

City of Santa Clarita

Community Profile

*Santa Clarita
is a great place
to live, work
and play.*

An Abbreviated History

The 1842 discovery of gold was the beginning of a transformation of the area of Santa Clarita, where the ancient Alliklik Indians, wild horses, Spanish explorers, and European colonists lived.

Many people migrated west to Santa Clarita Valley to seek their fortunes. Henry Mayo Newhall was among them, and in 1870 he started the valley on the road to modernization through his auctioneering and railroad interests.

After purchasing Rancho San Francisco (later known as Newhall Ranch) in 1875, Newhall sold a right-of-way to the Southern Pacific Railroad for \$1 and a town site known as Newhall for another dollar. Not only did it become a rail center, but the first commercially producing oil well began operation in Pico Canyon in 1875, followed by the state's first oil refinery in Railroad Canyon.

By the early 1900's, Hollywood studios were using the area's rugged canyons as locations for westerns.

The City of Santa Clarita was officially incorporated on December 15, 1987, after a ballot measure was passed by the City's residents. City formation was the direct result of a desire on the part of the citizenry for a responsive local government which would address important community issues and concerns. The City operates under a Council-Manager form of government and provides, either directly or under contract, a full range of municipal services including public safety, public works, parks and recreation, community development, etc.

Today, cameras still roll in the Valley for television shows, and films. But they now have impressive company in the form of industrial, commercial and residential developments, with the focal point being the new City of Santa Clarita.

Santa Clarita is one city that reflects all the best of the Golden State...past, present and future. Located in a picturesque valley just north of Los Angeles, Santa Clarita is big, bold and confident in its growing role as a first-choice community for raising families and building businesses. With its unique blend of rural, old west heritage and urban sophistication, this thriving city has established an enviable balance between quality living and quality growth. That balance is carefully maintained through long-term planning and fiscal responsibility, community involvement, respect for the environment and strong public and private support for business development.

Santa Clarita's successes are evident in its residential neighborhoods and recreational attractions, in its business parks and in its cultural, commercial, educational and health care centers.

More business professionals are taking a close look at how Santa Clarita has accomplished so much in the few years since incorporation. *California Business* magazine named Santa Clarita the second best mid-sized city in the state in which to do business, and *City and State* magazine named Santa Clarita as one of the top five "up and coming" cities in the nation.

A good look at Santa Clarita shows why this city is the brightest discovery in the Golden State.

Location

Covering approximately 42 square miles, the City of Santa Clarita has a population of 147,228. Located 35 miles northwest of Los Angeles and 40 miles east of the Pacific Ocean, Santa Clarita forms an inverted triangle with the San Gabriel and Santa Susanna mountain ranges. These mountain ranges separate Santa Clarita from the San Fernando Valley and the Los Angeles Basin to the south, and from the San Joaquin Valley, Mojave Desert and Angeles National Forest to the north.

Mileage to Key Centers

Downtown Los Angeles	35 miles south
Los Angeles (LAX)	40 miles south
Burbank Airport	25 miles south
Palmdale/Lancaster	35 miles northeast
Port of Los Angeles	60 miles south
Port Hueneme	30 miles west

Climate

1,200 to 1,400 feet above sea level, Santa Clarita enjoys a mild Southern California Mediterranean climate, making it ideal for business, residential, and recreational opportunities.

- Summers: Dry and warm in the 70° to 100° range.
- Winters: Temperate and semi-moist in the 40° to 60° range.
- Precipitation: 15-18 inches between November and March.

Population

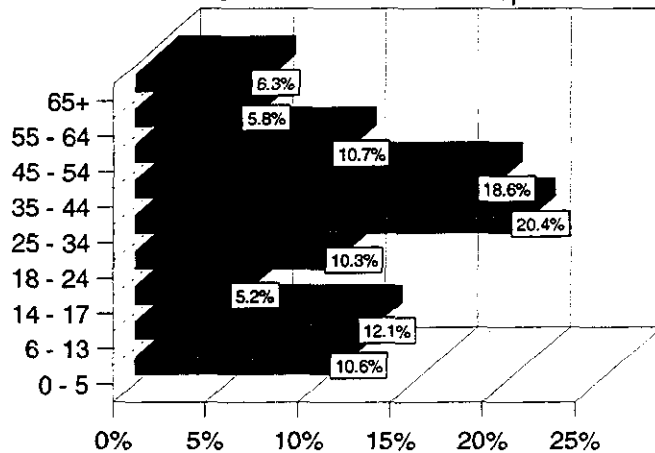
Population	147,288
Incorporation	42 square miles
Housing Units	44,385 units
Median New Home Cost	\$243,900
Average New Condominium Cost	\$175,100
Average Home Resale	\$251,470
Industrial Leasing Prices	\$0.30 to 0.80/sq. ft.
Commercial/Office Space	\$1.00 to 1.90/sq. ft.

Age/Racial Composition

Median age	30.0 years
Average Household Size	2.83 persons

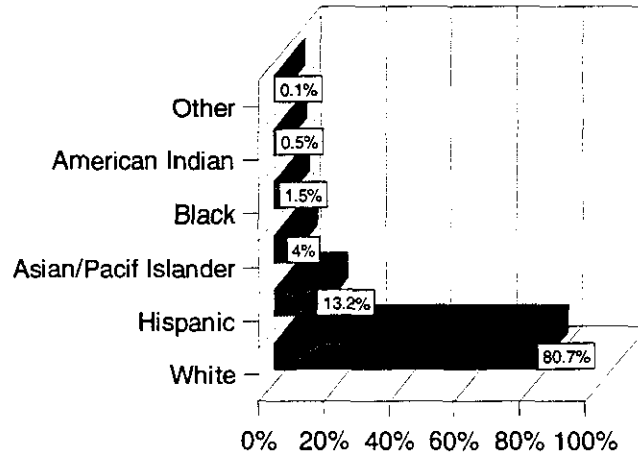
Age Composition

Source: Office of Economic Development



Racial Composition

Source: 1994 - 1998 SCV CHAS



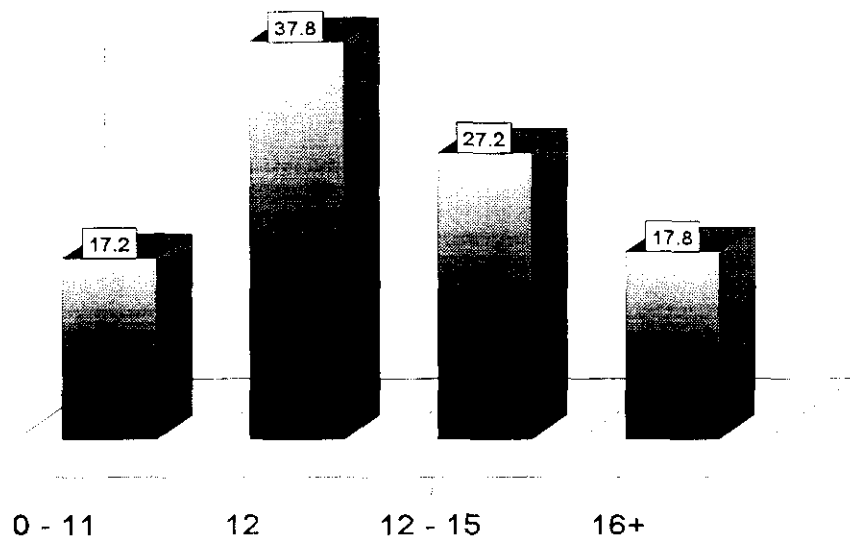
Education

<i>School Districts</i>	<i>No. of Schools</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
William S. Hart Union	8 (7-12)	11,000
Sulphur Springs Union	7 (K-6)	3,300
Newhall Elementary	6 (K-6)	4,640
Saugus Elementary	11 (K-6)	6,000
Castaic Union School District	3 (K-8)	3,300

<i>Colleges/Universities</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
California Institute of the Arts (CalARTS)	960
Masters College	840
College of the Canyons	6,000
California State University Northridge (In nearby San Fernando Valley)	29,000

Education of Adults Over 25

Median years completed 12.9



Employment

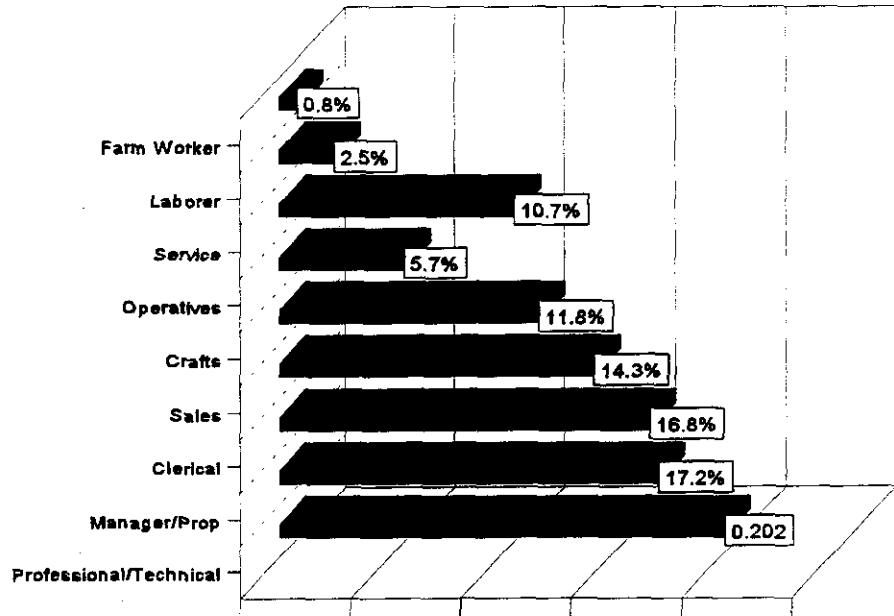
The City of Santa Clarita's economy remains strong and diverse, making Santa Clarita the ideal site for Southern California businesses. Maintaining a highly supportive environment for business development is achieved through the cooperation of the local Chambers of Commerce and the City government. In addition, companies benefit greatly from the area's land and

leasing opportunities, as well as from the labor pool, variety of transportation choices, housing, quality of life, climate, and scenery.

Major Employers (based primarily on the number employed):

Six Flags Magic Mountain	3,000
Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital	1,072
William S. Hart Unified School District	650
California Institute of the Arts	365
Special Devices	350
College of the Canyons	318
Daily News	300
Magic Ford/Mercury	300
Carpeteria	270

Labor Statistics



<i>Labor Force</i>	<i>No. of Residents</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Persons Employed	39,950	93.5%
Persons Unemployed	2,800	6.5%
Total Labor Force	42,750	100.0%

Transportation

The Valley is part of a comprehensive transportation network that links to every market in the world that includes local, commuter and dial-a-ride bus service to LAX and Burbank Airports. The City is accessible via Highway 126, the Golden State, and the Antelope Valley Freeways. The Southern Pacific Railroad has daily freight runs; and Amtrak, with stations in the adjacent San Fernando Valley, provides regular daily passenger service to key cities. The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are 50 and 60 miles south of the Valley respectively. Ventura and its nearby ports are 40 freeway miles northwest of the Valley. The City of Santa Clarita is also proud of its two Metrolink stations which carry an average of 1,182 passengers a day to and from the San Fernando Valley and Downtown Los Angeles.

Community Housing

But Santa Clarita's real pride and joy is its residential communities. The Santa Clarita Valley has seven distinct communities. Included are family oriented neighborhoods, executive estates, apartments, condominiums, seniors' complexes, and a wide array of new and resale homes. Each community makes a special contribution to the Valley's vitality and unique rural-urban flavor. As a result of more businesses and industries moving into the area, residents can live, be entertained, and shop close to where they work, rather than commuting long distances. Needless to say, this proximity saves residents a considerable amount of time, energy, and money. Living in Santa Clarita can be as down-home and casual as a sprawling Sand Canyon ranch or as uptown and stylish as a new home in master-planned Valencia.

Recreational Opportunities

There are a number of recreational and historical facilities located in the Santa Clarita Valley. Among them are Six Flags Magic Mountain Amusement Park and Gene Autry's Melody Ranch. For water enthusiasts there are Castaic Lake, Lake Hughes, Lake Elizabeth, Lake Piru and Lake Pyramid. The Angeles National Forest, Placerita Canyon Nature Center, Saugus Train Station, Vasquez Rocks County Park, Bouquet Canyon Park, Canyon Country Park, Newhall Park, North Oaks Park, Old Orchard Park, Santa Clarita Park, Valencia Glen Park, and Valencia Meadows Park are also available for hiking and picnicking. William S. Hart Park features a magnificent Spanish Colonial mansion museum. Frazier Park and Mountain High are within a 40-minute drive for ski enthusiasts. And all attract millions of visitors annually.

Also located in Santa Clarita is the Canyon Theatre Guild, Disney Studios, Friendly Valley Golf Course, Valencia Country Club, and Vista Valencia Golf Course. Santa Clarita is one of the world's premier centers for study in the visual and performing arts. More than 500 public performances and exhibitions are staged each year.

Santa Clarita residents enjoy a distinct way of life and value the City's landscaped paseo system, well-maintained roads, idyllic neighborhoods, high-quality schools, and innovative recycling programs. Residents not only enjoy numerous parks and recreation services and facilities, but also outstanding Los Angeles County Sheriff and fire services, three County libraries, highly responsive paramedic and ambulance services, and high levels of local government services.

Object Designations

Line Item Title and Description

Personnel

- 101 **Salaries**
Provides for compensation for full-time permanent employees
- 102 **Regular Part-Time Employees**
Provides for compensation for all part-time employees
- 103 **Part-Time Employees**
Provides for compensation for non-permanent employees working 1-20 hours per week
- 110 **Overtime**
Provides compensation for any overtime throughout the year at one and one-half times the regular salary
- 130 **Health and Life Insurance**
Provides for benefits for accidental death, dismemberment and life insurance for full-time permanent employees
- 135 **Life Insurance**
Provides for City-paid benefit of life insurance
- 140 **Long-Term Disability Insurance**
Provides for employee benefits for disability insurance
- 145 **Medicare Expense**
All employees with hire dates of 4/1/86 and after must contribute 1.45% and City to match
- 150 **Workers Compensation**
Provides for City-paid benefits pursuant to State law
- 155 **PERS**
Provide for City-paid benefits for employee's retirement system
- 160 **Deferred Compensation**
Provides for City-paid benefits for deferred compensation 457 plan
- 165 **Unemployment Insurance**
Provides for City-paid benefits for unemployment insurance

Operations

- 201 Publications and Subscriptions**
Provides for publications and subscriptions of professional organizations
- 202 Travel and Training**
Provides for all travel, conference, meeting and training sessions generally requested by the City and taken on City time
- 203 Membership and Dues**
Provides for membership fees and dues of professional organizations
- 207 Relocation**
Provides for relocation expenses incurred in moving
- 208 Education Reimbursement**
Provides education reimbursement for employees development related to the improvement of the position. Generally requested by employee and taken on own time. Requires prior approval.
- 209 Automobile Allowance/Mileage**
Provides for monthly automobile allowance and mileage reimbursement incurred in use of personal vehicle on City business
- 210 Office Supplies**
Provides for the purchase of office supplies
- 211 Printing**
Provides for outside printing
- 212 Postage**
Provides for postal expenses for City mailings
- 213 Advertising**
Provides for advertising and legal notices of various City activities
- 215 Special Departmental Supplies**
Provides special supplies specific to the individual department as opposed to general office supplies
- 220 Rent/Lease**
Provides for rental or leases of buildings and structures required for City use or habitation
- 222 Furniture Rental**
Provides for rental of furniture not owned by the City
- 223 Equipment Rental**
Provides for rental of equipment not owned by the City

- 224 **Machinery Rental**
Provides for rental of machinery not owned by the City
- 227 **Contractual Services**
Provides for service rendered under contract with another entity
- 229 **Appeals Filings**
Provides for special appeals by the City to various County, state or other agencies
- 230 **Professional Services**
Provides for professional services/retainers
- 232 **Promotion and Publicity**
Provides for the expense of community events and the publicity of the City
- 240 **Building Maintenance/Supplies**
Provides for the costs of maintenance and supplies for City buildings and structures
- 243 **Equipment Maintenance/Supplies**
Provides for the costs of maintenance and supplies for City equipment
- 245 **Vehicle Maintenance/Supplies**
Provides for the costs of maintenance and supplies for City vehicles
- 250 **Electric Utilities**
Provides for electric service
- 251 **Gas Utilities**
Provides for gas service
- 252 **Telephone Utilities**
Provides for telephone service
- 253 **Water Utilities**
Provides for water service
- 290 **Contingency**
Provides for funds not appropriated to any particular purpose or program to meet unanticipated emergencies or needs
- 292 **Payment to County**
Provides funds to pay the County for original 6-month costs of operating the City
- 294 **Liability Expense**
Provides funds to cover the City's portion of liability expense which may occur as a result of claims against the City
- 296 **Unemployment Expense**
Provides funds to cover the City's portion of unemployment expense which may occur as a result of claims against the City

- 298 **Workers Compensation Expense**
Provides funds to cover the City's portion of Workers Compensation expense which may occur as a result of claims against the City
- 350 **Principle**
Provides for payment of principle in relation to bonded indebtedness
- 352 **Interest Expense**
Provides for payment of interest expense
- 354 **Cost of Insurance**
Provides for expenses incurred in issuance of bonded indebtedness
- 356 **Trustee Fee**
Provides for expenses incurred by bond trustee in relation to City bonded indebtedness

Capital Outlay

- 401 **Furniture and Fixtures**
Provides for the purchase of office furniture and fixtures for City buildings and structures
- 402 **Equipment**
Provides for the purchase of equipment for use by City employees at City buildings, structures and locations
- 403 **Machinery**
Provides for the purchase of machinery for use by City employees at City buildings, structures and locations
- 405 **Automotive Equipment**
Provides for the purchase of automobile and automotive equipment required for City use
- 410 **Land**
Provides for the acquisition of land for City use
- 412 **Buildings and Structures**
Provides for the acquisition or construction costs of permanent buildings and structures for City use
- 415 **Building Improvements**
Provides for capital improvements to City owned buildings and structures
- 416 **Improvements Other Than Buildings**
Provides for capital improvements other than to City owned buildings and structures
- 420 **Street and Road Improvements**
Provides for the improvement costs to new or existing streets and roads

Glossary of Budget Terms

Appropriation - An authorization by the City Council to make expenditures and to incur obligations for a specific purpose within a specific time frame.

Assessed Valuation - A dollar value placed on real estate or other property by Los Angeles County as a basis for levying property taxes.

Audit - A view of the City's accounts by an independent auditing firm to substantiate fiscal year-end fund, salaries, reserves and cash on hand.

Beginning/Ending (Unappropriated) Fund Balance - Unencumbered resources available in a fund from the prior/current fiscal year after payment of the prior/current fiscal year's expenditures. This is not necessarily cash on hand.

Bond - A City may raise capital by issuing a written promise to pay a specific sum of money, called the face value or principal amount, at a specific date or dates in the future, together with periodic interest at a special rate.

Budget - A fiscal plan of financial operation listing an estimate of proposed appropriations or expenditures and the proposed means of financing them for a particular time period. The budget is proposed until it has been approved by the City Council. Santa Clarita's annual budget encompasses one fiscal year (July 1 through June 30.)

Capital Improvement - A permanent addition to the City's assets, including the design, construction, or purchase of land, buildings, or facilities, or major renovations of same.

Capital Improvement Program - A financial plan of proposed capital improvement

projects with single and multiple-year capital expenditures/expenses. The Capital Improvement Program plans for five years and is updated annually.

Capital Outlay - A budget appropriation category which budgets all equipment having a unit cost of more than \$500 and an estimated useful life of over one year.

Capital Projects - Physical structural improvements with a cost of \$5,000 or more and a useful life of one year or more. Examples include a new park, building modifications or road construction.

City Manager's Transmittal Letter - A general discussion of the approved budget. The letter contains an explanation of principal budget items and summaries.

Debt Service - Payment of the principal and interest on an obligation resulting from the issuance of bonds, notes, or Certificates of Participation (COP's).

Debt Service Requirements - The amount of money required to pay interest on outstanding debt and required contributions to accumulate monies for future retirement of term bonds.

Deficit - An excess of expenditures or expenses over revenues (resources).

Department - It is the basic unit of service responsibility encompassing a broad array of related activities.

Division - A subsection (or activity) within a department which furthers the objectives of the City Council by providing specific services.

Encumbrances - A legal obligation to pay

funds, the expenditure of which has not yet occurred. They cease to be encumbrances when the obligations are paid or otherwise terminated.

Expenditure - The actual spending of funds set aside by an appropriation.

Expense - The actual spending of Funds set aside by an appropriation.

Fiscal Year - A twelve-month period of time to which a budget applies. In Santa Clarita, it is July 1 through June 30.

Fund - An independent fiscal and accounting entity used to record all financial transactions related to the specific purpose for which the fund was created.

Fund Balance - The amount of financial resources available for use. Generally, this represents the detail of all the annual operating surpluses and deficits since the fund's inception.

General Fund - The primary fund of the City used to account for all revenues and expenditures of the City not legally restricted as to use. This fund is used to offset the cost of the City's general operations. All revenues which do not have to be placed in a separate fund are deposited in the general fund. All expenditures must be made pursuant to appropriations which lapse annually and at the end of the fiscal year.

General Obligation Bond - Bonds used for various purposes and repaid by the regular (usually via the General Fund) revenue raising powers of the City.

Grant - Contributions, gifts of cash, or other assets from another governmental entity to be used or expended for a specific purpose, activity, or facility. An example is the Community Development Block Grant provided by the Federal Government.

Interfund Transfers - Monies transferred from one fund to another. Such money is transferred to finance the operations of another fund or to reimburse the fund for certain expenditures.

Internal Service Fund - An Internal Service Fund provides services to other City departments and bills the various other funds for services rendered, just as would private business.

Materials, Supplies, and Services - Expenditures for materials, supplies, and services which are ordinarily consumed within a fiscal year and which are not included in departmental inventories.

Municipal Code - A book that contains the City Council approved ordinances currently in effect. The Code defines City policy with respect to areas such as planning, etc.

Objectives - The expected results or achievements of a budget activity.

Operating Budget - Annual appropriation of funds for ongoing program costs, including salaries and benefits, services and supplies, debt service, capital outlay and capital improvements.

Operations and Maintenance - A section of the budget that addresses all the programs and day-to-day operating costs associated with the day-to-day operations of a division or a department.

Ordinance - A formal legislative enactment by the City Council. It has the full force and effect of law within City boundaries unless pre-empted by a higher form of law. An Ordinance has a higher legal standing than a Resolution.

Reimbursement - Payment of amount remitted on behalf of another party, department, or fund.

Reserve - An account used to record a portion of the fund balance as legally segregated for a specific use.

Resolution - A special order of the City Council which has a lower legal standing than an ordinance.

Revenues - Amount received for taxes, fees, permits, licenses, interest, intergovernmental sources, and other sources during the fiscal year.

Revenue Bonds - A type of bonds usually issued to construct facilities. The bonds are repaid from the revenue produced by the operation of these facilities.

Salaries and Benefits - A budget category which generally accounts for full-time and temporary employees, overtime expenses, and all employee benefits, such as medical, dental, and retirement.

Special Revenue Funds - This fund type collects revenues that are restricted by the City, State, or Federal Government as to how the City might spend them.

Revenues

The City of Santa Clarita provides many services to its residents such as Police, Fire, Park and Recreation, Library Services, etc. These services are not without a cost to the taxpayer. It is the task of City officials to produce the necessary revenue to satisfy the ever-growing demand for local services.

The City of Santa Clarita receives revenue from many sources to offset the costs of its operations. Revenue is received from sales taxes, property taxes, and many other sources. For each fiscal year, the City's revenues are estimated. This section will describe the 15 major revenue sources available to the City. The budget summaries will provide a more detailed breakdown of all revenues. The 15

major revenue sources are as follows:

- 1) **Sales and Use Tax** - Sales and use tax is imposed on retailers for the privilege of selling, at retail, within the City limits. This tax is based on the sales price of any taxable transaction of tangible personal property. The Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law, adopted in 1955, extends the authority to impose local sales tax to counties. One percentage point of the sales tax collected by the State Board of Equalization is allocated back to the City for general purposes.
- 2) **Property Tax** - Property tax is imposed on real property (land and permanently attached improvements, such as buildings) and tangible personal property located within the City. The tax comprises one percent of the assessed value of the property.
- 3) **Highway Encroachment Permits** - These fees are collected under the provisions of the City's Highways Permit Ordinance and defray the cost of services for processing, plan review, and inspection services of construction and/or encroachment within City streets. Types of projects would include new driveways, utility service cuts, bus benches, newspaper racks, movie company productions, parades, etc.
- 4) **Interest** - Interest income is earned as the City invests its idle funds in various investment media. The goal of the City's investment is to protect each investment while achieving the highest rate of return. The City Treasurer (Director of Finance) handles the City's investment portfolio.
- 5) **Motor Vehicle In-Lieu** - Motor Vehicle In-Lieu is a state vehicle license fee imposed on motorists for the privilege of operating a motor vehicle on the public

the City is a fund. A fund is "an independent fiscal and accounting entity used to record all financial transactions related to the specific purpose for which the fund was created." Funds are established for the purpose of carrying on specific activities or attaining certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions or limitations. The various funds are grouped in fund types and categories as follows:

Governmental Funds

- (A) **General Fund (01)** - The General Fund is used to account for the general operations of the City. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.
- (B) **Special Revenue Funds** - These funds are used to account for proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes. Examples of Special Revenue Funds are:

Transportation Fund - This fund is used to account for monies received from the State of California under Article 8 of the Transportation Development Act (TDA) (a portion of sales tax (Proposition A) revenue restricted to fund transportation related activities). Examples of Transportation Tax Funds are: TDA, Prop A and Prop C.

Bikeway - To account for monies received from the State of California restricted for bicycle and pedestrian facilities available under Article 3 of Transportation Development Act (SB821).

Bridge and Thoroughfare (B&T) - To account for monies received from developers for street and highway construction through bridge and thoroughfare districts.

Developer Fees - To account for monies received from developers for street improvements.

Park Improvement - To account for monies received from developers restricted to fund the acquisition and development of new parkland space.

Proposition A - To account for monies received through the one-half cent sales tax levied within the County of Los Angeles restricted to fund transit-related projects.

State Park - To account for grant monies received from the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation for construction or improvement of parklands within the City.

Traffic Safety - To account for monies received from vehicle code fines. This fund is used to finance law enforcement expenditures.

Community Development Block Grant Funds (022) - This fund is used to account for monies received and expended by the City as a participant in the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Gas Tax Fund (02) - This fund is used to account for monies received and expended from the State Gas Tax allocation. These monies are specified for work on street projects within the City.

- (C) **Debt Service/General Government** - These funds are used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term principal and interest.

- (D) **Capital Projects Fund (25)** - The Capital Projects Fund accounts for the acquisition or construction of the City's major capital facilities.

Proprietary Funds

- (A) **Internal Service Funds** - These funds are used to account for financing of goods and services provided by one department to other City departments on a cost-reimbursement basis.

City Self-Insurance Funds (026) - These funds are used to finance and account for the City's general, liability claim programs and property insurance programs.

City of Santa Clarita

Philosophy

As City employees, we are proud to say that WE ARE THE CITY OF SANTA CLARITA. We take pride in ourselves, our organization and our community. Our mission is to deliver the best and most cost-efficient municipal service to the citizens of Santa Clarita.

We value excellence

- ▶ We provide high quality and timely services.
- ▶ We encourage education.
- ▶ We have a strong commitment to the community, the organization and individual professions.
- ▶ We conduct ourselves professionally.
- ▶ We believe that prudent management of our resources demonstrates our respect for the citizens whose monies support this organization.

We value a humanistic approach

- ▶ Our actions recognize humans, human feelings and the importance of the individual.
- ▶ We believe in participative management.
- ▶ We encourage employees to enjoy their time at the work site.
- ▶ We encourage ideas that improve the mental and physical health of the employees.
- ▶ We are united in our efforts to support, respect and encourage individual talents and contributions.

We value creativity

- ▶ We have a bias for action.
- ▶ We believe in taking reasonable risks.
- ▶ We accept innovative people who have their share of mistakes.

We value a futuristic approach

- ▶ We want decisions that will endure the test of time.
- ▶ We want a city that future generations will love.

We value our enthused workforce

- ▶ We encourage actions which keep employees motivated and competent.
- ▶ We respect loyalty to the City.

We value ethics

- ▶ We believe the soundest bias for judging the rightness of an action is a test of its morality and its effects on human rights.

We value an open and non-bureaucratic government

- ▶ We keep the public informed of what we do.
- ▶ We share ideas, information and feelings with employees.
- ▶ We are helpful, courteous and cooperative with the public.

We value our City Council

- ▶ We recognize the importance of the process which elected the Council.
- ▶ We recognize the importance and difficulty of the Council's job.
- ▶ We are fully prepared for Council meetings.



