

## The Signal

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### Local Film Industry Thrilled by End of Strike

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With Hollywood writers back at work after their 100-day strike, Santa Clarita's film industry looks to be back in business again.

"The phone has started ringing again," Jason Crawford, economic development manager for the city of Santa Clarita, said.

The strike was resolved Tuesday when members of the Writers Guild of America voted to end the walkout that began on Nov. 5 over compensation for programming distributed online.

"We are thrilled that they came to a resolution," Crawford said.

Crawford also noted that they are excited to see television shows like "The Unit," "The Riches" and "Big Love" based in Santa Clarita come back to work.

Local merchants dependent on Santa Clarita's film industry are also pleased to see that the work stoppage has been resolved.

"Thank god it's over," Phillip Horlings, owner of Motion Picture General Store in Valencia said.

Horlings said many have been calling his store relieved to know the strike is done while all of his clients that purchase supplies for their various television shows, movies and commercials have been phoning in information about upcoming programs.

"They're heading back to work," he said.

If the strike hadn't ended this week, Horlings said business would have continued to get a lot worse for companies that rely on local filming given the economic damage they had already felt.

"It would have been a disaster if they stayed (on-strike)," he said, noting that smaller "mom and pop" stores like his suffer the most.

Jack Kyser, chief economist for the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, said as a whole, the strike cost \$3.2 billion.

Broken down, Kyser said the loss of wages for both the guild and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers totaled about \$772 million.

The strike's ripple effect on dependent businesses created a \$1.3 billion impact while the estimated amount of money not spent on the productions of about 63 scripted television shows came out to about \$981 million.

However, Kyser cautions people that business won't be fully back to normal quite yet.

"It's important for people to understand that it won't be business as usual," he said.

Currently, studios are determining which shows will be produced. And once those shows are decided, it will take time to write new scripts before production can begin.

Kyser believes that established programs will be put on the air as quickly as possible while newer shows might be kept off the air until the end of the year.

"The strike is over, but the pain lingers on," he said.

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