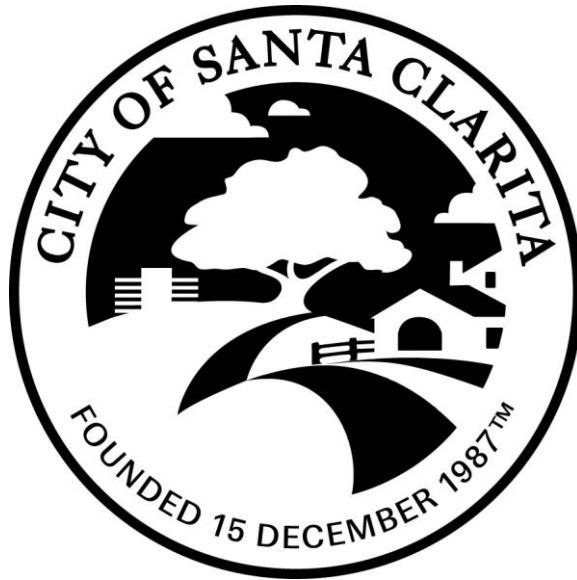


APPENDIX A

Open Space Inventory Criteria Form (OSIC)



Contents:

- **Open Space Inventory Site Checklist**
 - **Definitions**

CITY OF SANTA CLARITA OPEN SPACE INVENTORY SITE CHECKLIST



APN#: _____ Date of Entry: _____ Initials of Surveyor: _____

Site ID Number: _____ Willing Seller? YES NO Within the 3 mile Acquisition Boundary? YES NO

<p>TOTAL SCORE: _____</p> <p>Habitat: _____ Other Resources: _____</p> <p>Ridgelines and Viewsheds: _____ Hazards: _____ (Not included in total)</p> <p>Recreational Resources: _____</p> <p>Cultural/Historical Resources: _____</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Category</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Development Status</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Outside City & In B.A.A.*</td> <td>A Entitlements Pending</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">In-City</td> <td>B Information Inquires</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>C Entitlements Approved</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>D No Action</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>E No Information</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Development Status</u>	Outside City & In B.A.A.*	A Entitlements Pending	In-City	B Information Inquires		C Entitlements Approved		D No Action		E No Information
<u>Category</u>	<u>Development Status</u>												
Outside City & In B.A.A.*	A Entitlements Pending												
In-City	B Information Inquires												
	C Entitlements Approved												
	D No Action												
	E No Information												

* (Benefit Assessment Area)

CATEGORY	ELEMENT	SUB ELEMENT	STATUS	
Habitat Areas Category Subtotal: _____	Wildlife migration corridor	None		
	Riparian habitat	None		
	Contains part of a Significant Ecological Area (SEA) (General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element)	Elsmere/Whitney/Placerita Canyon		
		Lyon Canyon		
		San Francisquito Canyon		
		Santa Clara River Corridor		
		Santa Susana Mountains		
	Valley Oaks Savanna			
Contains a block of known undisturbed critical habitat	None			

CATEGORY	ELEMENT	SUB ELEMENT	STATUS
Habitat Areas (Continued)	Contains one of the seven identified major plant communities (General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element)	Coast Live Oak Woodland	
		Forest	
		Interior Live Oak Woodland	
		Mulefat Scrub	
		Riversidean Sage Scrub	
		Semi-Desert Chaparral	
		Southern Cottonwood-Willow Riparian	
		Valley Oak Woodland	
	Contains land within an identified important canyon area (General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element)	East Canyon	
		Elsmere Canyon	
		Placerita Canyon	
		Rice Canyon	
		San Francisquito Canyon	
		Towsley Canyon	
		Whitney Canyon	
		Wiley Canyon	
	"Other" canyon		
	Contains rivers or creeks	Bouquet Creek	
		Newhall Creek	
		Other creek/tributary	
		Placerita Creek	
		San Francisquito Creek	
		Sand Canyon Creek	
		Santa Clara River	
		South Fork of the Santa Clara River	

CATEGORY	ELEMENT	SUB ELEMENT	STATUS
Habitat Areas (Continued)	Contains known endangered or threatened animal species (pursuant to most recent list of state and federal species. Those shown at left are reflective of April, 2016 - California Fish and Wildlife)	California Condor	
		California Red-Legged Frog	
		Coastal California Gnatcatcher	
		Least Bells Vireo	
		Quino Checkerspot Butterfly	
		Riverside Fairy Shrimp	
		Santa Ana Sucker	
		Southern Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog	
		Southern Rubber Boa	
		Southwestern Arroyo Toad	
		Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	
		Swainson's Hawk	
		Townsend's Big-Eared Bat	
		Unarmored Three-Spined Stickleback	
		Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	
		Willow Flycatcher	
		Other	
	Contains known endangered or threatened plant species (pursuant to most recent list of state and federal species. Those shown at left are reflective of April, 2016 - California Fish and Wildlife)	California Orcutt Grass	
		Nevin's Barberry	
		San Fernando Valley Spineflower	
		Slender-Horned Spineflower	
		Spreading Navarretia	
		Other	

CATEGORY	ELEMENT	SUB ELEMENT	STATUS	
Habitat Areas (Continued)	Contains oak trees	Heritage Oak		
		Non-Heritage Oak		
		Oak Forest		
		Oak Savanna		
		Oak Woodlands		
Ridgelines and Viewsheds Category Subtotal: _____	Contains identified ridgelines	Primary ridgelines		
		Secondary ridgelines		
	Contains visual resources	"Dark Sky" viewshed		
		Significant local viewshed		
		Significant regional viewshed		
		Unique or special visual features on-site		
		Site visible from public right of way		
	Recreational Resources Category Subtotal: _____	Contains passive recreation areas	Existing pedestrian trail	
			Connection to existing offsite trails	
Existing equestrian trail				
Existing mixed-use trail				
Other passive recreation resource				
Potential equestrian trail				
Potential mixed-use trail				
Potential pedestrian trail				
Cultural/Historical Resources Category Subtotal: _____	Contains cultural and/or historical resource areas	National Register of Historic Places		
		State significant historic landmark		
		Local significant historic resource		
		Native American site		
		Other archaeological site/resource		

CATEGORY	ELEMENT	SUB ELEMENT	STATUS
Other Resources Category Subtotal: _____	Contains a groundwater recharge area	None	
	Is in a significant location	Abuts existing open space	
		Expands a regional open space corridor	
		Located in a parks/open space poor area	
		Potential buffer zone	
		Provides links to existing or future trail systems	
	Access to site	Existing equestrian access	
		Existing pedestrian access	
		Existing vehicular access	
		Provides access to other sites	
	Conservation Easement Utility Easement or other Easement	None	

Hazard/Other Areas: Total Score: _____ (Not included in total)	Contains hazards rendering the site undevelopable	Areas of soil instability	
		Fault zone	
		Fire hazard areas	
		Floodway	
		Mineral resource area	
		Site is Contaminated	

<p>Notes:</p> <p>DGP:srl</p> <p><small>S:\FINMA\OSPD\Work Program\2017 Work Program\OpenSpace Inventory Checklist Revised April 2016.xls</small></p>
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Open Space Inventory Items – Definitions

TERM	DEFINITION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Wildlife Corridor</u> 	<p>Wildlife corridors are generally described as pathways or habitat linkages that connect discrete areas of natural open space otherwise separated or fragmented by topography, changes in vegetation, and other natural factors in combination with urbanization. Corridors: 1) allow animals to move between remaining habitats, which allow depleted populations to be replenished and promotes genetic exchange; 2) provide escape routes from fire, predators, and human disturbances, thus reducing the risk that catastrophic events, such as fire or disease, will result in population or species extinction; 3) serve as travel paths for individual animals as they wander throughout their home ranges in search of food, water, mates, and other needs, or for dispersing juveniles in search of new home ranges.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Riparian Habitat</u> 	<p>Specifically referring to habitat located on the banks of or within a natural watercourse, including rivers, lakes, and tidewaters. These corridors are generally defined by a blue-line stream designation on United States Geologic Survey maps. In Santa Clarita, the riparian habitat of the Santa Clara River is home to several Federal and State Endangered Species, including, but not limited to: the Unarmored Three-spine Stickleback, the Southwestern Arroyo Toad, and the Least Bells Vireo. In addition to being important breeding grounds for a variety of species, riparian habitat also protect water quality by reducing runoff and allowing for groundwater recharge.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Significant Ecological Areas</u> 	<p>Areas that contain significant or special biological resource value. Los Angeles County has designated five SEA's in and around the City of Santa Clarita. They are 1) The Santa Clara River Corridor, 2) The Santa Susana Mountains, 3) San Francisquito Canyon, 4) Lyon Canyon, and 5) Valley Oaks Savanna. In addition, the City has recommended that sections of Elsmere Canyon, Whitney Canyon, Placerita Canyon, Los Pinetos Canyon, and Los Pinetos Spring be included as SEA's by Los Angeles County. Generally, the SEA designation provides protection and special development standards designed to protect the significant or special biological resources contained within them.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Critical Habitat</u> • <u>Major Plant Communities</u> • <u>Important Canyon Areas</u> • <u>Rivers and Creeks</u> 	<p>The specific areas within a geographical area, occupied by an endangered/threatened species, on which are found those physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and which may require special management, consideration, or protection.</p> <p>The Open Space and Conservation Element of the General Plan identifies seven major plant communities in the Santa Clarita Valley. They are: 1) Interior Live Oak Woodland, 2) Valley Oak Woodland, 3) Coast Live Oak Woodland, 4) Riversidean Sage Scrub, 5) Semi-Desert Chaparral, 6) Southern Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forest, and 7) Mulefat Scrub.</p> <p>The Open Space and Conservation Element of the General Plan identifies the following canyons as important for their habitat and biological resources: Whitney Canyon, Elsmere Canyon, Wiley Canyon, East Canyon, Towsley Canyon, Rice Canyon, San Francisquito Canyon, Placerita Canyon, and “other” canyons that provide important habitat (water, food, and shelter) and biological resources, in addition to adding to the viewshed of the Santa Clarita Valley.</p> <p>Rivers and creeks in Santa Clarita (most notably the Santa Clara River) support a variety of natural habitats, including freshwater marsh, coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, and riparian woodlands. Many of the rivers and creeks in Santa Clarita remain dry for most of the year, although a subsurface flow runs year round. In scattered areas, however, the water table under the streambed is high, and lush riparian vegetation provides refuge for birds and wildlife.</p> <p>The assemblage of vegetation is unlike that found in steeper mountain canyons and is rare in the Los Angeles Basin. The Santa Clara River is the only major drainage from the San Gabriel Mountains and remains unchannelized for most of its length.</p> <p>Wetlands found along the Santa Clara River and its tributaries are considered a sensitive resource by the California Department of Fish and Game and are subject to the Clean Water Act, under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Known Endangered and Threatened Animal Species</u> • <u>Known Endangered and Threatened Plant Species</u> • <u>Oak Trees</u> 	<p>The following species can be found in the Santa Clarita Valley, according to the State of California Department of Fish and Wildlife list of State and Federally Endangered and Threatened Animal Species, April 2016: California Condor (FE, SE), California Red-Legged Frog (FT), Coastal Gnatcatcher (FT), Least Bells Vireo (FE, SE), Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (FE), Riverside Fairy Shrimp (FT), Santa Ana Sucker (FT), Southern Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog (FE, SE), Southern Rubber Boa (ST), Southwestern Arroyo Toad (FE), Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (FE, SE), Swainson’s Hawk (ST), Townsend’s Big-Eared Bat (SCT), Unarmored Three-Spined Stickleback (FE, SE), Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo (FT, SE), and the Willow Flycatcher (SE).¹</p> <p>The following species can be found in the Santa Clarita Valley, according to the State of California Department of Fish and Wildlife list of State and Federally Endangered and Threatened Animal Species, April 2016: California Orcutt Grass (FE, SE), Nevin’s Barberry (FE, SE), San Fernando Valley Spineflower (SE), Slender-Horned Spineflower (FE, SE), and the Spreading Navarretia (FT).</p> <p>Heritage Oak Tree: Any oak tree of the genus <i>Quercus</i> including, but not limited to, Valley Oak, California Live Oak, Interior Live Oak, Canyon Oak, and Scrub Oak, measuring one-hundred-eight (108) inches or more in circumference or, in the case of multiple trunk oak trees, two (2) or more trunks measuring seventy-two (72) inches each or greater in circumference measured four-and-one-half (4 ½) feet above the natural grade surrounding such a tree. In addition, a Heritage Oak is defined as any oak tree specifically classified as such by the Planning Commission and/or City Council when the tree possess exceptional historic, aesthetic, and/or environmental qualities of major significance or prominence to the community.</p> <p>Non-Heritage Oak Tree: Any oak tree not fitting the description of a Heritage Oak tree (above) of the genus <i>Quercus</i> including, but not limited to, Valley Oak, California Live Oak, Interior Live Oak, Canyon Oak, and Scrub Oak.</p>
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¹ Where FE = Federally Endangered, FT = Federally Threatened, SE = State Endangered, ST = State Threatened, and SCT = State Candidate Threatened

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ridgelines</u> 	<p>Structural Types: Oak trees are generally grouped into one of three structural types: Oak Savannas, Oak Woodlands, and Oak Forests.</p> <p>Oak Savanna: Of the three structural types, an Oak Savanna is the most spacious with oak trees scattered far apart from each other over the landscape. Generally, Oak Savannas are found in the driest and warmest environments at the lowest elevations of the three oak structural types.</p> <p>Oak Woodland: Of the three structural types, Oak Woodlands have a greater tree density than Oak Savannas but are less dense than an Oak Forest. Individual oak canopies may touch, but rarely overlap those of other oak trees. Oak Woodlands are generally found in higher elevations and in cooler, moister, environments than Oak Savannas, but less than in Oak Forests.</p> <p>Oak Forest: Oak Forests are characterized by deep, overlapping canopies that produce constant shade. Forests are generally associated with upland slopes, or with streams and rivers at any elevation where the environment is very moist and relatively cool.</p> <p>Ridgelines: Ridgelines that surround or visually dominate the valley landscape, either through their size in relation to the hillside or mountain terrain, of which they are a part; their visual dominance, as characterized by a silhouetting appearance against the sky; as a significant natural backdrop feature or separation of communities; through visual dominance, due to proximity and view from existing development or major corridors; or as an area of significant ecological, historical, or cultural importance, such as those which connect park or trail systems.</p> <p>Ridgelines are those which are characterized by any condition of significant ridgeline criteria.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Viewsheds</u> 	<p>Natural and cultural features of the environment that can be viewed by either stationary or transitory populations. Prominent visual features can be further identified as features that are unique to the Santa Clarita Valley and/or those that stand out in relation to their surroundings.</p> <p>Significant Regional Viewshed: A viewshed where a significant number of prominent visual features unique to the Santa Clarita Valley can be identified.</p> <p>Significant Local Viewshed: A viewshed where a significant number of prominent visual features unique to the Santa Clarita Valley or the City of Santa Clarita can be identified, but that are secondary in quantity or nature to a Significant Regional Viewshed.</p> <p>“Dark Sky” Viewshed: A location away from artificial or urban light sources, which preserves the nighttime view of stars, planets, constellations, and other heavenly bodies.</p> <p>Unique or Special Visual Resources: Unique or special scenic elements on-site, such as waterfalls, wildflower displays, geologic formations, scenic vistas, etc.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Trails</u> 	<p>Existing Trails: A trail of any class which has been established and is currently being maintained.</p> <p>Potential Trails: A location where developing trailheads or trails on the site is feasible.</p> <p>Other Passive Recreation Resources: The potential for the development of other types of passive recreation on-site.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Cultural/Historical Resources</u> 	<p>A variety of classifications of Cultural/Historical sites exist:</p> <p>National Register of Historic Places: The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. At the time this document was published, the Santa Clarita Valley contained no known sites of this kind.</p> <p>State Significant Historic Landmarks: Properties of historical importance in California are designated as significant resources in three state registration programs: State Historical Landmarks, Points of Historical Interest, and the California Register of Historic Places. Historical landmarks are sites, buildings, features, or events that are of statewide significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific, technical, religious, experimental, or other value. At the time this document was published, Santa Clarita contained nine State Historical Landmarks and over twenty State and City Points of Historical Interest. State Historical Landmarks are: #1006 - Beale's Cut, #168 - The Oak of the Golden Dream, #172 - Pioneer Oil Refinery, #516 - Well CSO4 (Pico 4), #516-2 - Mentryville, #556 - Rancho San Francisco, #590 - Lang Station, #688 - Lyons Station Stagecoach Stop, and #919 - The St. Francis Dam Disaster Site.</p> <p>Native American Sites: Archaeological evidence suggests no fewer than twenty-two semi-permanent villages throughout the Valley settled by the Tataviam Indians, circa 550 A.D., during their migration westward from the interior. It is estimated that approximately 500 Tataviams lived in these villages at that time.</p> <p>Other Archaeological Site/Historical Resource: Other archaeological or historical resources not mentioned above.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Groundwater Recharge Area</u> • <u>Conservation Easement</u> • <u>Significant Location</u> 	<p>Areas that provide for the replenishment of underground water resources, specifically the Saugus and alluvial aquifers. Primary groundwater recharge areas within the Santa Clarita Valley include, but are not limited to, the Santa Clara River and its tributaries and local canyons. Generally, natural or soft-bottom drainage channels and wide, natural floodways and floodplains also serve as groundwater recharge areas.</p> <p>In granting a conservation easement, a landowner transfers certain property rights to a nonprofit conservation organization or government agency. The landowner agrees to restrict uses of the property, and the agency or nonprofit gains the right to ensure that the restrictions are upheld. Serves as a tool for preventing intensification of land use on property having important natural, agricultural, scenic, or historical value. The landowner retains title to the property but agrees to forgo certain uses, including, but not limited to, residential and/or commercial development. Explicit and legally binding, but negotiable, so that the needs of all parties involved can be accommodated. Uses are restricted only to the degree necessary to protect the land's significant values. Conservation easements are written into the deed for the property and run with the land. All subsequent property owners are bound by the terms of the easement. (Source: California Wetlands Information System.)</p> <p>The site is significantly located in relation to other sites and/or resources:</p> <p>Potential Buffer Zone: The location provides a buffer zone between more intensive and less intensive uses.</p> <p>Abuts Existing Open Space: The location abuts existing open space areas.</p> <p>Located in a Parks/Open Space Poor Area: The location is in a part of the Santa Clarita Valley that is poor in open space and/or park space. These areas tend to be those that have the greatest urban density, such as, Newhall and Canyon Country.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Access</u> • <u>Mineral Resource Area</u> • <u>Floodway, Seismic Fault Zone, Fire Hazard Area, Area of Soil Instability</u> • <u>Utility Easement</u> 	<p>Expands a Regional Open Space Corridor: The property is adjacent to and/or expands a regional open space corridor.</p> <p>Provides Links to Existing or Future Trail System: The location provides linkages to other trail systems.</p> <p>A means to approach or enter a site. In order to be valuable, a site should have some form of existing or attainable access.</p> <p>Gold mining and oil production mineral extraction areas, within and around the Santa Clarita Valley. Other mineral resource areas may include construction aggregate, titanium, and tuff materials. Specifically, mineral resource areas identified for managed production and protection include the Placer Gold Gulches, Lode Mines, Oil Fields, Construction Aggregate Resource Areas, and Santa Clara River Bed, as identified in Exhibit OS-5 of the City of Santa Clarita General Plan’s Open Space and Conservation Element.</p> <p>Natural hazard areas throughout the Santa Clarita Valley include, but are not limited to, floodways, seismic fault zones, wildland fire hazard areas, and areas of geologic instability, due to the presence of unstable soil conditions. Areas of soil instability that may be targeted for preservation should include unmitigable landslide and liquefaction hazard areas. Hazardous areas as specified above are identified in the City of Santa Clarita General Plan’s Open Space and Conservation Element, City of Santa Clarita General Plan’s Safety Element, and maps produced by the California State Department of Mines and Geology.</p> <p>Infrastructure improvements used to service the public, located either above ground or below, that include, but are not limited to, the following: solid waste collection, conversion, reduction and disposal lines; communication service lines (e.g., cable television/telephone lines), water supply and treatment lines, sewerage collection and treatment lines, storm drains, engineered flood control channels, natural gas pipelines, and electrical transmission lines.</p>
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APPENDIX B

Open Space Preservation District Map



Contents:

- **Open Space Preservation District Map**