SOIL SURVEY
VENTURA AREA, CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRIC
Soil Conservation Service
in cooperation with
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agricultural Experiment Station
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Major fieldwork for this soil survey was done in the period 1961-68. Soil names and descriptions were approved in 1968. Unless otherwise indicated, statements in the publication refer to conditions in the county in 1969. This survey was made cooperatively by the Soil Conservation Service, the Calleguas, Simi Valley, and Ojai Soil Conservation Districts, Ventura County, and the University of California Agricultural Experiment Station. It is part of the technical assistance furnished to the Calleguas, Simi Valley, and Ojai Soil Conservation Districts.

Preparation of this soil survey was partly financed by the Calleguas, Simi Valley, and Ojai Soil Conservation Districts and Ventura County under provisions of an agreement with the Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Either enlarged or reduced copies of the soil map in this publication can be made by commercial photographers, or they can be purchased, on individual order, from the Cartographic Division, Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

HOW TO USE THIS SOIL SURVEY

THIS SOIL SURVEY contains information that can be applied in managing farms and ranches; in selecting sites for roads, ponds, buildings, or other structures; and in determining the suitability of tracts of land for farming, industry, or recreation.

Locating Soils

All of the soils of the Ventura Area are shown on the detailed map at the back of this survey. This map consists of many sheets that are made from aerial photographs. Each sheet is numbered to correspond with a number shown on the Index to Map Sheets.

On each sheet of the detailed map, soil areas are outlined and are identified by symbol. All areas marked with the same symbol are the same kind of soil. The soil symbol is inside the area if there is enough room; otherwise, it is outside and a pointer shows where the symbol belongs.

Finding and Using Information

The "Guide to Mapping Units" can be used to find information in this publication. This guide lists all of the soils of the Area in alphabetic order by map symbol. It shows the page where each kind of soil is described, the capability classification and the page where the capability unit is described, and the designation for the hydrologic group in which the soil has been placed.

Many kinds of interpretative maps can be made by using information in the text and coloring the detailed soil map to show different degrees of suitability or limitation. Five sample maps of this kind have been included in this survey, following page 104. All of these maps were prepared on sheet 27 of the detailed soil map. They show shrink-swell potential, hydrologic soil groups, avocado root rot, suitability for farming, and soil erosion hazard.

Assistance in interpreting the maps or text of this soil survey can be obtained at the nearest office of the Soil Conservation Service, the office of the Soil Conservation District, or the Public Works Department of Ventura County.

Farmers and ranchers and those who work with them can learn about use and management of the soils from the soil descriptions and from the discussions of the capability groups. The capability grouping is in the section "Farm and Nonfarm Interpretations."

Community planners and others concerned with nonfarm development can read about the soil properties that affect the choice of homesites, industrial sites, schools, and parks in the section "Farm and Nonfarm Interpretations."

Engineers and builders can find under "Use of the Soils in Engineering" tables that describe soil properties that affect engineering and show the relative suitability of the soils for specified engineering purposes.

Scientists and others can read about how the soils formed and how they are classified in the section "Formation and Classification of the Soils."

Newcomers in the Ventura Area may be especially interested in the section "General Soil Map," where broad patterns of soils are described. They may also be interested in the section "Additional Facts About the Area."

Cover picture: City of Camarillo in 1967. Urban and industrial development is encroaching on farmland. Camarillo Hills, Las Posas Valley, and South Mountain are in the background. Anacapa, Pico, and Sorrento soils are dominant in the valleys. Rincon and Huerhuero soils are on terraces and old alluvial fans. San Benito and Nacimiento are major soils of the upland.
Photograph by Mark Hurd Aerial Surveys, Goleta, California

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SOIL SURVEY OF THE VENTURA AREA, CALIFORNIA

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

The Ventura Area is the southern part of Ventura County, which is in the southwestern part of California (fig. 1). The Area surveyed consists of the privately owned land south of Los Padres National Forest, except for the islands of Anacapa and San Nicholas. The total extent of the Area is 548,874 acres, or about 858 square miles.

Figure 1.--Location of the Ventura Area in California.

The population of Ventura County, in January 1969, was 365,240. Oxnard, the largest incorporated city, had at that time a population of 66,890; Ventura, 51,470; the Thousand Oaks-Newbury Park area, 43,060; Camarillo, 18,630; Port Hueneme, 18,000; and Santa Paula, 17,000.

Transportation facilities include a network of highways and freeways, railway service from Oxnard and Ventura and other major centers, bus service from most cities in the Area, and scheduled air service from Ventura County Airport. A number of small airports are available for private and industrial use. Local products are exported by sea from Port Hueneme, where a shipping wharf was first constructed in 1871. Submarine pipelines from the oilfields near Ventura make possible the offshore loading of oil tankers.

Mission San Buenaventura, established in 1782, was the first permanent settlement in this Area. The mission was on the site of the present-day city of Ventura, which still retains, officially, the name San Buenaventura. Ventura County was established on January 1, 1873. Prior to that date, the area was part of Santa Barbara County.

Farming and ranching, for the sustenance of the Mission, were major activities in the early days of the settlement. By the 1830's there were 19 ranches in the county, covering altogether nearly half a million acres. Cattle, sheep, horses, and mules were raised. After 1848 ranching declined and the production of wheat, barley, corn, and other dry-farmed crops expanded. The first commercial citrus grove in the county was planted in 1874, near Santa Paula.

Irrigation on a large scale, introduced during the decade from 1880 to 1890, brought changes in agriculture. Walnuts and apricots were introduced, and for a time they were major crops. Lima beans were grown extensively, also. Production of all three of these has declined in recent years. At present, the main money crops are lemons, oranges, and tomatoes. Other vegetables, strawberries, avocados, and fresh flowers are among the significant crops. Farming is still of major importance, although urban expansion has encroached on cropland.

Oil production began in 1866. A major field north of the city of Ventura was discovered in 1925, and the oil industry is now a leading source of income. Citrus packing and vegetable processing are among the other major industries. Sand and gravel works meet local demands for aggregates. Concrete pipe used in drainage systems and irrigation systems is manufactured locally. Light manufacturing and research industries have been moving into the Conejo Valley and the vicinity of Oxnard.

Navy installations at Port Hueneme and Point Mugu and an Air Force base at Camarillo have affected the economy of the county by accelerating the demand for housing and for commercial services.