

# ★ Happy 10th Birthday Santa Clarita ★★

Born on December 15, 1987, out of a desire for greater control of their destiny and their tax dollars, by the people of the Santa Clarita Valley, the City of Santa Clarita has survived its infancy and is ready to celebrate its first decade this year.

When Santa Clarita officially became a city, it was the largest area in California ever to incorporate. And Santa Clarita has been making and breaking records ever since. Santa Clarita was named "the fourth safest city of its size in the nation" by the FBI, and as the second best city for business in California, according to *California Business Magazine*.

Santa Clarita has won over 40 regional, national and international awards since cityhood, including awards for budgeting, financial management, its community strategic plan, innovations in management, citizen participation, emergency preparedness and recreation. Santa Clarita is a "Tree City USA," and a "California Healthy City."

Since its incorporation, Santa Clarita has kept its promise to the community. To date, millions have been invested in community improvements, including street and roadway improvements, new parks and park improvements, new street medians, new and improved facilities, and a host of other capital projects. And, since Cityhood, the City's Building & Safety Division has inspected \$800 million in new construction, resulting in 70,000 permits issued.

Residents enjoy three new parks built by the City, including the 17-acre Canyon Country park, the five acre Begonias Lane park, and the 8-acre Creekview park in Newhall. Over 7 miles of new, off-street bicycle/pedestrian paths have been constructed, along with 4 miles of landscaped medians city-wide. Since cityhood, recreation programs have increased five times over, offering residents a variety of free and low cost programs. The City is especially proud of its proactive programs for youth and children, including its student partnership program, annual youth summit and programs for at-risk youth.

Some major roadway improvements completed over the last decade include: the widening of Soledad Canyon Road to six lanes, the widening of Soledad east of Sand Canyon to four lanes; the widening of San Fernando Road to four lanes; the Whites Canyon bridge extension; the opening of Decoro Road and nearly three dozen "quick fix" traffic solutions that have improved cross-town traffic.

The City began its own bus service, Santa Clarita Transit, which offers seven-day-a week local service, week-day commuter service to the San Fernando and Antelope Valleys, and downtown Los Angeles, plus Dial-a-Ride service for seniors and the disabled. The City was also instrumental in bringing Metrolink commuter train service to Santa Clarita, building two Metrolink stations in the City.

Following the 1995 Northridge earthquake, which caused in excess of \$400 million to the Santa Clarita Valley, response was excellent. The entire community pulled together and within a year, most major recovery efforts were complete.

The City's environmental record is one of its crowning achievements. The City has implemented curbside recycling and yard trimmings programs, along with telephone book and Christmas tree recycling and used oil recycling. Since the early 1990's, Santa Clarita has successfully diverted more than 34% of its trash from area landfills. The City was also instrumental in defeating a proposal to site a 190-million ton landfill in Elsmere Canyon, preserving a beautiful open space. In addition, Santa Clarita has purchased property along the Santa Clarita River, 50 acres at Towsley Canyon Park, the city hall building, a field operation facility and 238 acres in the center of the city for a future civic center. The City has also participated in several land purchases in and around the City, which will be preserved for generations to come.

***Hamilton C. Smyth***

*Mayor*

***Janice H. Heidt***

*Mayor Pro-Tem*

***Jo Anne Darcy***

*Councilmember*

***Carl Boyer***

*Councilmember*

***Al Klajic***

*Councilmember*

***Submitted by:***

***George Carvalho***

*City Manager*



*California Society of  
Municipal Finance Officers*

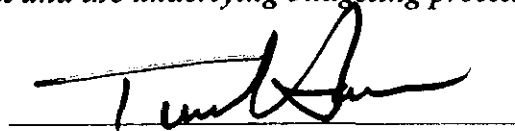
**Certificate of Award**

*Merit in Operational Budgeting 1996-97*

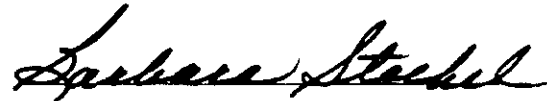
**Presented to**

*City of Santa Clarita*

*This certificate recognizes meritorious achievement in Operational Budgeting and reflects a highly professional budget document and the underlying budgeting process through which the budget is implemented.*



Chairman, Budgeting & Financial Management



President, CSMFO



Co-Chair, Budgeting & Financial Management

*February 24, 1997*

**⌘ Dedicated to Excellence in Municipal Financial Management ⌘**

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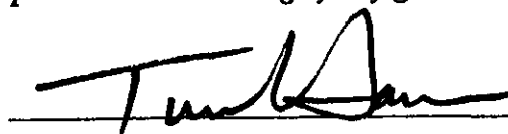
**Certificate of Award**

*Excellence in Public Communications 1996-97*

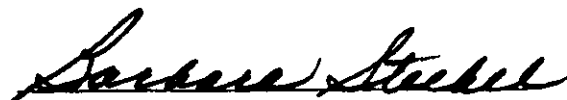
**Presented to**

*City of Santa Clarita*

*This certificate recognizes the achievement of excellence in producing a Public Communications document which enhances general public understanding of city government and encourages citizen participation..*



Chairman, Budgeting & Financial Management



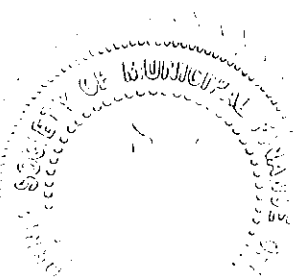
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**Certificate of Award**

*Excellence in Innovation 1996-97*

**Presented to**

*City of Santa Clarita*

*This certificate recognizes the achievement of excellence in Innovation and reflects professional understanding and creative thinking in the budgeting process to develop a new and resourceful advancement in budgeting.*



*Timothy J. ...*

Chairman, Budgeting & Financial Management

*Barbara Stuedel*

President, CSMFO

*Opal ...*

Co-Chair, Budgeting & Financial Management

*February 24, 1997*

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