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Varied slate shot in California

Films, TV shows made use of state's tax program

By **IAIN BLAIR**

SANTA BARBARA

Project: "It's Complicated"/Universal

Director: Nancy Myers

Producer: Scott Rudin

This Santa Barbara-set romantic comedy puts Meryl Streep, hot off "Julie and Julia," back in the kitchen -- this time as a cookbook author, owner of an organic bakery and apex of a love triangle. Streep stars as a divorcee cheating on her architect boyfriend (Steve Martin) by having an affair with her ex-husband (Alec Baldwin), who's remarried to a much younger woman (Lake Bell), forcing her to juggle an increasingly complicated love life -- thus the title. Skedded for released on Christmas Day, the film shot in Santa Barbara in April. The Santa Barbara County Film Commission facilitated permits and helped secure locations such as the Sunken Gardens, downtown areas and Montecito exteriors.

SANTA CLARITA

Project: "NCIS"/CBS

Producers: Shane Brennan, Mark Horowitz, Mark R. Schilz, Chas. Floyd Johnson, Gary Glasberg

The popular drama starring Mark Harmon focuses on special agents who travel the globe investigating crimes with ties to the Navy or Marine Corps -- from murder and espionage to terrorism and stolen submarines. The series, which recently returned for season seven, is shot at Valencia Studios and throughout Santa Clarita and the greater Los Angeles area, including two popular Santa Clarita filming locations: Westfield Valencia Town Center and College of the Canyons. The Santa Clarita Valley Film Office facilitates production. Santa Clarita film office exec Amy Sparks reports that "NCIS" recently wrapped episode 145.

ORANGE COUNTY

Project: "Marmaduke"/Fox

Director: Tom Dey

Producer: John Davis

This mixed live-action/CGI family movie stars the Great Dane of comicstrip fame, who evidently loves Orange County and its surfing lifestyle. Lee Pace plays Marmaduke's owner, with various actors providing voices for other dogs. Janice Arrington, Orange County film commissioner, reports her office was contacted by the film's location scout for information on the county's 42 miles of beachfront: The pic shot one day, last July 15, in Huntington Beach, aided by the city's permit agent. Filming took place in the water just off the town's pier. Stands were already set up for a surfing competition, and plate shots were taken of the stands, the beachfront and surfers.

ELDORADO LAKE TAHOE

Project: "The Othersiders"/Cartoon Network

Creator/exec producer: Zig Gauthier

Production: Red Varden Studios

The 23-episode (season one) reality series features five teenage ghost hunters who investigate paranormal activity at reportedly haunted locations, such as military forts, ships, prisons and hospitals. The El Dorado Lake Tahoe Film and Media Office helped the project shoot at various sites in the town of Camino, also known as Apple Hill. "Apple Hill has more than 50 ranches -- plus Christmas tree growers, wineries, a microbrewery and vineyards," reports film office exec Kathleen Dodge. "One episode was shot at the closed Sierra Pacific Industries Lumber Mill."

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