall encourage its employees to reduce the number and distance of single-occupancy vehicle work trips. (SO)
- PFS-2.6** **County Alternative Fuel Vehicle Purchases**  
**CAP** The County shall review market-available technologies for alternative fuel vehicles and prioritize purchase of vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions where economically feasible. (SO)
- PFS-2.7** **Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse Coordination**  
When processing commercial renewable energy development applications, the County shall comply with Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse requirements and standards published in Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 211. (RDR)
- PFS-2.8** **Electric Vehicle Charging Station Infrastructure**  
**CAP** The County shall include electrical vehicle charging station infrastructure in new County-initiated facility construction to the extent feasible. The County shall also look for opportunities to install EV charging stations as part of any major renovation, retrofit or expansion of County facilities. (SO)



*This goal addresses energy efficiency for County facilities. For other development, refer to policies in Section 6.7, Energy Resource Conservation.*

### 5.3 Infrastructure Funding

Implementing the County's vision for effective infrastructure requires funding. The County can most quickly and efficiently complete infrastructure projects if there is ample and predictable funding. This section focuses on securing funding for infrastructure through a range of mechanisms including new project fees, assessments, and grants.

#### PFS-3

To secure ample and predictable funding to maintain and upgrade infrastructure.

##### PFS-3.1

##### **Funding Mechanisms**

The County shall pursue and maximize the use of a wide range of funding mechanisms for capital improvements, maintenance, and operations of infrastructure. This shall include use of federal, state, regional, local, and private resources, including development impact fees, assessment districts, and grant funding. (RDR, FB)

##### PFS-3.2

##### **Fair Share of Improvement Costs**

The County shall require development to pay its fair share of community improvement costs through impact fees, assessment districts, and other mechanisms. (RDR)

##### PFS-3.3

##### **Grant Funding Cooperation**

The County shall coordinate with special districts and other agencies, as appropriate, when applying for state and federal funding for public infrastructure, water and wastewater treatment and distribution needs. (FB, IGC)

## 5.4 Wastewater Treatment and Disposal

Wastewater collection, treatment, reclamation, and disposal is provided by 16 agencies, districts, and other service providers in the unincorporated area. The focus of this section is to address wastewater treatment and disposal requirements, treated water quality, and alternative treatment methods to ensure wastewater is treated to an acceptable level and safely disposed.

### PFS-4

To ensure the adequate provision of individual and public wastewater collection, treatment, reclamation, and disposal operations and facilities to meet the county's current and future needs in a manner that will protect the natural environment as well as public health, safety, and welfare.

#### PFS-4.1 Wastewater Connections Requirement

The County shall require development to connect to an existing wastewater collection and treatment facility if such facilities are available to serve the development. An onsite wastewater treatment system shall only be approved in areas where connection to a wastewater collection and treatment facility is deemed unavailable. (RDR)

#### PFS-4.2 Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

The County may allow the use of onsite wastewater treatment systems that meet the state Water Resources Control Board Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Policy, Ventura County Sewer Policy, Ventura County Building Code, and other applicable County standards and requirements. (RDR)

#### PFS-4.3 Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Failure Repair

The County shall require landowners to repair or replace failing septic tanks, disposal area, and package systems that constitute a threat to water quality and public health. (SO)

#### PFS-4.4 Groundwater Resource Protection

CAP

The County shall encourage wastewater treatment facilities to provide the maximum feasible protection and enhancement of groundwater resources. (SO, IGC)

#### PFS-4.5 Onsite Water Reuse

The County shall encourage on-site water reuse for landscape irrigation and groundwater recharge consistent with health standards, to reduce demand for potable water, and increase drought and disaster resiliency. (SO, RDR)

#### PFS-4.6 Reclaimed Water

CAP

The County shall encourage public wastewater system operators to upgrade existing wastewater treatment systems to reclaim water suitable for reuse for landscaping, irrigation, and groundwater recharge. (SO, IGC)

#### PFS-4.7 Design to Minimize Inflow/Infiltration

The County shall require that new wastewater lateral and trunk collection lines be designed to allow the minimum feasible amount of inflow and infiltration into the wastewater collection system. (RDR)



### 5.5 Solid and Hazardous Waste

The County manages the collection and disposal of solid and hazardous waste in the unincorporated area. The County is focused on reducing waste, preventing pollution, and promoting sustainable management of waste materials. The County must also comply with the California Integrated Waste Management Act. The County maintains a Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP), which provides an assessment of the County's goals and objectives, issues and problems identified in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county, summary of waste management programs and infrastructure, existing and proposed solid waste infrastructure, and description of the steps that the County will take to achieve the outlined goals. This section focuses on the collection and disposal of solid and hazardous waste in the unincorporated area.

#### PFS-5

To maximize recycling, reuse, and composting of solid waste and ensure the safe handling and disposal of the remaining solid and hazardous waste

##### PFS-5.1

EJ

##### **Solid Waste Facility Location**

The County shall require new landfills and other solid waste processing and disposal facilities (including facilities for composting, green waste, food waste) to be sited in areas that do not pose health and safety risks to residents and groundwater resources. The County shall require such facilities to be located based on objective criteria that do not disproportionately impact designated disadvantaged communities. (RDR)

##### PFS-5.2

##### **Land Use Compatibility with Solid Waste Facilities**

The County shall review and condition discretionary development near landfills and other solid waste processing and disposal facilities (including facilities for composting, green waste, food waste) to avoid incompatible development and future nuisance complaints from encroachment by incompatible land uses. (RDR)

##### PFS-5.3

##### **Solid Waste Capacity**

The County shall require evidence that adequate capacity exists within the solid waste system for the processing, recycling, transmission, and disposal of solid waste prior to approving discretionary development. (RDR)

##### PFS-5.4

HC CAP

##### **Food Waste Reduction**

The County shall continue to provide educational and informational materials to restaurants, grocery stores, and other food providers, as part of food facility inspections, to support donation of safe, unused food to non-profit service agencies. (SO)

##### PFS-5.5

CAP

##### **Agricultural Waste Reuse**

The County shall support the beneficial reuse of agricultural wastes for activities such as composting and energy generation. (RDR, SO)

##### PFS-5.6

HC CAP

##### **Value-Added Alternatives to Waste Disposal**

The County shall promote value-added alternatives to solid waste management, such as compost, energy, biochar, and wood products to avoid open burning of agricultural biomass wastes. (SO, PI)

- PFS-5.7      Discretionary Development Siting and the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan**  
The County shall require that discretionary development adjacent to existing and proposed waste treatment, transfer, and disposal sites, as identified in the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan, shall not conflict with the current and anticipated future use of these waste facilities. (RDR)
- PFS-5.8      Waste Treatment and Disposal Operations**  
The County shall require sites used for waste treatment and disposal operations to be restored to a use compatible with surrounding uses upon conclusion of the operation. (RDR)
- PFS-5.9      Waste Reduction Practices for Discretionary Development**  
The County shall encourage applicants for discretionary development to employ practices that reduce the quantities of wastes generated and engage in recycling activities to further reduce the volume of waste disposed of in landfills. (RDR, SO)

## 5.6      Flood Control and Drainage Facilities

The primary stormwater drainage watercourses in Ventura County are the Ventura River, the Santa Clara River, and Calleguas Creek, all of which traverse the southern and most populated areas of the county. Coastal watercourses drain stormwater from cities of Ventura, Oxnard, and Port Hueneme, as well as the County's unincorporated coastal areas. Watercourses in the northern part of Ventura County travel through the largely unpopulated and mountainous areas of the Los Padres National Forest. Each of these watercourses are subject to periodic flooding.



*A goal and associated policies and implementation programs addressing flood hazards are in Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element.*

- PFS-6**      To provide adequate surface drainage and flood control facilities to protect public health and safety.
- PFS-6.1      Flood Control and Drainage Facilities Required for Discretionary Development**  
The County shall require discretionary development to provide flood control and drainage facilities, as deemed necessary by the County Public Works Agency and Watershed Protection District. The County shall also require discretionary development to fund improvements to existing flood control facilities necessitated by or required by the development. (RDR)
- PFS-6.2      Multi-Purpose Flood Control Projects**  
The County shall encourage the integration of design features into flood control projects, when feasible: to address resource conservation and restoration and preservation of natural riparian habitats, to provide groundwater recharge, to enhance water quality, to protect scenic vistas, and to incorporate recreational areas or opportunities. (RDR, SO)

- PFS-6.3** **Climate Change Impacts on Flood Control and Drainage Facilities - Capacity**  
CAP The County shall monitor projected climate change impacts, and coordinate with local, regional, state, and federal agencies to identify existing and potential projected impacts and develop strategies to maintain and improve flood control facilities accordingly. (SO, IGC)
- PFS-6.4** **Climate Change Impacts on Flood Control and Drainage Facilities - Retention**  
CAP The County shall coordinate with local, regional, state, and federal agencies to identify existing and potential infrastructure improvements to increase water retention to respond to drought conditions. (SO, IGC)
- PFS-6.5** **Stormwater Drainage Facilities**  
The County shall require that stormwater drainage facilities are properly designed, sited, constructed, and maintained to efficiently capture and convey runoff for flood protection and groundwater recharge. (RDR)
- PFS-6.6** **Natural Drainage Courses**  
The County shall retain drainage courses in their natural state to the extent feasible. (SO)
- PFS-6.7** **Flood Control and Beach Sand Nourishment**  
The County shall include beach sand nourishment as an important factor in the design and maintenance of flood control facilities. (SO)

## 5.7 Public Utilities

Public utility service providers are central to supporting residents and businesses and increasing capacity for the county's economic base. Utility infrastructure typically includes facilities that provide energy (e.g., electricity and natural gas) and communication services to residential, commercial, and institutional users. Electricity in Ventura County is primarily supplied by the Southern California Edison Company, while the Southern California Gas Company provides natural gas service. This section focuses on the provision of sufficient public utilities and methods for enhancing service into the future.

**PFS-7**

To promote the efficient distribution of public utility facilities and transmission lines to ensure that public utilities are adequate to service existing and projected land uses and are sited and constructed to avoid hazards and land use incompatibility.

- PFS-7.1** **Accessible Public Utilities**  
The County shall work with utility companies and service providers to ensure that gas, electric, broadband, cellular mobile communications, cable television, and telephone utility transmission lines are located appropriately to provide for adequate services throughout the unincorporated area. (JP)
- PFS-7.2** **Reduce Transmission Facility Fire Hazard Risk**  
CAP The County shall work with utility companies to modernize and upgrade transmission lines and associated equipment to reduce the risk of fire in areas with a high wildfire hazard risk. (JP)



*Additional goals, policies, and implementation programs on fire hazards are in Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element.*

### **PFS-7.3**

#### **Transmission Line Visual Impacts**

The County shall work with utility companies to ensure that new gas, electric, cellular mobile communications, cable television, and telephone utility transmission lines use or parallel existing utility rights-of-way, where feasible. When existing right-of-way cannot be used, the County should encourage utility companies to design and locate transmission lines to avoid scenic areas and viewsheds, and to site in a manner that minimizes impacts on community character, the natural environment, and existing development. (JP)

### **PFS-7.4**

#### **Discretionary Development Utility Service Line Placement**

The County shall require discretionary development to place new utility service lines underground if feasible. If undergrounding is determined by the County to be infeasible, then new utility service lines shall be placed in parallel to existing utility rights-of-way, if they exist, or sited to minimize their visual impact. (RDR)

### **PFS-7.5**

**EJ**

#### **Broadband Service Access**

The County shall encourage broadband service providers to expand service areas and provide high quality access to broadband (high-speed internet) and cellular mobile communications services to residents and businesses, including unserved and underserved areas. (JP)

### **PFS-7.6**

**CAP**

#### **Smart Grid Development**

The County shall work with utility providers to implement smart grid technologies as part of new developments and infrastructure projects. (JP)

### **PFS-7.7**

**EJ**

#### **Community Microgrids**

The County shall collaborate with renewable energy developers, community choice aggregation programs, and local serving entities to develop solar generation plus energy storage at critical facilities and community microgrids for resilience during power outages with a priority in designated disadvantaged communities. (JP)

### **PFS-7.8**

#### **Minimized Disruption of Natural Vegetation**

The County shall encourage location and construction of all transmission lines in a manner which minimizes disruption of natural vegetation and agricultural activities and avoids unnecessary grading of slopes when not in conflict with the rules and regulations of the California Public Utilities Commission. (JP)



### 5.8 Community Facilities

Community facilities enhance the quality of life of county residents and promote economic vitality, social opportunities, and community health and safety. This section focuses on the provision of community facilities to support educational, community and social engagement.

#### PFS-8

To promote public community facilities and services to provide robust educational, community and social engagement.

##### PFS-8.1



##### **Collaboration on Maintenance of Community Facilities**

The County shall work with cities, non-profit organizations, schools, and other community service providers to maintain and support public and private community facilities that are located throughout the county. (IGC)

##### PFS-8.2



##### **Community Facility Co-Location**

The County shall promote the co-location and integration of parks, schools, civic facilities, health service providers, and other community-oriented facilities to support community cohesion and leverage limited resources. (IGC)

##### PFS-8.3



##### **Community Facility Design to Promote Health**

The County shall encourage the integration of design features in community facilities that promote healthy activities, such as designing staircases to be visually prominent and attractive, providing secure bicycle parking, and providing connections to trails and outdoor activities. (SO, IGC)

##### PFS-8.4

##### **Joint Use Facilities for Community Activities**

The County shall work with school districts to provide joint use of County and school facilities. (IGC)

## 5.9 Library Facilities and Services

The Ventura County Library System (VCLS) is a County agency that consists of 12 library branches, a Mobile Library, an administration office facility, and a Virtual Library or e-Library that can be accessed 24/7 online. The VCLS provides services to all County residents, serving both the unincorporated area and cities (or areas within cities), which are neither served by a city library nor within the boundaries of an independent library district. The VCLS offers free access to books, audiobooks, magazines, comic books, music, and movies for checkout and in streaming or electronic format. The VCLS also has the Mobile Library, which the first mobile service in California dating back to 1924. This is a key service for underserved areas where many people have little or no library service.

### PFS-9

To provide individuals free access to library collections, resources, and services to help them be successful in their educational and work goals, and to serve as a social and cultural hub where community members can engage and collaborate to improve their overall quality of life.

#### PFS-9.1



##### Library Programs, Services, and Resources

The County shall continue to provide access to library facilities and services throughout the county. Library programs, services, and resources shall be periodically evaluated to identify opportunities to expand vocational training, literacy, life skills, lifelong learning, health, and wellness programs. (SO)

#### PFS-9.2



##### Location of New Libraries

The County shall consider the following factors when selecting new library locations:

- Ease of access from major vehicular and pedestrian traffic routes;
- Feasibility for ensuring adequate, well-lit, and secure automobile and bicycle parking;
- Walking distance to residential neighborhoods, senior housing, and schools;
- Proximity to businesses and community-serving organizations; and
- Unique community demographics that may impact access to or use of the facility and services.

(SO)

#### PFS-9.3



##### Modern Library Facilities

The County shall ensure that library facilities are designed and renovated to best meet community needs, such as collaborative and flexible work spaces, sufficient public meeting room spaces, computers and other technological tools. (SO)

#### PFS-9.4



##### Innovative Library Services

The County shall explore new and expansive approaches to providing and expanding access to library facilities and services, including use of satellite sites, virtual and online services, and self-services. (SO)

#### PFS-9.5



##### Library Facilities as Part of Affordable Housing Projects

The County shall consider opportunities to partner with affordable housing developers to leverage development or renovation of community library facilities as part of the housing development strategy. (IGC, JP, FB)

### 5.10 Parks and Recreational Facilities

The County owns and manages a wide variety of parks, open spaces, golf courses, and trails. Many recreation opportunities also exist in the unincorporated area, including mountain hiking trails, bicycle paths, beach parks, golf courses, camp sites, equestrian facilities, access to the off-shore Channel Islands, and lakes. This section addresses open space for outdoor recreation, such as parks, areas of scenic and cultural value, trails, and other links between open spaces. In Ventura County, a large portion of federal and state open space lands are accessible to the public and provide several recreational resources such as beaches, trails, playgrounds, scenic vistas, and campgrounds. Public open spaces that provide recreation resources are important for maintaining a high quality of life in the county. The County parks system financially operates as an enterprise fund whereby operations and maintenance costs and expenses are offset through user fees.

#### PFS-10

To develop and maintain a comprehensive system of parklands and recreational facilities that meet the active and passive recreational needs of residents and visitors, as funding is available.

##### PFS-10.1

HC

##### Trail Network

The County shall encourage the establishment of a countywide network of trails to meet the needs of equestrians, bicyclists, hikers, and other trail user groups. (SO)

##### PFS-10.2

EJ HC

##### Recreational Use of Public Facilities

The County shall make public facilities, such as flood control channels and easements, available for recreational use, if feasible, safe, and appropriate for the site's primary function. (SO)

##### PFS-10.3

HC

##### Amenities at Public Parks and Recreational Facilities

The County shall provide a full range of amenities at public parks and recreational facilities including playgrounds, restrooms, drinking fountains, trees and landscaping, outdoor furniture, trash cans, and lighting, to the maximum extent feasible. (SO)

##### PFS-10.4

EJ HC

##### New Park and Recreational Facility Locations and Park Accessibility

Parks and recreational facilities shall be located and designed to be accessible and inclusive for all users, to the maximum extent feasible. (RDR, SO)

##### PFS-10.5

HC

##### Parkland Dedication Requirement

The County shall require discretionary development to provide new trails and/or parkland dedication, or equivalent in-lieu fees, based on a standard of five acres of local parkland per thousand population in accordance with the Quimby Act (Gov. Code, § 66477) and County Quimby Ordinance (contained in Ventura County Subdivision Ordinance). Any lands dedicated to meeting this requirement shall be accessible to the general public. (SO, RDR)

##### PFS-10.6

HC

##### Additional Lands for Recreational Use

As part of subdivision development, the County shall encourage developers to set aside unused open space for active and passive recreational uses. (RDR)

##### PFS-10.7

HC

##### Parkland Development, Operation, and Maintenance

The County shall require discretionary projects to provide funding for development, operation, and maintenance of park facilities appropriate to serve the needs of the project. (SO, RDR)

### PFS-10.8

HC

#### **Discretionary Development near Trails**

The County shall require discretionary development near existing trails to mitigate or avoid adverse impacts to the existing trail system. Where appropriate, a condition of approval or other means of permanent dedicated trail access shall be provided. (RDR)

### PFS-10.9

HC

#### **Partnerships for Recreational Programming**

The County shall develop partnerships with, and encourage efforts by, service clubs, civic groups, and individuals wishing to provide recreational programs in the county. (SO, IGC)

## 5.11 Law Enforcement and Emergency Services

This section focuses on law enforcement facilities and services in Ventura County. The Sheriff's Office has been responsible for the security and safety of county residents and their property since 1873. The Sheriff's Office oversees the county jail system and the investigation of all criminal activities occurring in the unincorporated area. A fundamental aspect of the county's quality of life is the public perception of safety, and county residents identified their sense of safety as a top asset of the county.

It is also critical for the County to vigilantly maintain adequate emergency preparedness. This refers to the coordinated efforts by the County and other agencies to prevent, prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate natural and humanmade disasters and emergencies. The Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services is responsible for countywide all hazards disaster preparedness, planning, response, and recovery.



*Additional goals, policies, and implementation programs on disaster preparedness are found in Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element.*

### PFS-11

To protect the public through effective law enforcement, disaster preparedness, and emergency services.

#### PFS-11.1

HC

##### **Emergency Response**

The County shall maintain adequate staffing, equipment, and facilities to provide timely and effective responses to emergencies. (FB, SO)

#### PFS-11.2

##### **Mutual Training and Aid Agreements**

The County shall work with other public agencies and organizations to develop, maintain, and enhance mutual training and aid agreements to efficiently prevent and respond to regional emergencies. (SO, IGC)

#### PFS-11.3

##### **Emergency Services Accessibility**

The County shall work with cities, local and regional agencies, and organizations to identify and remove impediments to emergency services accessibility, particularly for residents facing systemic barriers, such as a disability, limited mobility, language barrier, or limited telecommunications. (IGC, SO)



### **PFS-11.4      Emergency Vehicles Access**

The County shall require all discretionary development to provide, and existing development to maintain, adequate access for emergency vehicles, including two points of access for subdivisions and multifamily developments. (RDR)

### **PFS-11.5      Individual Readiness Educational Programs**

The County shall support educational programs that empower individuals to prepare for self-sufficiency in emergencies through an understanding of risk reduction, and emergency response protocols and procedures. (PI)

### **PFS-11.6      Emergency Notifications**

The County shall work with the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services to provide effective and timely emergency notifications to the public in the event of an emergency or disaster. (SO, PI)

### **PFS-11.7      Social Support Networks**

**EJ**

The County shall support efforts to cultivate social support networks to improve community preparedness, response, and recovery from hazards and disasters to minimize injury and loss of life. (SO, PI)

### **PFS-11.8      Avoidance of Surveillance Interference**

The County shall condition discretionary development to avoid landscaping which interferes with police surveillance (e.g., landscaping must not cover any exterior door or window, landscaping at entrances and exits or at any parking lot intersection must not block or screen the view of a seated driver from another moving vehicle or pedestrian, trees must not be placed underneath any overhead light fixture which would cause a loss of light at ground level). (RDR)

# 5.12 Fire Protection

This section focuses on fire protection services in the county. The Ventura County Fire Protection District (VCFPD or Fire Protection District) was established in 1928. VCFPD provides a wide range of programs and services designed to protect lives and property in Ventura County from the adverse effects of fires, sudden medical emergencies, exposure to hazardous materials, and other emergency situations. These programs and services include fire protection planning, fire prevention education, fire law and code enforcement, fire suppression and recovery, first responder level emergency medical services, and assistance and support for other non-fire emergencies such as floods, earthquakes, and similar disasters. Superior fire protection services are essential for protecting life and property in the county.



*Goals, policies, and implementation programs concerning fire hazards can be found in Chapter 7, Hazards and Safety Element.*

## PFS-12

To protect life and property through the efficient provision of fire prevention, suppression, and rescue services and facilities.

### PFS-12.1

#### Collaboration Among Partners

The County shall encourage the Fire Protection District to continue to develop relationships with local, state, and federal agencies and non-profit organizations to collaboratively inform and prepare citizens for wildland fires. (IGC, PI)

### PFS-12.2

EJ

#### Fire Station Locations

The County shall work with the Fire Protection District to site fire stations in locations central to the area served and on or near arterial highways to minimize call response time. (IGC)

### PFS-12.3

#### Adequate Water Supply, Access, and Response Times for Firefighting Purposes

The County shall prohibit discretionary development in areas that lack and cannot provide adequate water supplies, access, and response times for firefighting purposes. (RDR)

### PFS-12.4

EJ

CAP

#### Consistent Fire Protection Standards for New Development

The County, in coordination with local water agencies and the Fire Protection District, shall require new discretionary development to comply with applicable standards for fire flows and fire protection. (RDR, IGC)






### PFS-12.5





#### Training for Emergency Response Personnel

All County Fire Protection District and Sheriff's Department personnel shall be given initial training in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations for the position they hold. On-going training shall be provided to maintain all required certifications and to maintain appropriate proficiency in their position.

The County highly encourages additional training and education to further enhance the capabilities of Fire Protection District and Sheriff's Department personnel. In addition, all County Disaster Service Workers (DSWs) shall be trained in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the Incident Command System (IGC).

### 5.13 Implementation Programs

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>PFS-A</b>	<b>Infrastructure Improvements and Funding</b> The County shall prepare, adopt, and periodically update capital improvement programs for all County-owned and operated facilities and services to maintain adequate levels of service and consistency with the General Plan. 	PFS-1.1 PFS-1.2 PFS-1.3 PFS-1.4 PFS-1.5 PFS-1.6 PFS-3.1 PFS-3.3	CEO <hr/> PWA GSA					
<b>PFS-B</b>	<b>Accessibility in General Services Agency Maintained County Owned and Leased Buildings</b> The County shall continue the ongoing facilities program to inventory County owned and leased buildings for compliance with State and Federal Handicapped Accessibility laws, including the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as required by HUD for Block Grant Funds.	PFS-1.1 PFS-1.10	GSA <hr/> n/a					
<b>PFS-C</b>	<b>Sea Level Rise Impacts Monitoring</b> The County shall conduct, and periodically update, Climate Change Impacts Monitoring reports to map locations of communication, energy, public service, transportation facilities, and infrastructure that are vulnerable to rising sea levels and coastal flooding. 	PFS-1.2	CEO <hr/> RMA GSA PWA					

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>PFS-D</b>	<b>Sea Level Rise Adaptation Response</b> Based on findings from the Climate Change Impacts Monitoring reports, in cases where existing County facilities are found to be vulnerable to sea-level rise or coastal flooding, the County shall identify funding and create an action plan to protect, accommodate, or manage the retreat of County facilities to areas of higher elevation or reduced flood exposure. For facilities operated by other entities, the County shall work with these entities to create an action plan to protect, accommodate, or manage the retreat of their facilities to areas of higher elevation or reduced flood exposure. 	PFS-1.2	CEO					
			RMA GSA PWA					
<b>PFS-E</b>	<b>County Purchasing Policy</b> The County shall prioritize the procurement of products made from recycled materials (e.g., office products and equipment, recycled asphalt use in roads and bike paths) and for reusing or sharing equipment/resources, when feasible. 	PFS-2.1 PFS-2.4	GSA					
			PWA					



## 5. Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>PFS-F</b>	<b>Trip Reduction for County Staff</b> The County shall provide support for the following trip-reduction methods for County staff members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ carpooling/vanpooling,</li> <li>■ active transportation options (e.g., pedestrian or biking),</li> <li>■ use of electric or alternative energy vehicles, and</li> <li>■ public transit use.</li> </ul> These will be accomplished through incentives, such as dedicated parking areas, electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at County facilities, carpool/vanpool coordination, and flexible work shifts. <b>CAP</b>	PFS-2.5 PFS-2.8	CEO CEO-HR GSA					■
<b>PFS-G</b>	<b>Local Agency Management Program</b> The County shall review and update the Local Agency Management Program plan every five years consistent with the State Water Resources Control Board Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy. <b>CAP</b>	PFS-4.1 PFS-4.2 PFS-4.3 PFS-4.4	PWA RMA n/a	■	■	■		■
<b>PFS-H</b>	<b>Ventura County Sewer Policy</b> The County shall maintain a policy regarding the requirements and exemptions related to the connection to a wastewater treatment system.	PFS-4.1	RMA n/a					■

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>PFS-I</b>	<b>Onsite Wastewater System for Commercial and Industrial Uses</b> Discretionary development for commercial or industrial facilities served by onsite wastewater treatment facilities shall be conditioned to grant an access easement to the applicable County Service Area. In addition, regular testing and monitoring of onsite wastewater treatment system shall be performed to the satisfaction of the County's Environmental Health Division.	PFS-4.2	RMA					■
			n/a					
<b>PFS-J</b>	<b>Public Education of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Care</b> The County shall promote and support programs to educate homeowners on the care and maintenance of private onsite wastewater treatment systems and environmental implications of improper maintenance. CAP	PFS-4.2 PFS-4.3 PFS-4.4	RMA					■
			PWA					
<b>PFS-K</b>	<b>Coordination on Large Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Repairs</b> The County shall coordinate with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to address compliance and repair issues for large onsite wastewater treatment systems (over 5,000 gallons) and package treatment systems. CAP	PFS-4.2 PFS-4.3 PFS-4.4	RMA					■
			n/a					
<b>PFS-L</b>	<b>Solid Waste Reduction</b> The County shall continue to support and promote programs focused on solid waste prevention, reduction, recycling, and composting efforts, including food waste reduction in cases where consumable food can be redistributed rather than disposed. HC CAP	PFS-5.4	PWA					■
			RMA					



## 5. Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>PFS-M</b>	<b>Joint Use Facilities</b> The County General Services Agency will work with the cities, local civic groups, and public and private school districts throughout the county to establish cooperative agreements for use of each other's facilities to provide parks and recreational opportunities for all residents of Ventura County.	PFS-8.4	GSA					■
			n/a					
<b>PFS-N</b>	<b>Open Space Zone for Parks and Recreation</b> The County shall process an amendment to the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance to create a new Open Space-Parks and Recreation zone to help preserve parks and recreational uses by limiting the uses allowed within the new zone. If the new Open Space-Parks and Recreation zone is adopted, the County will coordinate with the cities, other agencies, land conservancies, and private property owners throughout the unincorporated county that are interested in voluntarily rezoning their lands to the new zone.  <b>HC</b>	PFS-10.1 PFS-10.4 PFS-10.6 PFS-10.7	RMA	■				
			GSA					
<b>PFS-O</b>	<b>Crime Prevention Programs</b> The County shall continue to support efforts to organize neighborhood, rural, and industrial crime prevention programs.	PFS-11.1	VCISO					■
			n/a					
<b>PFS-P</b>	<b>Adequate Fire Flow – Water Districts/Companies Capabilities</b> The County shall work with mutual water districts/companies to identify and address the capabilities of each entity to provide adequate fire flows to address existing and potential development (including the anticipated growth of accessory dwelling units), within their service areas.	PFS-12.3	FD					■
			PWA					

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>PFS-Q</b>	<b>Adequate Fire Flow – New Development</b> The County shall continue to review all new development to ensure that an adequate level of water for fire flow and fire protection can be provided.	PFS-12.4	FD					
			RMA					
<b>PFS-R</b>	<b>Biogas Control Systems</b> The County shall review and update regulations to allow the development of appropriate biogas facilities near the source of organic waste materials and develop a program to coordinate public-private local investment in biogas control systems to encourage their development.  CAP	PFS-5.5 PFS-5.6	AWM					
			CEO					
<b>PFS-S</b>	<b>Organic Waste Recycling at County Facilities and Events</b> The County shall evaluate the feasibility of establishing organic waste recycling programs at County facilities and County-sponsored events.  CAP	PFS-2.4	GSA					
			PWA					
<b>PFS-T</b>	<b>Development and Inclusion of Los Padres National Forest and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Trails and Map</b> The County shall prepare a map of public trails within and into the Los Padres National Forest and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, including those that cross private lands for inclusion in Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element.	PFS-10.1 PFS-10.6 PFS-10.8	RMA					
			n/a					



## 5. Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2030	2031 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
			Supporting Department(s)					
<b>PFS-U</b>	<b>Review Future Projects for Incorporation of Law Enforcement Security Measures</b> Future discretionary projects shall be reviewed by the County Sheriff's Department to determine whether the project includes adequate security measures and access so as not to exacerbate the need for new law enforcement/emergency services. Security measures considered adequate include but are not limited to: nighttime security lighting; cameras; alarms; fencing; window and door locks; private security patrols or special event security assistance; treatment of vulnerable surfaces with community supported murals (e.g. endorsed via petition by neighbors), anti-graffiti coating, or landscaping; removal of graffiti within a specified time period and/or other design measure to create defensible space. 	PFS-11.1	SO					
			RMA					

*Please see the next page.*