

Another record filming year

Estimated economic impact to the region up 22 percent

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The city of Santa Clarita, increasingly becoming known as "Hollywood North," set another banner year for local filming and announced a new television series is coming to town.

For the first time, more than 1,000 film days were recorded in the fiscal year 2012 to 2013, announced the city of Santa Clarita's film office on Wednesday.

Despite the film production flight from the state of California and Los Angeles County, film permits in the city dropped only 1 percent from the prior fiscal year.

However, Santa Clarita continues to set record numbers for film days and economic impact to the area.

The 1,069 local film days recorded were up 18 percent from the 909 film days set in the previous fiscal year.

The 368 film permits dipped slightly from 372 permits secured in the prior year.

"Filming continues to be a key industry for the city, as location filming generated an estimated \$25.7 million in economic impact to the community last year," said Russell Sypowicz, economic development associate for the city of Santa Clarita's film office.

Sypowicz said the city's film-friendly policies, low permit fees, and support from local residents and businesses have played a big role in the growth of local filming.

The estimated economic impact to the region was up 22 percent from \$21.1 million, according to city officials.

While these numbers reflect location filming, a lot of film production companies also work at local movie studios and ranches. There are some 14 studios in the Santa Clarita Valley.

In April, the city also welcomed three more movie ranch properties into the city's Movie Ranch Overlay Zone.

Located within Hollywood's 30-mile zone, Santa Clarita created the zoning designation to extend incentives for film productions to relocate to Santa Clarita and create local film-related jobs.

The Sable Movie Ranch, Rancho Maria and A Rancho Deluxe include 692 acres, of which 540 acres are dedicated to filming.

The city also recently supported the Disney/ABC Studios at the Ranch project, which received

unanimous approval from the Los Angeles County Planning Commission in June. Final approval is needed from the L.A. County Board of Supervisors when it votes within the next two-to-three months.

And, on Tuesday the city's film office announced a new one-hour drama television series for the ABC/Family channel is coming to the Santa Clarita Studio.

"Chasing Amy" is a show about an aspiring journalist whose life is upended after she is diagnosed with cancer, said Jason Crawford, marketing and economic development manager for the city of Santa Clarita.

"They will start filming in about a month," he said.

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