

## Another blockbuster year for filming in Santa Clarita

By Jana Adkins  
Signal Business Editor  
jana@signalscv.com  
661-287-5599  
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Filming activity in Santa Clarita hit new milestones in 2014 for the fifth consecutive year, with each year outdoing the prior one in terms of film permits issued, film days and economic impact to the area.

The city's film office recorded an 8 percent increase in film permits issued in 2014, or 502 permits issued compared to 463 in 2013.

Those permits led to 1,339 film days last year, a 6 percent increase over the 1,264 film days recorded in the prior year.

Based on the number of film permits issued, those days translate to nearly three film projects per day in Santa Clarita.

Filming activity last year accounted for \$32.2 million in economic impact based on a standard formula for calculating the benefit to community residents and businesses.

The economic impact represents a 6.5 percent increase over the \$30.5 million impact estimated in 2013.

The movie "American Sniper," a much-recognized film from 2014, was filmed locally at the Blue Cloud movie ranch in Saugus. But television shows accounted for more than half of the location filming days in Santa Clarita, the city reported.

"TV is our bread and butter due to the number of locally based TV shows that we have," Russell Sypowicz of the city's film office in the January edition of the SCV Business Journal.

And the recent enhancements to the state's tax credit program, which allowed more projects to qualify for credits, are expected to help further boost local filming in 2015, Sypowicz said.

The tax credits are probably going to be a big incentive around Los Angeles in general, but there's a good chance that the SCV will get a lot of that filming, said Derek Hunt, owner of the Rancho Maria and Sable Ranch movie ranches in the area.

"I get a lot of phone calls, and a lot of people are asking what I have going on (at the movie ranch)," Hunt said. "They are looking to stay in L.A."

"A lot of people want to be here now that they have this incentive and (they) will make an effort to do that."

Sypowicz said a number of people have also reached out to the city showing interest in creating even more studio space in Santa Clarita.

More film stages mean more homes for more film projects locally, Jason Crawford, head of the city's economic development division, told the SCVBJ.

jana@signalscv.com

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In this image released by Warner Bros. Pictures, Kyle Gallner, left, and Bradley Cooper appear in a scene from "American Sniper." The much-recognized 2014 movie filmed some scenes locally at the Blue Cloud movie ranch in Saugus. *AP photo*