

# THOMAS FIRE BORDERLINE

8  
STRONG  
5

HILL FIRE

WOOLSEY  
FIRE

COUNTY  
*of*  
VENTURA



2018  
**STATE**  
OF THE  
**COUNTY**

# County of Ventura Board of Supervisors & CEO



## **DISTRICT 1**

### **Supervisor Steve Bennett**

800 S. Victoria Avenue • Ventura, CA 93009  
805-654-2703 • Fax: 805-654-2226 • Email: [Steve.Bennett@ventura.org](mailto:Steve.Bennett@ventura.org)  
Serving: San Buenaventura, Montalvo, Saticoy, Ojai Valley, City of Ojai, Upper Ojai Valley, Riverpark, Northwest Oxnard, and North Coast.



## **DISTRICT 2**

### **Supervisor Linda Parks • 2016 Board Chair**

625 West Hillcrest Drive • Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
805-214-2510 • Toll Free: 800-660-5474  
Email: [Linda.Parks@ventura.org](mailto:Linda.Parks@ventura.org)  
Serving: Thousand Oaks, Newbury Park, Westlake Village, Oak Park, Bell Canyon, Hidden Valley, Lake Sherwood, Somis, Las Posas Valley, California State University Channel Islands, Portions of the Oxnard Plain, Santa Rosa Valley, Naval Base Ventura County Point Mugu, California Air National Guard, and South Coast.



## **DISTRICT 3**

### **Supervisor Kelly Long**

1203 Flynn Road, Ste. 220 • Camarillo, CA 93012  
805-654-2276 • Fax: 805-654-2226  
Email: [Kelly.Long@ventura.org](mailto:Kelly.Long@ventura.org)  
Serving: Camarillo, Port Hueneme, Southeast Oxnard, East Oxnard Plain, Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru, East Lockwood Valley, and Eastern Portion of Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme.



## **DISTRICT 4**

### **Supervisor Bob Huber**

(2019–2022)  
980 Enchanted Way #203 • Simi Valley, CA 93065  
805-955-2300 • Email: [Bob.Huber@ventura.org](mailto:Bob.Huber@ventura.org)  
[www.Ventura.org/Huber](http://www.Ventura.org/Huber)  
Serving: Simi Valley, Moorpark, Santa Susana Knolls, Box Canyon, Chatsworth Peak, Home Acres, Sinaloa Lake, and Tierra Rejada Valley.



### **Peter C. Foy • 2018 Board Chair**



## **DISTRICT 5**

### **Supervisor John Zaragoza • 2017 Board Chair**

800 S. Victoria Avenue • Ventura, CA 93009  
805-654-2613 • Email: [John.Zaragoza@ventura.org](mailto:John.Zaragoza@ventura.org)  
Serving: Oxnard, Oxnard Shores, Mandalay Bay, Silver Strand, Hollywood Beach, Hollywood By-the-Sea, Channel Islands Harbor, El Rio, Nyeland Acres, Del Norte Area, Oxnard College, Oxnard Plain, Strickland and portion of Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme.



## **COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

### **Mike Powers**

Hall of Administration • 800 S. Victoria Avenue • Ventura, CA 93009  
805-654-2613 • Email: [CountyExecutiveOfficer@ventura.org](mailto:CountyExecutiveOfficer@ventura.org)  
Responsible for overseeing almost 9,000 employees in 25 agencies and departments and overseeing or supporting all major County functions including budget, finance, legislation, human resources, labor relations, economic development and information technology.

**2018** was a year that has tested our resources, resolve and resiliency.

It began with the Thomas Fire, the largest wildfire in California state history at the time, and ended with the Woolsey Fire.

The Thomas Fire burned 281,000 acres – more than 400 square miles – and damaged more than 1,000 structures, 770 of them homes. The Woolsey Fire consumed 96,949 acres and destroyed another 185 Ventura County homes.

In between the fires, the County suffered the tragic loss of colleagues and friends, including Sheriff's Sergeant Ron Helus. Sergeant Helus died in the line of duty during the mass shooting at the Borderline Bar and Grill as he confronted the gunman. His heroic act helped save many lives.

But despite the tragedies that defined 2018 for the County, the challenges illuminated the strength and power of County government as it responded to the needs of its citizens. The emergency response by our firefighters, law enforcement personnel, animal services and medical teams was enormous and, in many cases, heroic. And, both during the fires and after them, every County agency and department stepped in to assist people who had been affected by the disasters. You will find a summary of the County's recovery efforts later in this report.

While the fires and recovery efforts demanded a great deal of our attention in 2018, your County government was still hard at work in other areas. We passed a structurally balanced \$2.24 billion budget that maintains our services at current levels, including the services we have increased over the last four years.

#### **During 2018 we:**

- Implemented the Farmworker Resource Program, the first program of its kind in California.
- Integrated the Santa Paula Fire Department into the Fire Protection District.
- Increased funding to Animal Services for staffing and maintaining the shelter's No Kill status.
- Engaged a consultant to help identify process improvements at the Ventura County Medical Center.
- Approved "Growing Works," a unique program that trains people with mental illness for jobs in the nursery industry.
- Began work on the 60-bed medical and mental health unit at Todd Road Jail.

We also focused on economic vitality, energy and water, and projects with our libraries, homelessness issues, juvenile justice and the update for our General Plan. You'll read about these and many more activities elsewhere in this report.

2018 started and ended with fire, but the challenges clearly demonstrated the County's strength, compassion and expertise. Ventura County is recovering from disaster and growing stronger every day. Thanks to inspired direction from the Board of Supervisors, a strong leadership team, hard work by County managers and employees, and a unified commitment to improvement, the state of the County is strong.

#### **Mike Powers**

*County of Ventura • County Executive Officer*



# Awards & Recognition

## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

The Ventura County Board of Supervisors started their first meeting of 2019 with a ceremonial **swearing-in ceremony of officials** elected in 2018. The oath of office was administered by Mark Lunn, County Clerk-recorder and Registrar of Voters. Taking the oath were Supervisors Linda Parks and Robert O. Huber; Assessor Dan Goodwin; Auditor-Controller Jeffery S. Burgh; District Attorney Gregory D. Totten; Sheriff Bill Ayub; Treasurer-Tax Collector Judge Steven Hintz; and Stan Mantooth, County Superintendent of Schools.

## **HEALTH CARE AGENCY**

The **American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program** recognized the Ventura County Medical Center as one of 83 participating hospitals that have achieved meritorious outcomes for surgical patient care in 2017. As a participant in the program, VCMC is required to track the outcomes of inpatient and outpatient surgical procedures and collect data that assesses patient safety and can be used to direct improvement in the quality of surgical care.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

For the fourth consecutive year, the County of Ventura has been named as a **TOP DIGITAL COUNTY** by the **Center for Digital Government** and the **National Association of Counties**. The Digital Counties Survey identifies the best technology practices among U.S. counties, including initiatives that save tax dollars through efficiency, boost transparency, cybersecurity and engagement; or innovate through unique and exciting projects. The County finished in fourth place on the survey this year.

## **PROBATION AGENCY**

The youth and staff of the Ventura County Juvenile Facilities Landscaping Program triumphed at this year's Ventura County Fair. Their entry received **First Place** and **Best of Division** and, they also outcompeted all the other landscape contestants – amateur and professional – and won **Best Construction** and **Best Original Design**. The exhibit was titled, *"The Magic of a Small Seaside Garden,"* and is designed to showcase some of the many projects and programs offered at the Juvenile Facilities.

## **COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

The County's **Service Excellence Program** has been honored for its work in the development and implementation of a streamlined permitting process and the creation of a Permit Navigator position to support businesses and individuals going through the permitting process. The Ventura County Economic Development Association presented its first *"From Red Tape to Red Carpet Award"* to the County Executive Office. Deputy Executive Officer Paul Stamper and Continuous Process Improvement Manager Rachel Linares accepted the award at the association's 48th Annual Business Outlook Conference on October 5. VCEDA intends to present the award annually.



# County Workforce

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The respect the County's hardworking deputies and police officers have earned was evidenced by the thousands of people lining the streets, stopping on the freeway and saluting from the overpasses on November 8 along the entire route of **Sergeant Ron Helus'** procession from Thousand Oaks to Ventura. Sergeant Helus responded to a call of shots fired at the Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks. There was an active shooter incident in progress during the bar's "College Night" and he and a CHP officer made entry to save lives. Sergeant Helus was struck by gunfire and later died at the hospital. Twelve people, including Sergeant Helus, were killed. The gunman took his own life.

## ALL COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

The **Service Excellence Program** has trained a total of 4,776 employees during its ten years of operation. Of this total, 387 have been trained at the "Green Belt" level to oversee process improvement efforts. Collectively, County employees have completed over 1,168 improvement events saving the County an estimated \$34.9 million.

## COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

The County of Ventura is a learning organization and has introduced a new county benefit for employees. The County's commitment to learning has increased by giving each employee a **LinkedIn Learning** account, formerly known as Lynda.com. The County believes there is a positive impact on employees, their teams and their departments, when they are able to gain knowledge and grow their skills.

The Human Resources Department launched a **mentor program** to help develop professional staff in order to maximize their success in their current and future roles. It matches management and senior management with effective county leaders for a series of one-on-one meetings.

# Appointments & Promotions



**Mike Pettit**  
Assistant County  
Executive Officer



**Brian Ganley**  
Information  
Technology  
Services Director



**Ed Williams**  
Agricultural  
Commissioner



**Sevet Johnson**  
Behavioral Health  
Director



**Kaye Mand**  
County Chief  
Financial Officer



**Rosa Gonzalez**  
Chief Deputy  
Clerk of the Board



**Mark Sandoval**  
Harbor Director



**Bill Foley**  
Health Care  
Agency Director



**Natalie Hernández**  
Assistant County  
Public Information  
Officer





# Good Government, Financial Stability

## COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER AND REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

**Elections Division** flawlessly handled a record turnout for the 2018 mid-term elections. More than 70 percent of registered voters participated in the election, the second-highest rate since the 1982 gubernatorial election.

## ASSESSOR – AUDITOR-CONTROLLER – TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR

The offices of the Treasurer-Tax Collector, Assessor and Auditor-Controller developed a plan to streamline the application process for **property tax relief** due to damage caused by wildfires. Tax relief will be available for any type of property that is assessed by the County, including but not limited to, homes, commercial and industrial buildings, and mobile homes.

## HARBOR DEPARTMENT

A recent economic impact study has shown businesses and tenants at the **Channel Islands Harbor** in 2016 contributed \$159 million in economic impact on the Ventura County economy and more than 900 jobs. The report, presented to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors in 2018, quantified the economic benefits generated by businesses at the Channel Islands Harbor including jobs, earnings, sales, and taxes.

## COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE/HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

The Ventura County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the **Farmworker Resource Program**, the first program of its kind in California. The program was developed by an eight-member advisory committee, facilitated by the County Executive Office, that included members appointed by the Ventura County Farm Bureau and the Mixteco Indigena Community Organization Project. The committee held 14 organizing meetings with Spanish and Mixteco interpreters available, to allow for public participation and comment in the development of the program. It will also monitor and evaluate the program as it moves forward.

## GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY

The Board of Supervisors approved a plan for **County Parks** to shift from a first-come, first-served policy to a reservations-only policy for its three beach parks (Faria, Hobson and Rincon) beginning November 1, 2018. This decision was driven by multiple factors, primarily customer feedback – that is, the high number of public complaints the Parks Department receives about the existing system. In addition, trends in technology have changed the way in which the public conducts business transactions, making this the appropriate time to implement this change.

## PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY

Public Works launched “**VCPWA Connect!**”, a system for mobile devices and computers that provides two-way communication between the agency and Ventura County residents to better address requests for services.



# Community Well-Being



## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (HCA)**

The Ventura County Board of Supervisors approved supporting a novel job training program. The program has created a non-profit drought-tolerant plant nursery called **“Growing Works”** that will act as a training ground and jobs program for people with mental health challenges. The combination of horticultural therapy, which provides a healing environment, along with job training and jobs, has been shown to be an effective form of treatment towards recovery and independence.

## **HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

Reforms of the **Continuum of Care Child Welfare System** resulted in a 38 percent reduction of foster youth residing in shelter or group home environments. Overall, in 2018 there was a 13 percent decrease in the number of children in care and 60 percent of the children were placed with relatives.

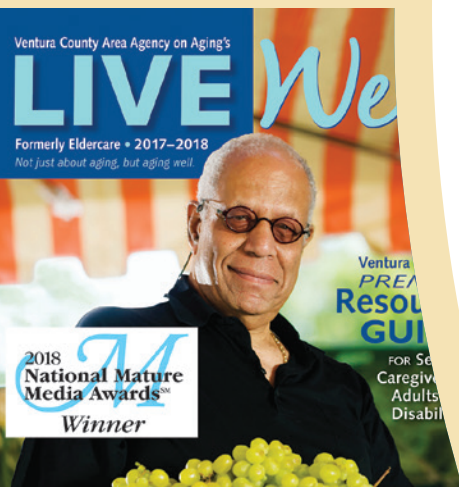


## **DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Department of Child Support Services serves the community by establishing paternity, establishing and modifying court orders for child support, and collecting child support. In 2018, DCSS established parentage for **590 children**, distributed **\$57,386,508 of financial support** for the families served and responded to **404,143 calls** on behalf of multiple counties throughout California.

## **AREA AGENCY ON AGING**

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging’s **LIVEWell resource guide** earned recognition from the 27th annual National Mature Media Awards, which honors the nation’s best marketing, communications, educational materials, and programs produced for older adults. LIVEWell was established in 2017 to serve as the premiere resource guide for the more than 175,000 Ventura County residents 60 and over, individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers.



## **HOMELESSNESS PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT**

The **Ventura County Continuum of Care** homeless services system served 2,335 unduplicated persons in 2018 with services ranging from street outreach and supportive services to emergency shelter and permanent housing. 624 persons were assisted with connections to permanent housing during the calendar year. Referrals to programs and services are made through **“Pathways to Home”** the local coordinated entry system where 26 agencies work collaboratively to connect individuals and families to resources as quickly as possible. Nearly 1500 referrals to various programs and services were made in 2018 with 65% of referrals made to **Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Programs (HPRP)**.



The Ventura County Continuum of Care partners and stakeholders worked collaboratively to develop and finalize the **“Ventura County Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness”** which was adopted by the Continuum of Care Board. In addition, a Facebook page was launched to engage the community and provide information about homelessness and available services.



## Community Well-Being continued

### VENTURA COUNTY LIBRARY

**Hill Road Library**, the long-awaited east Ventura library, rose to become the second-busiest library in the County's 12-library system in just its first year of operation. A special system allowed the library to provide additional, unstaffed hours to complement its regular hours, increasing the Hill Road Library's hours of operation by 30 percent.

### AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

The pest prevention staff inspected and issued certification facilitating the shipment of 21,121 loads of **Ventura County-grown agricultural products** worth hundreds of millions of dollars to locations all over the world. The staff also inspected 2,416 shipments of agricultural products received in the county for invasive pests and diseases.

## Environment, Land Use & Infrastructure

### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY – PLANNING

The County is working on a comprehensive update to its General Plan for the first time in almost 30 years. The update process is open and accessible to anyone who wants to be involved and share ideas. The **General Plan Update** will help shape the next 20 years of Ventura County's growth and change and address issues such as enhanced public services, infrastructure, development and water quality.

### PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY – WATERSHED

The Public Works Agency has been nationally recognized for a **program that is using raptors (birds of prey)** instead of poison to control rodents along portions of the County's 40 miles of earthen levees. The County discovered hawks and owls reduced the damage from ground squirrels by 50 percent compared to the use of poison.

### AIRPORT DEPARTMENT

**Camarillo and Oxnard Airports** had 243,373 combined annual operations and transported over 70 tons of cargo in 2018. The Camarillo business park occupancy increased by 22 percent, bringing 11 new commercial tenants that occupy approximately 20,000 square feet. New hangars and taxiway improvements are scheduled for 2019. Camarillo Airport was used as a community resource by Cal Fire and other responding agencies as a base camp for the Woolsey and Hill fires.



# Public Safety



## THE BORDERLINE SHOOTING

On November 7, 2018, a lone gunman entered the Borderline Bar and Grill in Newbury Park and began shooting. About 200 people were estimated to be in the bar at the time. The shooter set off smoke bombs to cause confusion and then began firing indiscriminately into the crowd. He fired about 50 rounds, killing 11 people. He then set up an ambush for arriving law enforcement units.

Ventura County Sheriff's Sergeant Ron Helus and an officer from the California Highway Patrol entered the bar through the front door and were immediately fired upon and returned fire, saving countless lives as bar patrons escaped through windows and other doors. Sergeant Helus was mortally wounded during the gunfight. The shooter took his own life.

In the aftermath, 128 survivors reported physical injuries including one gunshot victim, four people with fractured bones and dislocated joints, 13 who required sutures, and 110 people who sustained bumps, scrapes, bruises or complained of pain. Within hours after the shooting, a Reunification Center opened at the Thousand Oaks Teen Center to help families locate their loved ones. Donations for the victims and their families began to arrive soon after, eventually totaling millions.

On November 9, the District Attorney opened a Victims' Assistance Center in the offices of Supervisor Linda Parks. The Sheriff's Office, Behavioral Health, Human Services and other County agencies participated at the center which offered grief services, emergency funding for survivors, and help in returning possessions, ultimately assisting 300 people.

Sheriff's personnel and more than 80 FBI agents continue to investigate the crime. A motive has not yet been determined and the final results of the investigation are not expected until the Fall of 2019.

## FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The City of Santa Paula formally joined the **Fire Protection District** for fire protection, hazardous materials, emergency medical all related emergency and prevention services. Eighteen Santa Paula firefighters became members of the Ventura County Fire Department.

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The District Attorney's Office, along with other County and community agencies and organizations is working to establish the **Family Justice Center**. It will provide legal, medical and mental health services – all under one roof – streamlining the process for victims of crime and allowing for a less traumatizing experience as they rebuild their lives.

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Sheriff's Office has started construction on a **64-bed medical unit** at the Todd Road Jail outside Santa Paula. The project will serve inmates with serious mental health issues and medical diseases that need to be monitored.

## PUBLIC DEFENDER

The **Public Defender's Office** has started a program, a criminal justice-focused text message communication and reminder service, to reduce the number of Failure to Appear (FTA) incidents, arrest warrants and technical violations in the county. The program is expected to reduce costs for Ventura County by improving efficiency for attorneys as well as decreasing the number of incarcerations for violations such as FTAs. It will ensure all public defender clients receive text reminders for their court dates.



# Thomas Fire

The year started with the **Thomas Fire** still burning. Between December 4, 2017 and January 12, 2018, the Thomas Fire would burn more than **281,000 acres – 440 square miles** – making it the largest fire in California history, a dubious record Ventura County would hold for only a few months.

By the start of 2018, the fire recovery effort had already been underway for more than three weeks. It was an unprecedented reaction to a county in need. The fire had destroyed or damaged nearly **1,000 homes** and more than **350 other structures**. People needed help, and the County responded.

The County coordinated its recovery efforts with the cities of Ventura, Ojai, Santa Paula and Fillmore to provide an organized, unified recovery effort. It opened a **Local Assistance Center** in Ventura to provide fire victims with access to local, state and federal support agencies and resources. Satellite centers were also opened in Ojai, Santa Paula and Fillmore.

The declaration of a local health emergency allowed the initial removal of hazardous fire debris to begin. Thirteen community meetings were held to discuss topics including repopulation of evacuated neighborhoods, health concerns and debris removal. The County quickly expanded its local housing and rental assistance program to provide direct aid to fire victims. The program was the first of its kind in the state and was the only source of government-provided monetary assistance for several weeks.

The state-run debris removal program cleared all 708 registered lots by June 1. The remaining lots were cleared under local programs. The County also introduced a streamlined permitting process for fire victims wishing to rebuild. It also adopted new policies allowing people who had lost their homes to live on their property in recreational vehicles during the rebuilding process.

## OTHER NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE THOMAS FIRE RECOVERY EFFORT INCLUDED:

FEMA individual assistance aid to victims...	<b>\$1,778,910</b>
SBA home loans approved.....	<b>\$26,431,500</b>
SBA business loans approved .....	<b>\$4,048,300</b>
Properties cleared of hazardous debris.....	<b>987</b>
Properties cleared of debris by CalRecycle.....	<b>708</b>
Tons of debris cleared .....	<b>&gt;224,019</b>
Cost of debris removal .....	<b>\$64 million</b>
Protective masks distributed .....	<b>750,000</b>
Contacts by Behavioral Health .....	<b>4,000</b>
Households funded by Fire Assistance Funds.....	<b>60</b>



# The Woolsey and Hill Fires



November 8, 2018 was a warm and sunny day. The humidity was low and Santa Ana winds were blowing from the east. The first report of a fire came in just after 2:00 p.m.

A fast-moving wildfire had started in **Hill Canyon** east of Camarillo and was being driven to the west by the strong winds. It reached Highway 101 in less than 15 minutes, jumped the freeway and briefly threatened the community of Camarillo Springs before burning up and over Conejo Mountain and into Newbury Park. It destroyed two mobile homes there and damaged three other structures. It was eventually contained at about **4,500 acres**. But the Hill Fire was just the start.



About 20 minutes after the start of the Hill Fire – at 2:30 p.m. – another fire was reported near **Woolsey Road** in Simi Valley. The fire quickly became a threat to life and property as it raced towards Thousand Oaks. Evacuations were ordered in Oak Park and, soon after, in Thousand Oaks and then all the way to the Los Angeles County line.

The fire jumped Highway 101, burning into Los Angeles County, triggering more evacuations as it moved toward the coast. Homes were threatened in Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Bell Canyon and Malibu, as well as homes in the canyons between Highway 101 and the Pacific Coast Highway. More than **90,000 people** were under evacuation orders in Ventura County alone and tens of thousands of homes were threatened.



Both the President of the United States and the Governor of California toured the fire area. Emergency declarations by both of them, a local emergency declaration by the Sheriff and a Public Health Emergency declaration allowed the recovery effort in Ventura County to begin almost immediately. The recovery effort was launched the day after the fire started.

Emergency resources continued to pour into Ventura and Los Angeles counties. The response included **688 fire engines**, **41 aircraft** (helicopter and fixed-wing), **82 hand crews** and **24 bulldozers**.



At the peak of the Woolsey Fire, more than 5,000 emergency personnel were assigned to the incident. The fire would consume **96,949 acres – 152 square miles**, an area larger than the entire cities of Detroit or Philadelphia. It destroyed 1,643 structures (185 homes in Ventura County) and damaged another 364 (115 in Ventura County). There were three civilian fatalities, and three firefighters were injured. Animal Services sheltered 356 animals including horses, dogs, cats, chickens, rabbits and even three alpacas. Almost 20,000 hotline calls were answered by the Office of Emergency Services. The OES also issued 40 VC Alerts in English and Spanish, three Wireless Emergency Alerts and three Emergency Alert System Messages.

Ventura County's emergency information website – [www.vcemergency.com](http://www.vcemergency.com) – had **more than two million** unique page views during the fires. The site listed current evacuation orders, fire updates, and road and school closures. At one point, both Highway 101 and the Pacific Coast Highway (Highway 1) were closed to civilian traffic.

The Woolsey Fire was declared fully contained on November 22. The Hill Fire was contained on November 16.





# Hill and Woolsey Fires | *Recovery*

The After Action Reports for the Thomas Fire had not even been presented to the Board of Supervisors when the Hill and Woolsey fires broke out, but the lessons had been learned.

The County's recovery effort for the Hill and Woolsey fires was launched on Friday, November 9, one day after the fires began and while both were still burning. The next Monday, November 12, the County Recovery Team held a joint meeting with staff from the City of Thousand Oaks to initiate a **unified recovery program** with goal of ensuring fire victims were receiving consistent information.

The County's recovery website ([www.venturacountyrecovers.org](http://www.venturacountyrecovers.org)), co-branded with Thousand Oaks, transitioned from Thomas Fire information to Hill/Woolsey information on November 10. Thomas Fire victims still had access to their information from the site.

The first town hall meeting was held on Wednesday, November 14 at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza. Conducted jointly with the city, the meeting provided fire victims from Thousand Oaks and the surrounding unincorporated areas with information on watershed and debris flow assessments; public health concerns; debris removal; rental assistance and local resources. Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, the California Office of Emergency Services, the Red Cross and other organizations had informational tables set up.

A second meeting was held on Saturday, November 17 in Bell Canyon. A third meeting was held at Ventura County Fire Station 56 near Malibu on Monday, November 16 for affected residents on the South Coast. A meeting there scheduled earlier had to be cancelled due to ongoing fire activity. The final meeting was held on November 27 in Oak Park.

A **Local Assistance Center** was established on Thursday, November 15 at the Grant R. Brimhall Library in Thousand Oaks. The LAC was staffed by City, County, State and Federal agencies along with a number of non-profit organizations to assist fire victims. It remained open through November 25. Both FEMA and the SBA began accepting applications for individual assistance at the LAC prior to moving to the longer-term Disaster Recovery Center in Thousand Oaks.

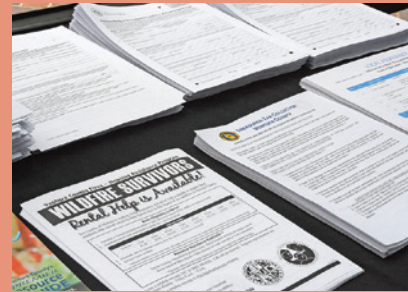
As of mid-December, FEMA had received **443 registrations** for assistance. A total of \$256,380 for temporary housing assistance had been approved and the SBA had approved \$3,569,300 in home loans.

On December 4, the Board of Supervisors approved the County's participation in the state's **CalRecycle debris removal program**. The program has two phases. The first is for the removal of household hazardous waste from destroyed houses. The second phase is for the removal of structural fire debris from destroyed houses. The first phase began on December 3 and was about 85 percent complete by the middle of the month. Rain caused a delay of several days. During the week of December 10, three debris removal workshops were held in affected areas to allow residents to sign up for the program and ask questions. Debris removal under the program was expected to begin in early January 2019.

With the fires ending so close to the start of the traditional rainy season, County Public Works, the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services and state and federal agencies completed flood and debris flow inundation maps for all significant watersheds in the burn area. Risk and vulnerability mapping, along with evacuation routes were created for public distribution.

In anticipation of winter rains, Public Works hosted a **"Flood & Mud" workshop** on December 8 to show homeowners how to protect their homes. Public Works also stockpiled 5,080 filled sandbags and 15,000 empty sandbags for use during heavy rains.

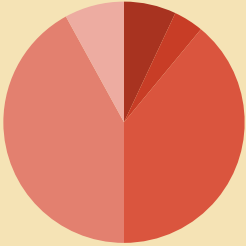
Recovery efforts will continue in 2019 as debris is cleared and rebuilding begins.



# Budget & Finance

## General Fund Appropriations

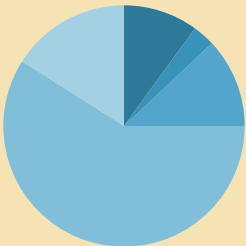
2018-2019



- 7% General Government
- 4% Environmental Balance
- 39% Health & Human Services
- 42% Public Safety
- 8% Other General Fund

## General Fund Contribution

2018-2019



- 10% General Government
- 3% Environmental Balance
- 12% Health & Human Services
- 59% Public Safety
- 16% Other General Fund



**County of Ventura**  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

## Total Budget

2018-2019: \$2,238,000,000



## General Fund Budget

2018-2019: \$1,107,000,000



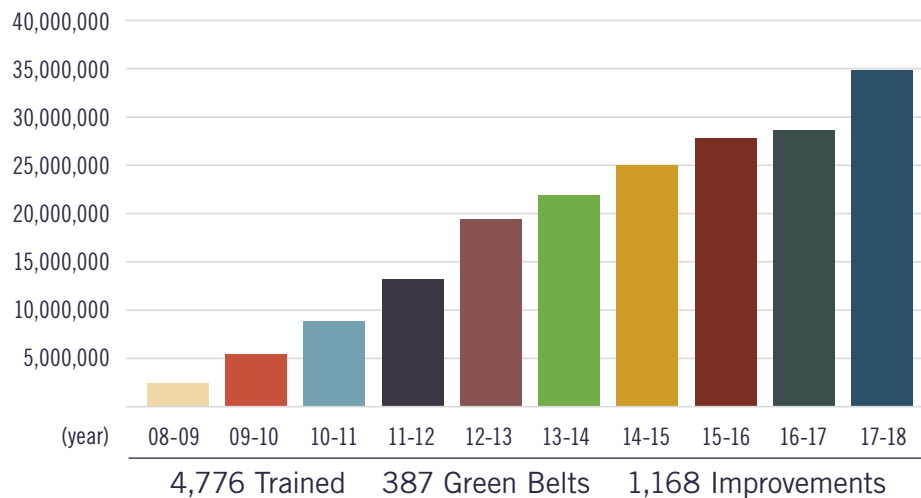
## Maintained Highest Long-Term Credit Rating

S&P: AAA

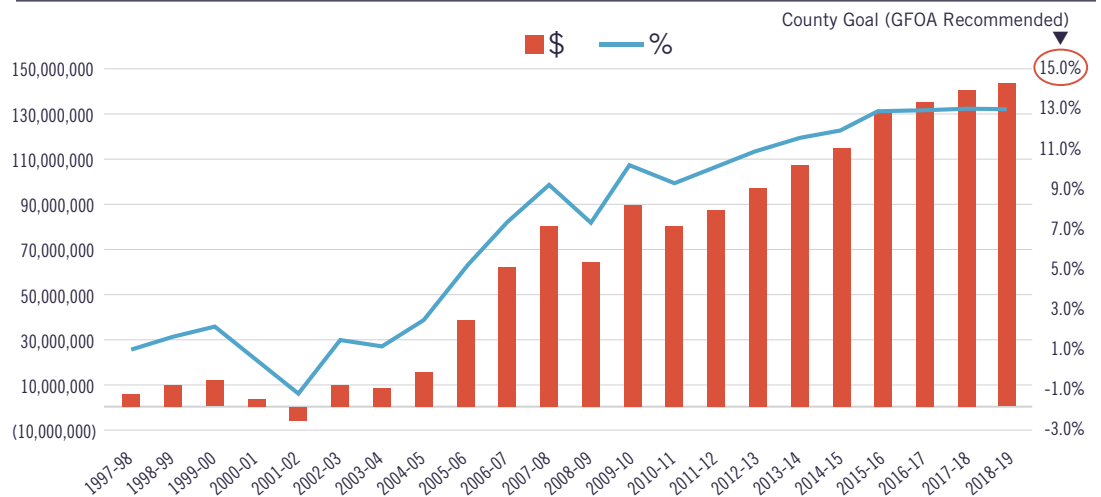
Moody's: Aaa

## Process Improvement Savings

Cumulative Events Dollar Value



## Unassigned Fund Balance to Revenues Ratio



Unassigned Fund Balance: \$1,107,417,622 X 13% = \$143,984,556

Unassigned Fund Balance Goal: 15% = \$166,112,642