

1.7.2 Policies

1. Notwithstanding Policy 1.7.2-2, *discretionary development* which would significantly degrade visual resources or significantly alter or obscure public views of visual resources shall be prohibited unless no feasible mitigation measures are available and the decision-making body determines there are overriding considerations.
2. *Scenic Resource Areas*, which are depicted on the Resource Protection Map ([Figure 1](#)), shall be subject to the Scenic Resource Protection (SRP) Overlay Zone provisions and standards set forth in the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance, which include the following:
 - (1) Any request for grading, structures or vegetation removal per the standards of the SRP Overlay Zone shall be evaluated through a discretionary permit.
 - (2) Removal, damaging or destruction of protected trees shall be in compliance with the County's "Tree Protection Regulations" of the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance.
 - (3) All *discretionary development* shall be sited and designed to:
 - a. Prevent significant degradation of the scenic view or vista;
 - b. Minimize alteration of the natural topography, physical features and vegetation;
 - c. Utilize native plants indigenous to the area for re-vegetation, whenever possible;
 - d. Avoid silhouetting of structures on ridge tops that are within public view.
 - e. Use colors and materials that are designed to blend in with the natural surroundings.
 - f. Minimize lighting that causes glare, illuminates adjacent properties, or is directed skyward in rural areas
 - (4) No on-site freestanding advertising signs in excess of four feet in height and no freestanding off-site advertising signs shall be permitted.

Federally-owned land is not subject to the Scenic Resource Protection Overlay Zone and is not subject to any permit requirements as specified under (1) or (2) above. To the extent possible, the agencies responsible for the administration of land use activities on Federally owned land should consider Policies 1.7.2-2(3) and (4) above in the planning and administration of new land uses within Scenic Resource Areas.

3. Proposed undergrounding of overhead utilities within *Scenic Resource Areas* shall be given first priority by the Public Works Agency in utilizing the County's allocation of Utility Undergrounding Funds.
4. The Planning Division shall continue to implement the landscaping requirements of the Zoning Ordinance and the "Guide to Landscape Plans" to enhance the appearance of *discretionary development*.

1.7.3 Programs

1. The Planning Division, in coordination with appropriate State and local agencies, will inventory and take steps to preserve and maintain unique natural features, and other scenic resources. These areas could be included in future *Scenic Resource Areas* for consideration by the Board of Supervisors to be incorporated into the Resource Protection Map.
2. The Planning Division will continue to seek official State Scenic Highway designations for County designated Scenic Highways.

1.8 Paleontological and Cultural Resources

Paleontological resources are the fossilized remains of ancient plants and animals.

A wide variety of *paleontological resources* exist in both the North and South halves of the County. The diverse geology of the Transverse Ranges encompasses many different kinds of fossil organisms. These fossil remains provide a record of lifeforms over millions of years, as well as having potential economic value.

The term *cultural resources* is most frequently identified with prehistoric (archaeological) or historic material items. These include prehistoric and historic districts, sites, structures, artifacts and other evidence of human use considered to be of importance to a culture, subculture, or a community for traditional, religious, scientific or other reasons. *Cultural resources* in Ventura County include: prehistoric aboriginal Indian sites, historic areas of occupation and activity, or features of the natural environment. *Cultural resources* also include less tangible, nonmaterial resources. These may include cognitive systems (including meanings and values attached to items of material culture, biota, and the physical environment), religion and world views, traditional or customary behavior patterns, kinship and social organization, folklore, and so on.

Archaeological resources refer to the material remains (artifacts, structures, refuse, etc.) produced purposely or accidentally by human beings. The scientific study of these remains can result in the identification of activities, types of adaptation to the environment, and changes in activities and organization that were experienced by groups of people in the past. Furthermore, these remains often have special significance to Native Americans, ethnic groups, special interest groups (i.e., avocational archaeologists), and the general public.

Archaeological sites exist throughout the County, particularly adjacent to existing and previously existing natural water and food sources. Many sites have been located, and according to existing data, many potential sites remain undiscovered.

In the North Half there are 106 *cultural resource* sites which are recorded with Ventura County numbers in the official clearinghouse (at the University of California - Los Angeles). The Forest Service has surveyed and recorded an additional 71 sites and the Bureau of Land Management surveyed the Hungry Valley area and recorded 57 for a total of 234 known sites as of 1987. Two archaeological sites in the North Half are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and are characterized by a variety of remains including shells and shark's teeth.

Several Chumash villages in the North Half contain caves with elaborate artwork. A preliminary list of special management properties compiled by the Forest Service in the Los Padres National Forest (as of March, 1985) included both Mount Pinos and Frazier Mountain as sites of value to the practice of Indian religion. These sites are considered by many Native Americans to be the center of the Chumash world. Sespe Hot Springs and Nordhoff Peak are also significant religious sites.

In the South Half there are three archaeological sites on the National Register: Burro Flats Painted Cave, Calleguas Creek Archaeological Site and a lithic scatter (the remnants of stone implement fabrication) in Senior Canyon. In addition, many other significant sites are located in the South Half, including many large villages located near the coast and along major waterways.

Historical resources refer to the material and nonmaterial expressions of human adaptations which characterized the post-contact or historic period. These resources include historic event or activity sites, historic archaeological sites, standing architecture and other significant properties, and documents and other sources of historical information, objects of material culture, and, secondarily, the more nonmaterial cultural qualities such as folklore, social organization, and value systems which are associated with these properties.

The Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board recommends *cultural, archaeological* and *historical resources* for designation as County Historical Landmarks. The 42 landmark categories range from adobes to wharf sites. There are 156 sites designated Countywide. In the North Half, four sites are so designated. Sites in the South Half include homes, oil industry workings, ranches, groves of trees, cemeteries, portions of the Mission Aqueduct, and others. The list is quite diverse and properties are regularly considered for addition to the Landmarks list by the Cultural Heritage Board.

There are 16 historic sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Thirteen of these are also designated as County Landmarks and five of the 13 are California Historical Landmarks.

The goals, policies and programs which apply to *paleontological* and *cultural resources* are as follows:

1.8.1 Goals

1. Identify, inventory, preserve and protect the *paleontological* and *cultural resources* of Ventura County (including *archaeological, historical* and Native American resources) for their scientific, educational and cultural value.

2. Enhance cooperation with cities, special districts, other appropriate organizations, and private landowners in acknowledging and preserving the County's *paleontological* and *cultural resources*.

1.8.2 Policies

1. *Discretionary developments* shall be assessed for potential *paleontological* and *cultural resource* impacts, except when exempt from such requirements by CEQA. Such assessments shall be incorporated into a Countywide paleontological and cultural resource data base.
2. *Discretionary development* shall be designed or re-designed to avoid potential impacts to significant *paleontological* or *cultural resources* whenever possible. Unavoidable impacts, whenever possible, shall be reduced to a less than significant level and/or shall be mitigated by extracting maximum recoverable data. Determinations of impacts, significance and mitigation shall be made by qualified archaeological (in consultation with recognized local Native American groups), historical or paleontological consultants, depending on the type of resource in question.
3. Mitigation of significant impacts on *cultural* or *paleontological resources* shall follow the Guidelines of the State Office of Historic Preservation, the State Native American Heritage Commission, and shall be performed in consultation with professionals in their respective areas of expertise
4. Confidentiality regarding locations of archaeological sites throughout the County shall be maintained in order to preserve and protect these resources from vandalism and the unauthorized removal of artifacts.
5. During environmental review of *discretionary development* the reviewing agency shall be responsible for identifying sites having potential archaeological, architectural or historical significance and this information shall be provided to the County Cultural Heritage Board for evaluation.
6. The Building and Safety Division shall utilize the State Historic Building Code for preserving historic sites in the County.

1.8.3 Programs

1. The County Cultural Heritage Board will continue to assist the County of Ventura in identifying and preserving significant County architectural and historical landmarks.
2. The Planning Division will continue to compile and retain a list of qualified archaeological, historical, and paleontological consultants to provide additional information to complete Initial Studies and Environmental Analyses
3. The General Services Agency will continue to develop a *cultural resources* program at Oakbrook Park emphasizing Chumash history and heritage.

1.9 Energy Resources

Energy is an equally essential resource to the modern day world as are land, air, and water resources. It is required for all human activity and provides the power necessary to operate and maintain our way of life.

Ventura County relies primarily on an interrelated energy system. Electricity and natural gas are the primary forms of household energy while petroleum is the primary energy source for most modes of transportation. The utilization of each of these energy sources raises energy resource availability, environmental and conservation issues.

Considerable energy can be saved in new and existing buildings through efficient design, more efficient appliances, and the use of *renewable energy* resources. Buildings use 40% of the nation's energy. Much of this energy can be saved by fitting existing buildings with energy conservation systems and utilization of *renewable energy* such as solar energy. Other *renewable energy* resources include: hydroelectricity, biomass (organic matter), wind and cogeneration. The sun is the most