

After SOAR: Ventura County Quality of Life

This is a survey for Ventura County residents regarding quality of life issues. It is being used not only to assess individual resident satisfaction, but to help evaluate educational materials that will soon become more widely disseminated. These materials consist of the three sustainability indicators contained within the report entitled *Limits to Growth and Quality of Life in Oxnard, California*.

Thank you for your time and assistance. All of your responses will be kept anonymous.

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In which town or city of Ventura County do you live? _____

Please indicate your responses (Xs, typed answer). Use the following scale to answer questions 1-5.

VS = Very Satisfied **S** = Satisfied **N** = Neutral **D** = Dissatisfied **VD** = Very Dissatisfied

1. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of life in your town?
2. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of life in Ventura County?
3. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of life outside the county
(i.e. in the Los Angeles metropolitan area)?
4. How satisfied are you with the physical environment of your town?
5. How satisfied are you with the density of your town?
6. Would you have answered these questions differently 3 years ago? (Yes or No)
If you answered **No** to question 6, skip to question 9.
7. If you answered **Yes** to question 6: Would your responses to questions 1-5 have been **more positive or more negative** 3 years ago?

8. If you answered question 7: What have you noticed that would affect your response?



Please indicate your responses (Xs, typed answer). Use the following scale to answer questions 9-13.

SA = Strongly Agree **A** = Agree **N** = Neutral **D** = Disagree **SD** = Strongly Disagree

9. I feel strongly attached to my neighborhood.

10. I interact with my neighbors.

11. If I left the neighborhood, I would miss the neighborhood.

12. If I left the neighborhood, I would miss the neighbors.

13. I follow local political and community issues.

14. How long have you lived in your neighborhood?

_____ Less than 1 year

_____ 1- 2 years

_____ 2- 3 years

_____ More than 4 years

15. How much longer do you plan to live in your neighborhood?

_____ Less than 1 year

_____ 1- 2 years

_____ 2- 3 years

_____ More than 4 years

16. If you had your choice, would you relocate out of your community? (No or Yes)

17. Are you currently a part of a program or group (non-religious) in your community? (No or Yes)

18. Have you ever been a volunteer in your community? (No or Yes)

19. How would you rate the current neighborhood spirit?

_____ Excellent

_____ Good

_____ Fair

_____ Poor

20. How do you think the neighborhood spirit has changed over the past year?

_____ Improved

_____ Worsened

_____ No change

21. How do you view your own civic engagement over the past few years?

(for example, attended meetings about issues in your community, volunteered, etc.)

_____ More engaged than before

_____ Less engaged than before

_____ About the same amount of civic engagement as before

22. Do you live in a **single-family or multi-family dwelling** (duplex, apartment, condominium)?

23. Do you **own or rent** your home?

24. Which of the following factors would result in high density housing within Ventura County?
(If choosing more than one response, please rank 1st, 2nd, etc.)

_____ Population increase

_____ Limited land

_____ Construction costs

_____ Other (Please specify):

_____ Do not know

25. Which of the following factors would best describe the role of agriculture within Ventura County?
(If choosing more than one response, please rank 1st, 2nd, etc.)

_____ As a contributor to the local economy

_____ As a source of locally grown food

_____ As a form of beauty and scenery

_____ As a source of employment

_____ Other (Please specify):

_____ Do not know

26. What is your view of land conversion, from agricultural to other uses?

_____ Positive

_____ Neutral (both Positive and Negative)

_____ Negative

_____ It would depend upon the new use of the land

_____ Do not know

27. Which use(s) might cause you to feel more positively towards agricultural land conversion?
(If choosing more than one response, please rank 1st, 2nd, etc.)

_____ Stores

_____ Multi-family Dwellings

_____ Offices

_____ Industry

_____ Parks/Recreation

_____ Do not know

28. Would these views remain constant if the land conversion in question were not in your county?

_____ Yes

_____ No

_____ Do not know

29. Do you believe that the beauty and scenery of Ventura County can be preserved? (No or Yes)
Please explain:

30. What would you miss the most if it were destroyed, altered or removed?

31. Has your quality of life improved in the past few years?

_____ Improved

_____ Stayed about the same

_____ Worsened

_____ Do not know

32. Thinking ahead 20 years, do you think the quality of life in your community will be:

_____ Much better than it is now

_____ Better than it is now

_____ About the same as now

_____ Worse than it is now

_____ Much worse than it is now

33. What is your age?

_____ 18-24 years

_____ 25-29 years

_____ 30-39

_____ 40-49

_____ 50-59

_____ 60 or older

34. What is your gender? (Male or Female)

35. What is your ethnic group or nationality?

_____ African American

_____ Asian/Pacific Islander

_____ Central American

_____ Chicano/Mexican-American

- _____ Mexican
- _____ Mixed Ethnicity
- _____ South American
- _____ White
- _____ Other (Please specify):

36. What is the last grade in school you have completed, or the highest degree you have received?

- _____ Grade 8 or less
- _____ Grades 9-11
- _____ High school graduate or equivalent
- _____ Some college but no degree
- _____ Trade school
- _____ College graduate
- _____ Post-graduate classes but no degree
- _____ Post-graduate degree

The additional materials consist of the three sustainability indicators found on pages 13-17 of (“Limits to Growth and Quality of Life in Oxnard, California: A Set of Indicators of a City’s Sustainability”).

I would like you to read the *goals, findings, measurements, and context* for these three indicators, and evaluate them in terms of readability, comprehensibility, and significance. Please indicate your responses. When complete, please return your survey by email to **cmaida@ucla.edu**

Thank you again for your participation.

Please use the following three scales to answer these questions regarding the goals, findings, measurements, and context of the indicators. Indicate your response by typing the most appropriate letters.

1. Readability (i.e. “pleasant” phrasing, without syntactical problems)

CR = Completely Readable **SR** = Somewhat Readable **N** = Neutral
SUR = Somewhat Unreadable **VUR** = Very Unreadable

- a. How would you describe the Readability of the *Pesticide Use* indicator:
- b. How would you describe the Readability of the *Multi-Family Housing Units* indicator:
- c. How would you describe the Readability of the *Persons Responding to EIRs* indicator:



2. Comprehensibility (i.e. understandable--both in concept and data)

CC = Completely Comprehensible **SC** = Somewhat Comprehensible **N** = Neutral
SIC = Somewhat Incomprehensible **VIC** = Very Incomprehensible

- a. How would you describe the Comprehensibility of the *Pesticide Use* indicator:
- b. How would you describe the Comprehensibility of the *Multi-Family Housing Units* indicator:
- c. How would you describe the Comprehensibility of the *Persons Responding to EIRs* indicator:



3. Significance (i.e. has meaningful and appropriate concepts and data)

CS = Completely Significant **SS** = Somewhat Significant **N** = Neutral
SIS = Somewhat Insignificant **VIS** = Very Insignificant

- a. How would you describe the Significance of the *Pesticide Use* indicator:
- b. How would you describe the Significance of the *Multi-Family Housing Units* indicator:
- c. How would you describe the Significance of the *Persons Responding to EIRs* indicator:

(Optional) Would you like to offer any other comments regarding these indicators?