Dear Planning Commission Chairman Onstot and Commissioners,

The Santa Paula Citizens Corps Council (established 2004), charged with emergency preparedness, would like to offer comments on the Ventura County 2040 General Plan (Public Review Draft March 2017), specifically the section on Hazards and Safety.

Section 11.1 Geologic and Seismic Hazards
Under the heading Known Earthquake Faults the report notes:

Oak Ridge Fault System
The Oak Ridge fault system is a steep (65 degrees) southerly dipping reverse fault that extends from the Santa Susana Mountains westward along the southerly side of the Santa Clara River Valley and into the Oxnard Plain. The system is more than 50 miles long on the mainland and may extend an equal or greater distance offshore. Several recorded earthquake epicenters on land and offshore may have been associated with the Oak Ridge fault system. Portions of the system are zoned by the state as active.

San Cayetano–Red Mountain–Santa Susana Fault System
This fault system consists of a major series of north-dipping reverse faults that extend over 150 miles from Santa Barbara County into Los Angeles County. Within this system, the San Cayetano fault is the greatest hazard to Ventura County; it is a major, north-dipping reverse fault that extends for 25 miles along the northern portion of the Ventura Basin. The San Fernando earthquake of 1971, described in the previous section, was caused by activity along this fault.

The General Plan update document should specify that the San Cayetano Fault also transverses a portion of the Santa Clara River Valley along the northerly side and at one point is less than one-mile from the Oak Ridge Fault. The two faults have been slowing moving together for centuries, activity that seismologists have documented and continue to study. By not including this information it seems to diminish the potential impacts to this area; this proximity and the specific location of the San Cayetano Fault should be noted in the report.
SECTION 11.5 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Sections of the report overall including Flood Hazards and Geologic and Seismic Hazards include county history on such events (such as the St. Francis Dam failure of 1928, historic floods, etc. and past earthquakes respectively).

The Hazardous Materials section of the Hazards & Safety 2040 General Plan does not refer to the November 18, 2014 explosions and fire at the Santa Clara Waster Water-Green Compass facility on Mission Rock Road, just west of the Santa Paula city line. This incident led to the injury of about 50 people, most resulting from being exposed to toxic chemicals, causing a widespread evacuation. Two Santa Paula Fire Fighters never returned to duty, city and county fire engines were lost, Sheriff Geoff Dean declared an emergency and later nine executives and managers of the company were indicted on felony and misdemeanor charges related to the incident.

Not including the Ventura County’s own experience with such an incident in the Hazards & Safety 2040 General Plan appears to minimize the danger from hazardous materials and their handling and should be included in the report.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions please contact Steve Lazenby at stevenjlazenby@gmail.com or Peggy Kelly at pkellywriter@gmail.com

Regards,

Steven Lazenby, Chairperson
Peggy Kelly, Council Member
Santa Paula Citizen Corps Council
Santa Paula, CA.