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FILMING IN SANTA CLARITA HITS ALL-TIME HIGH Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Best Year to Date for Filming in LA County's Third Largest City

The City of Santa Clarita set new film records in Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (July 2013-June 2014) with 1,370 film days representing an estimated **\$33.5 million** in local economic impact from location filming alone. This year marks the best year ever for the Santa Clarita Film Office.

The Santa Clarita Film Office recorded **1,370 film days and processed 531 film permits for location filming this last fiscal year**, which represents a **44 percent increase** in film permits and a **28 percent increase** in film days when compared to the City's previous record year in 2012-2013. The economic impact, or estimated money spent by film companies when filming on location, increased by **31 percent** in 2013-2014, when compared to 2012-2013 when the estimated economic impact was \$25,690,500.

The City is also excited to share that June 2014 was the best June on record for the Santa Clarita Film Office, with **81 percent more film days and 34 percent more permits** than any other previous June, representing an estimated **\$3.5 million in local economic impact**. The Film Office recorded 141 film days and issued 39 permits in June 2014, compared to 78 film days and 29 permits in June 2013, while the economic impact increased by 71 percent when compared to June 2013, when the estimated economic impact was \$2,028,000.

The City of Santa Clarita began issuing film permits in 2002-2003. Since forming its own film office, Santa Clarita has gained notoriety as one of California's most film-friendly cities. The area's thousands of locations, low permitting fees and expedited permitting process, City film incentives, and location within the entertainment industry's "Thirty Mile Zone" make it ideal for productions looking to film in California.

"We work hard to be the best at what we do and could not be more pleased with the Film Office's successes this past year," said Mayor Laurene Weste.

"Santa Clarita has always been a film-friendly community. Over the years, we have focused our efforts on making the film permitting process as easy as possible, while balancing the needs of production with those of the residential and business communities. We were the first city in Los Angeles County to offer a Film Incentive Program and remain committed to doing everything we can to ensure our position as a top choice for filming in California," she added.

Santa Clarita is home to more than 6,000 entertainment industry professionals, dozens of soundstages, and thousands of varied locations. The City can double as almost any place in the world, which is a big benefit for production.

Other factors that have contributed to the success of filming in Santa Clarita include the continuation of the California Film and Television Tax Credit Program and the City's own Film Incentive Program. Both programs were implemented in 2009 and are aimed at retaining and increasing feature and television production.

The City of Santa Clarita is currently home to some of television's most-watched programming, including "NCIS," "Switched at Birth," "The Bridge," "Jennifer Falls," "Chasing Life," "Franklin and Bash," "Justified," "Utopia" and "Wipeout." Nearly half of the location filming days for 2013-2014 were attributed to television production alone. Other shows that regularly film in Santa Clarita include "CSI," "Criminal Minds," "Modern Family," "The Mentalist," and "Sons of Anarchy." Feature films such as *Earth to Echo, Captain America: The Winter Soldier, Dumb and Dumber To, Fast and Furious 7* and *Saving Mr. Banks* also filmed scenes in Santa Clarita.

Santa Clarita also sees a substantial economic benefit from filming that takes place on certified sound stages, which does not require a film permit and is not included in the reported numbers.

For more information about the Santa Clarita Film Office please visit <u>FilmSantaClarita.com</u> or contact the Film Office at (661) 284- 1425.

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