

2015 sees most filming yet in Santa Clarita

By Signal Staff

January 12, 2016 12:23 p.m., Updated: January 12, 2016 6:04 p.m.

Santa Clarita continued to earn its nickname of "Hollywood North" last year as it pushed the number of permits for filming to an all-time high and collected more than \$30 million in local economic benefits, city officials said Tuesday.

The Santa Clarita Film Office reported 565 film permits and 1,372 location film days in 2015, a 13 percent increase in permits and a 2 percent increase in film days compared to 2014, city officials said in a news release.

While the estimated economic impact to the local community from location filming alone in 2015 was \$30.9 million, that represented a 4 percent decrease compared to 2014, when the economic impact was \$32.2 million, the Tuesday release said.

In an earlier interview with the Santa Clarita Valley Business Journal, city spokesman Evan Thomason said the higher number of movies filmed in the Santa Clarita Valley in 2014 could explain the reduced economic impact of 2015 filming. "The economic impact from feature films tends to be higher," he said.

Not included in the reported numbers are the film days and estimated economic benefit from filming that takes place on certified sound stages, which does not require a film permit.

"We continue to stay committed to making Santa Clarita a top choice for filming," said Mayor Bob Kellar. "This is evidenced by the increasing number of permits and the number of locally based shows here in Santa Clarita."

More than half the film days were for television shows, including "Blunt Talk," "NCIS," "Recovery Road," "Stitchers," "Switched at Birth," "Westworld," "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.," "Cesar 911," "Modern Family," "Silicon Valley" and "Scandal."

Movies filmed locally included "Behold My Heart," "The Circle," "LaLa Land" and "PeeWee's Big Holiday."

Thomason said the state's revamped film and TV incentive program to keep filming in California has helped both the Santa Clarita Valley and the rest of the state.

"We've talked about it quite extensively in trade groups — the state film program is breathing new life in terms of film production returning to the state," he said.

"And with the annexation of the seven movie ranches into our overlay zone, we're breaking new ground in the (city) film office in terms of numbers. The movie ranches saw an increase in filming activity."