Next Generation Leaders

The Place 2022
Thank you for being a valuable member of AV EDGE. This year’s report highlights the innovative work of our dedicated and small but mighty staff, the accomplishments of our members and agencies and the resiliency of our region in a year unlike any we have experienced — despite unprecedented challenges for our business community and our neighbors. We hope you enjoy this reimagined publication featuring an entirely new concept titled, “My Why.” Brianna Dorris, our immensely talented former intern, brought this vision to life. Successful next-generation entrepreneurs and business executives grace the pages of this document — sharing why they have chosen the Antelope Valley as THE PLACE to leave their mark.

I encourage you to read and learn more about all the AV has to offer. Supporting communities and businesses, as well as being a resource and information hub, has been our goal throughout the pandemic and our relaunch. We work daily to create a more robust, equitable, sustainable and resilient economy throughout the region.

I want to thank each AV EDGE member and our partners for collaborating on this all-important work. With your continuing support, our specialized and uniquely integrated set of programs and offerings can address the myriad complex challenges we face as a region and help us advance opportunity, growth and prosperity for all.

Happy reading,
Bret Banks
President

There are many reasons for optimism in the Antelope Valley in 2022. With the worst of the pandemic behind us, we are moving forward together as a region with a renewed focus on economic growth and partnerships.

It is an exciting time for AV EDGE as we enter our third year. Despite numerous challenges over the past two years, continuing to expand and find more ways to promote the AV and encourage job growth. We are in the midst of amending our bylaws and revamping our membership fee structure and benefits to promote efficiency while providing flexibility and benefits to our members through innovative programs and events.

On May 25, 2022, we held our first in-person conference in two years. The Spring Business Summit featured Daymond John of Shark Tank, the lifestyle brand FUBU and many other successful business ventures. The conference showcased ways the AV provides economic advantages for business development and growth.

The Business Summit is our chance to show what we have to offer. We have launched an aggressive marketing campaign to build relationships among asset managers, site selectors and commercial real estate professionals to truly put us on the map. We are letting everyone know that the AV is THE PLACE to be for anyone looking at the California market.

Much of that story is within these pages. The economic data contained in this report shows the vibrancy and innovation of our community. We have a diverse and talented labor force, affordable quality of life and some of the most business-friendly local governments anywhere.

Drew Mercy
Executive Director
Accelerating the future of energy, together

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ANTELOPE VALLEY
CSU BAKERSFIELD
THE PLACE PROFILES

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MISSION STATEMENT

The AV EDGE mission is to ensure thoughtful, diverse economic growth and development of the entire Antelope Valley. Through partnerships, legislative advocacy and education, we work to inspire all businesses and industries to engage, leverage and cultivate the countless opportunities the AV offers businesses locally, regionally and globally.

GRAND CHARTER DONORS

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Antelope Valley College
Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA)
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Bank of America, Merrill Lynch
California Compaction Corporation
Centennial Founders, LLC
Charles Hoey & Associates
City of Lancaster
City of Palmdale
Coldwell Banker Commercial Valley Realty
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Edwards Federal Credit Union
Granite Construction
Lockheed Martin Aeronautics
Los Angeles County 5th District Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Northrop Grumman Corporation
Palmdale Regional Medical Center
Palmdale Water District
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Southern California Gas Company
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VINA Insurance Associates
Virgin Galactic/The Space Company
Western Pacific Roofing Corp.

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Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District
The BLVD Association
The Boeing Company
The Children’s Center of the Antelope Valley
Thompson Von Tungeln APC
TownePlace Suites by Marriott
University of Antelope Valley
VINA Insurance Associates
Virgin Galactic
Frank Visco
Western Pacific Roofing Corp.
MOW DOWN AIR POLLUTION USING CLEAN BATTERY-ELECTRIC POWERED LAWN EQUIPMENT.

Exchange your working gas-powered lawn equipment for a rebate on the purchase of clean battery-electric equipment with the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management’s Electric Lawn Equipment Rebate Program beginning Memorial Day Weekend 2022.

**To receive the rebate you must purchase a battery-electric lawnmower with a retail value of $299 or greater or hand tool with a retail value of $199 or greater at any Antelope Valley retail or on-line location.**

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KAVL 610 AM  |  KCEL 96.1 FM  |  KGIX 106.3 FM  |  KKZQ 100.1 FM  |  KQAV 93.5 FM  |  KTPI 1340 AM  |  KTPI 97.7 FM  |  KUTY 1470 AM

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FOX SPORTS

610 AM 106.7 FM

KMIX 106.3 FM

Que Buena 96.1 FM

100.1 QUAKE

OLD SCHOOL

93.5 FM

NEWS TALK 1340 KTP

97.7 KPI

Hermosa 1470 AM
AV Field Office: 42455 10th St. West, Suite 104, Lancaster, CA 93534, (661) 726-3600

**MISSION & VISION**

Keeping North County neighborhoods safe is Supervisor Kathryn Barger’s top priority. She works closely with law enforcement agencies across the Fifth District to implement initiatives to protect communities — and strives to ensure public safety officers and fire services personnel receive support and resources. Along with preserving public health and the well-being of residents, helping businesses that have been hurt by COVID-19 is a necessity. Early in the pandemic, she established the Economic Resiliency Task Force, comprised of business and community leaders, to discuss the impacts of the pandemic on the economy and develop strategic recommendations to recover and invigorate the Los Angeles County economy.

**BUSINESS/COMMUNITY QUOTE**

“As businesses struggle to recover from the devastating impacts of COVID-19 closures, the county must look for ways to reduce barriers, especially those that negatively impact small businesses, which are often owned by women and communities of color.”

— Supervisor Kathryn Barger

**Top 2021 Milestones**

**No. 1** Combatting illegal cannabis businesses — Los Angeles County last year added more than $5 million in new funding for the Sheriff’s Department to combat illegal cannabis businesses, which have multiplied since the 2016 vote by California citizens to make recreational marijuana use legal for adults. And an administrative nuisance abatement ordinance created a faster process for the county to enter private property to clean up marijuana grow debris — along with fines of up to $30,000 per day against illegal marijuana dispensaries and illegal marijuana farms.

**No. 2** Career training and apprenticeship programs — Through a partnership with the Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services Department, Department of Children and Family Services, Antelope Valley America’s Jobs Center of California and the Opportunity Youth Collaborative, education programs and apprenticeships provide job training for transition-age foster youth and families to help prepare local talent for careers in social work, human services, educational support, mentorship and healthcare.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger speaks in February 2022 at the groundbreaking for The Emerald affordable housing complex in Lancaster.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger congratulates the Antelope Valley Transit Authority in March 2022 on becoming the first public transit agency in North America with an all-electric fleet.
Supervisor Kathryn Barger partners with chambers of commerce across the Fifth District to expand and support the invaluable work of the private sector. She works to reduce barriers for businesses looking to obtain county contracts — and to help them open their doors more quickly by cutting through red tape.

Businesses of all sizes continue to face regulatory hurdles when applying for permits with county departments. Often, these barriers are too great for small businesses to navigate and overcome. Supervisor Barger’s efforts help small businesses open, relocate or expand in Los Angeles County while supporting job growth and housing availability.

Through her action, county departments — including the Department of Regional Planning and the Department of Public Works — work with a consultant and engage with impacted stakeholders to review the existing land development permitting process, identify bottlenecks and look for areas to improve the technical, operational and cultural aspects of the process.

Changes in state criminal law adopted with Proposition 64 in 2016 mean that large-scale marijuana growers no longer face prison terms. Because of the changes, Los Angeles County has had to devise new approaches to combat illegal marijuana businesses.

In the Antelope Valley, marijuana growers operating in violation of county ordinances steal water, spread trash, cause air and noise pollution with industrial-sized electrical generators, poison wildlife with pesticides, destroy Joshua trees and other native plants and intimidate neighbors. “Our county is working aggressively to protect our communities against the harm inflicted upon them by illegal cannabis operations,” Supervisor Barger said.

A new administrative nuisance abatement procedure will replace a cumbersome process that involved the court system. The new $30,000 maximum daily fine was adopted to make financial penalties high enough to hurt lucrative marijuana operations.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger pets a wolf at the Wolf Connection educational sanctuary outside Acton.
ELECTED CITY COUNCIL
Mayor: R. Rex Parris
Vice Mayor: Marvin Crist
Councilmembers: Ken Mann, Raj Malhi, Darrell Dorris
City Manager: Jason Caudle
Economic Development Senior Manager: Chenin Dow

OPPORTUNITY ZONES
Lancaster offers nearly 4,000 acres of land in Opportunity Zones, encompassing all zoning types and ranging from redevelopment opportunities to vacant land. The OZs focus on infill project areas to maximize existing infrastructure as well as community impact.

Key OZs include:
- Downtown Lancaster: Located along Lancaster Boulevard in historic downtown Lancaster. The BLVD features more than 200 one-of-a-kind locally-owned businesses in a walkable main street environment.
- Medical Main Street: A 350-acre district with 100 vacant acres ripe for development. Medical Main Street will be anchored by a state-of-the-art, $750 million replacement facility for Antelope Valley Hospital. The district will integrate uses such as shopping, dining, and housing alongside world-class health care.
- Parkway Village: Designed to answer the need for a greater variety of housing stock to attract and retain top talent for key regional employers. Parkway Village will feature various housing typologies alongside quality-of-life amenities in a walkable urban setting.

BETTER BUSINESS/COMMUNITY QUOTE
“The City of Lancaster has expanded in local business opportunities, street improvements and general safety — all during COVID-19 surges. The city has consistently shown up for its residents and this past year was no different. Recently, the city has focused on projects such as using hydrogen as an alternative energy source, establishing easier and safer routes for students to get to school and starting an incentive program to encourage the community to shop locally. With these efforts, plus a myriad of other improvement projects, Lancaster will continue to thrive and have a bright future.”

- Mayor R. Rex Parris

The new Residence Inn of Downtown Lancaster, located on the BLVD, opened in late 2021.

No. 1 In December 2021, the City celebrated the grand opening of the 107-room, 4-story Marriott Residence Inn of Downtown Lancaster. Located in the heart of downtown, it is the first hotel in the Antelope Valley region situated in a walkable downtown district.

No. 2 Lancaster City Council adopted the Shop More in Lancaster program to help promote patronizing locally owned businesses during the holidays and shortly thereafter. The program offered cards worth $20 to be redeemed at participating businesses. More than 50 local businesses participated, and $500,000 worth of cards were distributed to members of the community.

Lancaster, SG H2 Energy, and Iwatani launched California's first closed-loop green hydrogen ecosystem for transportation.

MISSION / VISION
A diverse community of people leading the future through science, technology, art, culture and collaboration, Lancaster is home to astronauts, rocket scientists, families and innovative businesses large and small. With spectacular landscapes and clean air, Lancaster has the confidence, expertise, spirit and imagination to transform tomorrow.

With a can-do attitude and willingness to cut through unnecessary red tape, Lancaster is consistently recognized as a business-friendly city and welcomes innovation and new development. To help prove that, a new development fee structure was designed to incentivize development within the City’s core, where the existing infrastructure and resources are already in place.
Despite the challenges that faced local businesses as a result of the pandemic, Lancaster’s business-friendly policies and programs fostered an increase in business licenses compared to prior years. With the success of many COVID-19 relief programs such as the Stand Strong Small Business Recovery Loan Program, Restaurant Rescue Package and the Shop More in Lancaster programs launched by the City, many businesses that were at risk of closing were able to remain open.

Several commercial redevelopment projects are in the pipeline in Lancaster. The shopping center at Division Street and Avenue J is receiving a much-needed facelift. A redevelopment of the gateway corner of Avenue K and 15th Street West — formerly occupied by Toys “R” Us — is well underway and will bring new brands to the City.

Lancaster still partners with The Retail Coach to assist with retail recruitment efforts, helping highlight the city to national brands and site selectors.
No. 1: Palmdale was named the Most Business Friendly City in LA County at the LAEDC 26th Annual Eddy Awards. This is the second time Palmdale has received this coveted award.

No. 2: Palmdale EIFD - In partnership with the County of Los Angeles, the City established the largest Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District in California with more than 27,000 acres, it will fund over $176 million in new infrastructure projects and help accelerate $3.5 billion in private sector investment.

Dutch Bros Grand Opening.

RETAIL UPDATE

Palmdale has experienced a retail renaissance increasing retail sales by 14% over the previous year and adding more than 335 new businesses. Juice It Up!, Wingstop, Dutch Bros, The Original Karen’s Kitchen, Boss Jay’s Filipino Store and Los Cipotes Salvadoran grill y bakery are just a few recently-opened Palmdale businesses.

During the next few months, the city will also be welcoming Sprouts Farmers Market, Black Bear Diner, Pier 88 Boiling Seafood & Bar, Raising Cane’s, Xevichez Sushi Bar and Nothing Bundt Cakes. The 47th St. East corridor also has several projects under construction including a new Pilot Flying J, the largest operator of travel centers in North America. Wendy’s and Chipotle Mexican Grill also opened, adding to the growing roster of restaurants on the east side of Palmdale. On the commercial front, the City also welcomed two new hotels, a Doubletree by Hilton and Fairfield Inn & Suites, with three additional hotels currently in development.

New Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott.

“Covington Group has partnered with the City of Palmdale to develop a business commerce center that will offer over 6 million square feet of new industrial and flex space to expand and support the local aerospace industry as well as provided much needed industrial space. Covington has over three decades of development experience and has worked with dozens of cities throughout the U.S. The City of Palmdale has been fantastic to work with. Not only are they business friendly, but the staff are organized and follow through on their commitments. The City’s streamlined development process and practical approach to development makes Palmdale one of the premier cities to invest in.”

– Dana Whitmer, Partner, Covington Development Partners
Palmdale has six designated Opportunity Zones that incorporate approximately 17% of the City's total land area. Investments made in Opportunity Zones may qualify for valuable tax benefits including the deferment, reduction or elimination of federal taxes on capital gains.

Palmdale also enjoys its own Foreign Trade Zone #191 which offers key advantages to businesses involved in international trade. Palmdale's FTZ allows for expansion to neighboring areas of the AV, the Santa Clarita region and San Fernando Valley and currently includes nearly 1,500 acres of industrial property.

Thanks to the FTZ, businesses can often defer or eliminate tariffs and duties paid on imported goods until they are sold. This allows improved cash flow and better management of inventories while adding value to goods.

Palmdale continues to be a prime location and a compelling choice for businesses and residents. Its geography, qualified workforce, lower cost of living, access to education, quality of life, amenities and culture are all key ingredients that make Palmdale the place to be. The city's vision statement is to be a high-performing organization providing world-class service that enhances the quality of life through innovation, passion, engagement, and collaboration. City goals include maintaining effective public safety, ensuring long-term fiscal health, investing in infrastructure to improve community livability and maintaining a desirable community where everyone wants to live, work and play.

MISSION / VISION

COMMUNITY TRENDS

Palmdale is the hub of investment and growth. Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, U.S. Tool Group, and other companies continue to expand operations in Palmdale. A significant investment was made by Plant 42 for construction of a new flight tower which will be completed later this year. The City has partnered with the Covington Group to develop the Antelope Valley Commerce Center with over six million square feet of new industrial space. The new business park will support existing operations at Plant 42 and create much needed industrial space to expand the local aerospace ecosystem. Palmdale's General Plan is being updated with a renewed focus on mixed used development and creating much needed housing opportunities at all levels. Currently under construction or going through entitlements are 2,095 single-family homes and 644 multi-family homes with more coming in the near future to address the significant housing shortage. The City continues to invest in the Film Palmdale program with the new Palmdale Film Stage nearly complete. This 6,000 square foot creative warehouse space will be able to accommodate a variety of productions allowing Palmdale to continue its reputation of being film friendly.
KERN EDC & EAST KERN ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

The Kern Economic Development Corporation (Kern EDC) is a public-private partnership formed in 1988 with the mission of cultivating and promoting Kern County's boundless opportunities for business. Kern EDC focuses its collaborative efforts on the recruitment of new business opportunities and assisting in the retention and expansion of existing businesses. Kern EDC works with businesses to identify targeted incentives and financing tools to stimulate job growth and capital investments.

The innovative Advanced Kern (www.advancekern.com) program helps companies succeed and compete in the global economy. Advanced Kern provides maximum flexibility in pursuing opportunities with performance-based incentives and quantitative thresholds tested for accountability and the plan eliminates all caps and special terms on potential sales tax, use tax, and property tax rebates. In addition, the program adds transient occupancy tax rebates. The County has also expanded the list of targeted industry clusters for these incentives, to include carbon dioxide (CO2) storage and biomass conversion.

In 2022, Kern EDC launched the Manufacturing Alliance of Kern (MAK), an industry collaborative that advocates on behalf of the region’s 400+ manufacturers. The coalition serves a critical role by providing comprehensive siting, permitting, workforce development, and financing assistance to firms considering relocating to or expanding operations in Kern County.

In addition to county-wide economic development efforts led by the Kern Economic Development Corporation, a focus on East Kern is maintained with the East Kern Economic Alliance. Established in 2009 by the Kern Economic Development Foundation, the East Kern Economic Alliance represents community and business leaders from East Kern who work to foster economic development collaborations within the region.

The Kern Economic Development Foundation (KEDF) links business, education, and the community on projects relating to STEM education and local workforce and professional development. KEDF’s initiatives include programs designed to encourage students and adults alike to pursue STEM education and careers. Current programs and events, include the recently-launched Kern Intern Connections (KIC) program, the Women in STEM initiative, and the Kern County Career Expo & STEMposium.

KERN COUNTRY PROFILE

Kern County Administrative Office: 1115 Truxtun Ave, 5th Floor, Bakersfield, CA 93301, (661) 868-3161, KernCounty.com

ELECTED SUPERVISORS
Supervisor, First District: Phillip Peters
Supervisor, Second District: Zack Scrivner, Chairman
Supervisor, Third District: Mike Maggard
Supervisor, Fourth District: David Couch
Supervisor, Fifth District: Leticia Perez
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors: Kathleen Krause (661) 868-3585 clerkofboard@kerncounty.com
Chief Administrative Officer: Ryan J. Alsop

BUSINESS/COMMUNITY QUOTE
“The eastern portion of Kern County in my district is home to some of the most innovative and specialized technologies in the world. Kern County’s aerospace programs stand at the forefront of an industry gaining international recognition for space tourism and the first-ever privately funded space flight as well as our defense and advanced weapons development supported by two military installations. Right now there are over 20,000 aerospace jobs in Kern County. These high-wage, full-time jobs have staying power thanks to vast open land, smart limits on development encroachment, proximity to Los Angeles and higher education levels per capita than in most other regions of the country.”
— Supervisor Zack Scrivner

No. 1 In 1946, 13 members of the National Advisory Committee of Aeronautics (NACA) were sent to Muroc Army Airfield in the Mojave Desert, determined to achieve supersonic flight. In 2021, NASA’s Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards marked that occasion as the beginning of a celebration of 75 years of innovation, milestones and discoveries in East Kern which resulted in a multi-billion-dollar economic impact.

No. 2 Rio-Tinto Borates & Lithium commenced production of battery-grade lithium from waste rock at its Boron mine site as it prepared to mark 150 years of U.S. Borax, operating in the Mojave Desert since 1852 and at Boron for nearly 100 years at East Kern site, largest open pit mine in the state of California.

No. 3 In June 2021, Virgin Orbit launched seven satellites into orbit, marking its first commercial mission. The modified Boeing 747 carrier plane, called Cosmic Girl, took off from the Mojave Air & Space Port at Rutan Field.
MISSION / VISION

Grounded and boundless — Kern County’s centralized location is hard to beat when it comes to reaching West Coast destinations.

- Access 90 percent of California’s population — and 14 percent of the U.S. population — within a 300-mile radius.
- More than 40 million people within a four-hour drive.
- Inland port helps lower drayage costs.
- Access: Interstate 5, Highway 99 (north and south), Highway 46 (west to Central Coast) and Highway 58 east to Highways 14 and 395 and Interstate 15.

COMMUNITY TRENDS

The goal of the county’s economic development efforts is to expand the county’s economy by developing businesses in six industry clusters — which will improve employment opportunities for county residents.

These are:

- Aerospace and Defense
- Energy and Natural Resources
- Healthcare Services
- Tourism, Recreation and Entertainment
- Transportation, Logistics, and Advanced Manufacturing
- Value-added Agriculture

Among many East Kern contributions to the county’s economy are:

- Kern County is home to the nation’s largest wind farm, geothermal facility, and battery storage system as well as the second-largest solar plant.
- Kern County is home to the world’s largest borax mine (Rio Tinto) and one of two precious metal mines in California (Golden Queen Mining Company).
- East Kern is home to some of the most innovative and specialized technologies in the world. The region’s aerospace programs stand at the forefront of an industry gaining international recognition for space tourism and the first-ever privately-funded space flight, while the region’s defense and advanced weapons development are supported by two military installations.
- Edwards Air Force Base has an annual economic impact of $2.27 billion, creating more than 10,507 jobs for the region with an annual payroll of $608 million.
- Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake’s economic impact is $1.2 billion, with a direct employment of 5,850 and a total payroll of $503 million.
- Mojave Air & Space Port at Rutan Field has seen dramatic growth due to increased demand within both the private and government sectors. (2,500+ employees and 70+ companies).
- NASA’s Armstrong Flight Research Center is NASA’s home for high-risk flight research, advancing technologies for both air and space flight. With nearly 1,200 employees and a $308 million budget, NASA Armstrong is contributing to our region’s economic strength and diversity every day.
- There are over 20,000 aerospace jobs in Kern County. These high-value, full-time jobs have staying power thanks to vast open land, lack of development encroachment, proximity to Los Angeles and higher education levels per capita in East Kern than most other regions in the country.
- Kern is the energy capital of California, supplying more than 60 percent of California’s renewable energy, 6,500 MWh of battery storage, 4,581 wind turbines and located in the solar radiation “sweet spot” of the United States.
- Kern County is the leading renewable energy center in the U.S. for wind and solar plants.

Current projects produce more than 17,000 MWs of energy in the region.

- Kern County was recently named the wind capital of the entire world. The region has a total wind power capacity of 4 gigawatts and more turbines than the entire northeastern region of the U.S.
- East Kern is also an important part of the county’s tourism, recreation and entertainment sector. Off-highway vehicle enthusiasts enjoy nearly 15,000 acres of riding areas including the Jawbone Canyon Off-Highway Vehicle Area. In a typical year, the area attracts nearly 20,000 people over Thanksgiving weekend, allowing them to camp and enjoy trails offering a range of off-road experiences.

Source: Kern EDC
**California City**

**City Profile**

**California City:** 2100 Hacienda Blvd, California City, CA 93505, (760) 373-8661, CaliforniaCity-CA.gov/CC

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**Elected City Council**

**Mayor:** Jeanie O’Laughlin  
**Mayor Pro-Tem:** Dr. Nick Lessenevich  
**Councilmembers:** Jim Creighton, Kelly Kulicoff, Karren Macedonio  
**Interim City Manager:** Anne Ambrose  
**Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development:** Alexia Svejda, Chamber of Commerce

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**Opportunity Zones**

The City’s centrally located Federal Opportunity Zone is zoned for commercial development. The zone is ideally situated for a potential hotel, golf course housing development, retail, anchor grocery store and restaurants. This zone and other locations in the City can be eligible for multiple incentives.

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**Business/Community Quote**

“Greater California City, with its central location in Southeast Kern County, serves a growing population of 25,000 people. This is driving demand for housing, retail and business expansion. More than 150 houses were built in 2021 and our retail sector is averaging a grand opening every month. This is exciting and all data points to this being a continuing trend.”

Alexia Svejda, President, California City Chamber of Commerce

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**Mission/Vision**

California City continues to see both business and housing growth. The market is driven by being an easy 15-minute drive to Edwards Air Force Base or Mojave Air and Space Port, as well as having more desirable housing costs and being one of the safest cities in the Aerospace Valley area.

The City is surrounded by aerospace innovation, has access to STEM talent and is at a logistical crossroads. With its 203-square-miles it also has space for privacy which is ideal for aerospace research, development and testing.

The high school offers an airframe and powerplant certification course and a robust dual enrollment program in partnership with Cerro Coso Community College.

Fresh air, blue skies and boundless nature at our doorstep equal a high-quality slower-paced life. California City allows you to innovate and create — then breath deep and reboot.

---

**City Profile**

**Top 2021 Milestones**

No. 1 Starbucks and Tropicana Supermarket joined the ranks of new retailers and restaurants — and California City Urgent Care broke ground and has a projected opening for the summer of 2022.

No. 2 The City has issued 25 commercial permits for new or expanding projects and 100-plus new houses were built. Over 50 new local applications were received to conduct commercial cannabis business in California City during 2021.

**Community Trends**

The City created a developer working group to update the development standards for the city’s industrial zones to be more balanced between developer and community needs and has implemented electronic submittal of plans for plan check.

In addition to Tropicana Supermarket and Starbucks opening, a weekly Farmer’s Market is thriving and has tripled its vendor offering since its inception.

The community is also looking forward to a projected Summer 2022 opening of California City Urgent Care and continues to enjoy a booming housing market. In 2021, 25 commercial permits were issued and more than 100 new houses were built.

Cannabis continues to be a strong economic driver with several large state-of-the-art cultivation/manufacturing/distributions completing construction.

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**California City ProFile**

California City: 2100 Hacienda Blvd, California City, CA 93505, (760) 373-8661, CaliforniaCity-CA.gov/CC

Mayor: Jeanie O’Laughlin  
Mayor Pro-Tem: Dr. Nick Lessenevich  
Councilmembers: Jim Creighton, Kelly Kulicoff, Karren Macedonio  
Interim City Manager: Anne Ambrose  
Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development: Alexia Svejda, Chamber of Commerce

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**California City** continues to see both business and housing growth. The market is driven by being an easy 15-minute drive to Edwards Air Force Base or Mojave Air and Space Port, as well as having more desirable housing costs and being one of the safest cities in the Aerospace Valley area.

The City is surrounded by aerospace innovation, has access to STEM talent and is at a logistical crossroads. With its 203-square-miles it also has space for privacy which is ideal for aerospace research, development and testing.

The high school offers an airframe and powerplant certification course and a robust dual enrollment program in partnership with Cerro Coso Community College.

Fresh air, blue skies and boundless nature at our doorstep equal a high-quality slower-paced life. California City allows you to innovate and create — then breath deep and reboot.
THE COMMUNITY THAT GROWS TOGETHER, THRIVES TOGETHER

At Kaiser Permanente, we don’t see health as an industry. We see it as a cause.

That’s why we’re proud to serve and support the Antelope Valley community for over 50 years. Our doors, hearts and minds are always open to help every last one of you thrive.

Learn more at kp.org/antelopevalley.
Mojave is in the middle of everywhere. The unincorporated community in southeastern Kern County is strategically located 90 miles north of the richest, most vital market in the world — the Los Angeles/Orange County region.

Mojave is connected to that busy market by a major freeway. Two of the nation’s largest railroads link the community to even more markets across the country. But perhaps more important is an airport able to handle anything that can fly, including the world’s largest airplane, the giant Stratolaunch Roc, which was built and flown from the runways of the Mojave Air & Space Port.

It is the spaceport that connects Mojave to the universe. It is one of the world’s busiest rocket engine test facilities — and is being expanded to handle increased operations.

The Mojave Desert community is also connected to the earth. Golden Queen Mining has operations on historic Soledad Mountain, mining gold, silver and aggregates with modern technology and a skilled workforce of more than 200. CalPortland’s Mojave plant produces cement to help build Southern California. And wind and solar power produce clean renewable energy to help keep businesses and industries humming.

The core mission of the Rosamond Community Services District is to improve the quality of life within the community by providing essential services at the best cost while striving to be protective of resources and financially prudent.

Protect & Preserve
The CSD board strives to make every decision based upon fiscally sound policies and best practices to ensure that money and resources are managed prudently, protecting the investment people have made in their community.

Transparency & Trust
Building the community’s trust is an ongoing process with the CSD functioning as an “open book,” not only following the laws of open government but also maintaining complete transparency while encouraging public participation and oversight.

The Rosamond Skylark is a privately owned and operated residential skylark located in Southern California’s Antelope Valley (aka Aerospace Valley). The FAA designator is L00 (Lima-Zero-Zero) and the airport is open for public use.

ROSAMOND SKYPARK
4000 Knox Ave
Rosamond, CA 93560
info@skypark.org
Lancaster is the three-time winner of LA County’s Most Business Friendly City Award. There’s room to grow at a fraction of the cost of the rest of LA County. The city is booming with development in various sectors. The Lancaster Health District is also ripe with development opportunities, with a focus on health and wellness.
The City of Ridgecrest has experienced unprecedented growth over the last year with a variety of new projects in development or recently completed.

Hospitality and housing options in the city continue to improve with the ongoing development of Holiday Inn Express, TownePlace Suites by Marriott, and the Mojave View affordable housing project.

Dining, retail and entertainment opportunities continue to grow with recently completed and ongoing developments including Ale’s Crab House, Panda Express, Dutch Bros, Arby’s, and Phase I of the Oasis Center.

The Oasis Center will feature a state-of-the-art movie theater complex, 8-lane bowling alley and a number of retail and office spaces. Currently, construction is underway for Phase I of the project, which includes Starbucks, Chipotle Mexican Grill, Frosty Peaks, retail components, and the movie theater.

Opportunity Zones can be utilized to fund a wide array of community-supported projects, from renewable energy to affordable housing. The City of Ridgecrest has a qualified opportunity zone in Census Tract 53 which allows zoning for developments including residential, general/service commercial, professional office, light industrial, civic/institutional and recreation/school/public uses.

The city has utilized the state-supported Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for the following projects located within the opportunity zone at Leroy Jackson Sports Complex:

- Installation of shaded seating area adjacent to the skate park.
- Installation of fencing around the perimeter of JV/Varsity softball fields.

“The City of Ridgecrest is dedicated to providing fiscally responsible municipal services that support residents’ needs while building a diverse economic community that highlights our unique geographical location and historic military accomplishments.”

— Eric Bruen, Mayor
COMMUNITY TRENDS

- Over the past year, Ridgecrest has focused on recovering from the effects of the 2019 earthquakes and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, the city experienced steady economic growth with several new developments over the year and several more projects on the horizon.

- City staff has recommended a variety of American Rescue Plan Act projects including improvements to local park facilities and city-wide infrastructure updates.

- The city is currently working with the Navy on the design of a new wastewater treatment facility projected to be completed over the next five years.

- Last year the state’s Court Facilities Advisory Committee unanimously approved the Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, which includes new court facilities for Ridgecrest.

- As this trend of growth continues, Ridgecrest has the opportunity to become a regional hub of Eastern Kern County, supporting both the local residents and visitors to the surrounding area.
COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commercial development in the Greater Tehachapi area is focused on two areas — the city and the Old Town area — in addition to a few businesses located in Bear Valley Springs and Stallion Springs.

The city actively works on economic and commercial development. More than two decades of work by the Main Street Tehachapi organization resulted in a vibrant downtown area. And although that organization disbanded early in 2021, the city continues similar efforts.

As stated by Assistant City Manager Corey Costelloe, whose duties include oversight of economic development:

“What is economic development? In the City of Tehachapi, that question is answered by creating a support network for our local small and large businesses. From the very outset, we offer our services to those looking to start a business, expand a business or become more successful in our region.

“We believe in strong community partnerships among business owners, organizations like the Greater Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Tehachapi Economic Development Council, Kern Economic Development Corporation, the Tehachapi Area Association of Realtors, and many more. By working with local and regional leaders, Tehachapi has positioned itself as a unique marketplace and an area where business can thrive.”

The Old Town area is also excited to welcome Karl’s Hardware (with locations in Mojave, Rosamond and Boron) which bought the former Pioneer True Value Hardware store on South Street.

The city’s economic development goals in 2021 included:

1. Attract, retain and expand business while recovering from the impact of COVID-19.
   1. Engage existing businesses and assist with resilient business practices.
   2. Attract desirable opportunities that don’t exist in Tehachapi.
   3. Increase regional tourism. Invest in community projects that support economic development and quality of life.

2. Communicate the value to the community.
   1. Develop partnerships that enhance economic development.
   2. Quantify the value with new data.
   3. Use digital media to communicate the impact.

SOURCE: City of Tehachapi
The Greater Tehachapi area encompasses more than 275 square miles and includes the City of Tehachapi as well as a number of unincorporated rural communities offering diverse lifestyles.

As described by the Greater Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce:

“The beautiful Tehachapi Valley is an oasis located in the mountains between the San Joaquin Valley and the Mojave Desert, offering a cool haven from the arid desert heat and the sprawling lowlands of the valley. Featuring sparkling blue skies that turn into star-filled nights with unending depth, the beauty of Tehachapi is seen in every setting. The diversity of the area offers something for everyone, small-town neighborhoods, mountains filled with oak and pine trees sheltering the most rustic to the most luxurious homes, sprawling ranches and everything in between — all beautifully displayed in the splendor of four wonderfully distinct seasons.”

Data collected by the City of Tehachapi tells a story about who is living in the area and those who visit the community to shop, dine and spend money. The economic power of both continues to increase making the City of Tehachapi an attractive destination for investors and business owners.

Data shows that about 37,000 people live within a 15-mile radius of the city, with an average age of 42 and an average household income of $88,000 per year — with 20 percent of households averaging between $100,000 and $150,000 per year.

According to the city, an analysis of location data from 2021 shows a “true trade area” (people who shop in Tehachapi regularly) of more than 215,000 residents. The dataset sets a 50-mile radius around the city; however, it includes only those trips into Tehachapi that account for 70 percent or more of the traffic, focusing on repeat shoppers and not a one-stop traveler. With the increased retail offerings in Tehachapi, communities in the trade area include all of those in the 93561 Tehachapi zip code, as well as California City, Mojave and portions of Rosamond and Bakersfield.

Economic opportunities identified by the city include several areas of the retail sector that have plenty of room for growth given the lack of supply but steady demand for goods including more than $2 million in unmet demand in the city’s trade area in each of the following categories: home furnishings, specialty food stores, health and personal care, clothing and shoe stores, limited service and special food service restaurants.

Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley, which opened the new hospital in November 2018, continues to make strides. The $4 million Cyr Family Imaging Pavilion — bringing state-of-the-art technology to Tehachapi — was completed in 2021 and the health care organization has announced plans to build an $8 million outpatient pavilion adjacent to the hospital.

The Tehachapi Mountains wine country is coming into its own with tasting rooms offering award-winning wines, food and entertainment every weekend. As part of the Greater Tehachapi Economic Development Council, the Tehachapi Wine Grower’s Commission worked through the federal process of obtaining designation as an American Viticultural Area, a years-long effort that continues to draw attention to wines produced in the area.
These individuals are people who have paved their own way to success here in the Antelope Valley. The goal of this project is to highlight and showcase the next generation of business and community leaders who make our region their home. In order to inform others of fresh, new, and exciting opportunities our Valley has to offer, those highlighted here have been asked certain questions to help tell their story on why they chose to pursue their goals here, and what led them to their respective business or organization. Their success has contributed to the continuous advancement of this region and we want to honor their achievements.

**BRIAN AVERY**

**Q: WAS THE IDEA FOR YOUR BUSINESS TO FULLY LEAVE A NEED IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY? IF SO, WHAT WAS THE NEED?**

A: I am the Owner/ Director of Brewing Operations at Bravery Brewing. During the initial planning phase for Bravery Brewing, the Antelope Valley had zero breweries and very few places to purchase and enjoy Craft Beer. We feel every community deserves to have places where friends and strangers alike can gather to relax and socialize over a pint of beer.

**Q: WHAT IS YOUR “WHY”? WHY ARE YOU OR YOUR BUSINESS HERE IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY? IF YOU DON’T OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS BUT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR CAREER LADDER CLIMB, TELL US WHY YOU ARE DEDICATED TO YOUR CAREER HERE VERSUS ELSEWHERE?**

A: Before Opening Bravery Brewing here in Lancaster, I was briefly living in Orange County. It was there in Orange County, while working for another brewery, that I fully realized my passion for Craft Beer and set the goal to open a brewery of my own. While Orange County has a fairly dense population (which is great for the Brewery business model), my roots were deeper back in the Antelope Valley. So much of what we do at Bravery Brewing is community-centric, so it made sense to build the business in a place that has always been home.

**KARA AVERY**

**Q: WHAT IS THE NAME OF YOUR BUSINESS AND WHAT IS YOUR POSITION/TITLE?**

A: The name of my business is Wine Bees. I am the founder and CEO. The inspiration for the name Wine Bees came from my time interning on vineyards. Through first-hand experience and further reading I learned that while wine grapes do not require pollination, having bees nearby is important for the overall health of the vineyard’s local ecosystem. I like the idea of giving credit to the small players (bees in this case) because wine is more than just about what’s in the bottle.

**Q: WHAT DO YOU HOPE YOUR COMPANY WILL ACCOMPLISH IN THIS VALLEY?**

A: I hope to continue shining light on the Antelope Valley’s local wineries. Many people still don’t know that we have six local wineries and a handful more in the surrounding Agua Dulce, Santa Clarita and Tehachapi areas. Beyond bringing attention to these wonderful wineries, I hope to also continue educating the community about wines from all around the world and showing people that wine does not have to be expensive to be delicious. Antelope Valley residents do not have to drive long distances to have an enlightening wine-experience.
ED BUCLATIN

Q: WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE COMPANY YOU WORK FOR? OR WHAT IS THE NAME OF YOUR BUSINESS AND WHAT IS YOUR POSITION/TITLE?

A: I work for the 412th Test Wing at Edwards Air Force Base and have served as the Director of Public Affairs since 2016. In this role, I am responsible for a 30-person team that conducts internal and external communications, community engagement, photography, video production, graphics, and flight test visual documentation. In my previous capacity, I retired as a U.S. Navy Captain with 26 years of service in Naval Aviation and Public Affairs, having served on three joint-command staffs, two aircraft carriers, and one deployment to Iraq.

Q: WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH IN THIS VALLEY?

A: My hope is that Edwards Air Force Base will continue to lead from the front and help reinforce the branding of “Aerospace Valley” in the region and the U.S. When I first joined the Edwards team, “Aerospace Valley” was a term that was used infrequently to describe the prevalent industry here. However, I believe using the “Aerospace Valley” branding more often, by multiple organizations, will help put a spotlight on the region and attract future talent to work here. For this reason, I proposed the idea to Air Force leadership to bring an air show back to the base; the last show here was in 2009. Our upcoming 2022 air show will be an event that only our region can pull off, to include NASA Armstrong Flight and Research Center and industry partners. During the air show we will also celebrate 75 years of supersonic flight which all started here on October 14, 1947 when the Bell X-1 team broke the sound barrier for the first time. This is why October is a very special month for the AV.

RYAN DUKE

Q: WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE COMPANY YOU WORK FOR? OR WHAT IS THE NAME OF YOUR BUSINESS AND WHAT IS YOUR POSITION/TITLE?

A: In 2014, while in the midst of my career at Northrop, I decided to open my own company Duke Engineering. As a typical engineering company, we did small engineering jobs until in 2016 when my wife Jenni and I decided to venture off from our careers at Northrop and started our passion at our engineering firm full time. It was at this point when we really started to grow and scale our company with some great clients like BYD and Ram of the West which created the platform for us to flourish. Over the past five years, we have continued to grow our firm and brought in some amazing talent that we are so proud to be a part of our team. We enjoy every day that we are blessed with the opportunity to provide engineering throughout the Antelope Valley and great Southern California regions.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR “WHY”? WHY ARE YOU OR YOUR BUSINESS HERE IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY? IF YOU DON’T OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS BUT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR CAREER LADDER CLimb, TELL US WHY YOU ARE DEDICATED TO YOUR CAREER HERE VERSUS ELSEWHERE?

A: As to the question “Why the Antelope Valley?” I’m proud to be a 3rd generation resident, and in growing up here in the AV, I know the caliber of the individual home and business owners this valley is proud to represent. The people of the AV expect the finest products and services and they in return do their best to be the finest in their own personal endeavors. The small business owners here in the AV all hold ourselves to high moral standards and expectations, and we are proud to be a part of that community. There is so much potential for this valley, and the growth our cities have on the horizon is inspiring to say the least. I have chosen the AV to be my home base for Duke Engineering and along with Jenni, and my children Madison and Carter. Our destiny is to be a part of the Antelope Valley sharing our love for the community. We are excited that Duke Engineering has the privilege of building its future here among our friends, and we hope to always make a difference in the work we do and the community support we may offer.
JENNIFER DUKE

Q: WHAT IS YOUR COMPANY’S TEAM DYNAMIC? DO YOU BELIEVE OUR COMMUNITY HAS HAD A HAND IN ITS DEVELOPMENT?

A: My company is Duke Engineering, and my position is Chief Financial Officer. Our business is Civil and Structural Engineering which fills a need for the Antelope Valley as it is growing and expanding. When we first started our company in 2014 we were realizing that there was a need for local engineers, as there was a shortage of local talent after coming out of the recession when construction was at its low point.

Q: HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE SUCCESS OF YOUR BUSINESS AND WHY? WHAT WAS YOUR APPROACH TO BUSINESS THAT CAUSED YOU TO THINK YOUR COMPANY WOULD THRIVE IN THE AV?

A: My company is Duke Engineering, and my position is Chief Financial Officer. Our business is Civil and Structural Engineering which fills a need for the Antelope Valley as it is growing and expanding. When we first started our company in 2014 we were realizing that there was a need for local engineers, as there was a shortage of local talent after coming out of the recession when construction was at its low point.

ARTZRUN MINASYAN

Q: WHAT IS YOUR COMPANY’S TEAM DYNAMIC? DO YOU BELIEVE OUR COMMUNITY HAS HAD A HAND IN ITS DEVELOPMENT?

A: Being the President/CEO of AV Transportation Services & AV transit Management I feel that our company’s team dynamic is directly influenced by the community, as the majority of our team is from this community. We walk a fine line between a small family business and a large corporate entity for our team dynamic. Despite the many ingredients that create the overall company dynamic; our heart is the main ingredient.

Q: WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU’VE FACED WORKING FOR THIS COMPANY? OR STARTING YOUR COMPANY HERE IN OUR VALLEY? DID YOU RELY ON LOCAL EMPLOYEES OR BRING IN OTHERS FROM OUT OF THE AV?

A: Compared to other international corporations within our industry, we are a small local company that is dedicated and focused on the community and its success. Our decision making and objects are community first, then company. This can create several challenges, affect finances and delay company growth. On top of it all, add COVID as well.

Keny Terraciano

Q: WHAT IS THE IDEA FOR YOUR BUSINESS TO FULFILL A NEED IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY? IF SO, WHAT WAS THE NEED?

A: I am a Broker/Owner and President of RE/MAX All-Pro and I believe that homeownership is the foundation of the American Dream. At RE/MAX All-Pro we have been helping buyers and sellers achieve their dreams of homeownership for almost 30 years.

Q: HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE SUCCESS OF YOUR BUSINESS AND WHY? WHAT WAS YOUR APPROACH TO BUSINESS THAT CAUSED YOU TO THINK YOUR COMPANY WOULD THRIVE IN THE AV?

A: I would rate the success of our company as successful, we have grown at a healthy rate each year and we have been fortunate enough to add people to our team every year. We have made sure to be aware of our shortcomings so that we can get better in those areas and make sure we can improve so we can better serve our clients. We enjoy being in the community and sponsoring local events that we know will make an impact directly to our community such as sponsoring Antelope Valley Boys and Girls Clubs, Stuff a Bus, AV Wine Walk, AV Sheriff Boosters and Many more.
Out Of Home Advertising Works

H O W  D O  W E  K N O W ?

**Consumers Are On the Road**
On average, US adults are exposed to OOH ads for over 25 hours each week

**Consumers Notice Billboards**
81% of participants in a Nielsen study said they notice out of home ads

The majority of purchasing decisions are made away from home. Billboards reach consumers in the right place at the right time.

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**SOURCE:** Nielsen OOH Study 2019, Scarborough

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**ANTELOPE VALLEY**
**CALIFORNIA**
**GREAT AMERICAN DEFENSE COMMUNITIES**

**Congratulations Team!**

**CITY OF PALMDALE**
A GREAT AMERICAN DEFENSE COMMUNITY
Antelope Valley Union High School District (AVUHSD) serves students in 7th-12th grades (plus adult school). The district has high school and junior high campuses in Lancaster, Palmdale and adjacent communities.

The Antelope Valley Union High School District made the pivot to remote learning, like so many other districts throughout the state. Teachers created innovative lessons and activities and continued to deliver a high level of education to the district’s students.

Some specialized programs within the district include:

**Eastside High School’s Biomedical Sciences Academy** prioritizes an integrated program of study from the start. The school believes real-world integration is central to ensuring students are ready for the type of work-based learning experiences that are central to the goals of the academy. The Biomed Academy now provides a full four-year subject-specific sequence, which includes science, English, social studies, math and electives. This is the result of a deliberate attempt to “build-out” the program and provide genuine opportunities for cross-curricular integration.

The academy streamlined the district’s Portfolio Defense Project to ensure that students are building toward that senior capstone project from their freshman year. All academy teachers are involved in preparing students for this project, as evidenced by weekly one-on-one mentor meetings. In addition, teachers from all subject areas are part of the panel of judges that evaluate the students during 20-minute defense presentations at the end of their senior year. The project embodies the team’s shared passion for integrated education.

**The Education and Social Services Careers Academy** at Eastside High School is in its second year. Students use what they learned in their Childhood and Adolescent Development class and apply it to develop their own lesson plans. They also put innovation into action when working on a project with EHS students with disabilities.

**Highland High School** offers a public services-oriented education program. National First Responder Day holds powerful meaning for the students and staff, and recently the academy unveiled the Type III fire engine donated by the San Bernardino County Fire Department. This donation resulted from countless hours of persistent efforts of educators and will have a substantial impact on the education and experiences of current and future students. By providing an innovative learning environment with industry-relevant apparatuses, academy students can explore career fields in a manner that previously was only theoretical.

Students in the program collaborated with the Highland Junior Air Force ROTC, Link Crew and Key Club to collect non-perishable food items for the holidays. Through a valiant effort, students collected enough nonperishables to completely replenish the local food bank and fill a 20-foot trailer. These students showed selflessness and passion for their community and took another step closer to becoming future leaders.

In the **Engineering Pathway at Highland High School**, students use modeling methods and practice modeling skills important to the design of mechanical systems. These include technical sketching, 3D solid modeling and technical drawing, as well as using CAD (computer-aided design), statistical analysis and prototyping. The students receive a foundation and perspective regarding careers in civil engineering and architecture.

**Knight High School's Digital Design and Engineering Academy** returned to in-person instruction and jumped right back in by developing new projects for their students and soon will roll out a new electric guitar building project. After pandemic delays, the carbon fiber composite lab is back up and running again and students are now completing introductory layups for a number of design projects.
Palmdale High School’s Engineering Academy continues to thrive and provide students with meaningful activities and experiences. Students were able to participate individually and in virtual group presentations, contests, virtual field trips and virtual tours while maintaining a sense of camaraderie. The Solar Falcon Race Team was able to pick up where the previous team left off in the spring of 2020 and is now looking to register the solar car and the electric car for the 2022 Solar Car Challenge in Fort Worth, Texas. Also worth mentioning, the Engineering Academy earned two gold medals, two bronze medals, and won 5th place at SkillsUSA regional competitions.

The Health Careers Academy at Palmdale High School prepares students for industry certifications, with all graduates attending college and several having attained employment with the medical providers with whom they interned. The students and staff emerged with great resilience after two years of challenges, including adaptive learning, innovation, critical thinking and the uncertainty of their health and the future of their plans. Within these unchartered territories, the students held strong to their dreams, continued to rise to industry standards and looked to become the next front-line heroes in their community.

The academy took delivery of a fully functional modular ambulance that was removed from its original chassis and placed on a specially fabricated trailer. The unit will serve as an innovative resource for the EMT students, as well as serving as an asset in many other situations. First and foremost, the simulator will help to train and hone the skills required to be a successful EMT in the field and teach the students what it is like to be in the back of an ambulance. In addition, the ambulance will be used at Palmdale High School football games where the EMT students will work with the sports medicine students and provide a private, climate-controlled treatment area when necessary.

In the Film and TV Academy at Quartz Hill High School, students put together the requirements for their Senior Portfolio Defense Project — and developed the rubric to score it. The first round of portfolio evaluations took place in April. Academy students have been instrumental in building morale and positive student culture by promoting the school’s student learning outcomes through video production. One video shows parents how to safely pick up and drop off students in the parking lot.

At Desert Winds High School, the Auto 1 and Auto General Service Technician courses were reorganized to align with Antelope Valley Community College programs and the needs of local industries. As a program, teachers and staff are working with industry leaders to ensure they are
providing the needed skills for students to enter current trade programs and the workforce after completing high school. The program has also partnered with Snap-On Tools to integrate Snap-On Certifications in the following areas: Torque, precision measurement, multimeter and Pro-Cut brake lathe. All of these certifications are multileveled and are used across multiple local industries.

In an Industrial Tech class at R. Rex Parris High School, students learn to properly use several precision measurement instruments. They also learn to use a digital multimeter to measure volts, amperage, continuity, diodes, resistance, frequency and temperature. Upon successful completion of the exam, students earned Snap-On certifications through NC3 Certification. Similar to Desert Winds, at R. Rex Parris teachers have already begun to develop community partnerships with Yourway Construction and the local laborers union to provide students job exploration, job shadowing, internship opportunities and job placement upon successful completion of the program.

Antelope Valley Adult Education is addressing the increased demand for information technology workers in the region by offering courses that lead to value-added industry certifications. The option for both 100% online or hybrid instruction is available for interested students. The district's adult education program has advanced plans for a new technology center that will open in mid-2022 to further expand opportunities in the IT field. The program will include work-based learning and apprenticeship programs. Antelope Valley adult education includes academic and career education. Online or hybrid classes are offered for diploma and high school equivalency. English as a Second Language (ESL), citizenship preparation and career technical education programs. Adult Education counselors facilitate student goal setting toward successful completion.

Antelope Valley High School and Quartz Hill High School both offer Aerospace Engineering labs. The projects started pre-pandemic and were finally completed in preparation for the 2021-22 school year. The aim was to transform outdated classrooms at both the schools into next-generation engineering and innovation STEM labs. Each room is equipped with multiple interactive flat-screen displays with touch-screen technology. Data access ports, interactive whiteboards and collaborative spaces are installed in both labs. The new spaces will allow for more project-based and technology-intensive lessons, using equipment and learning spaces that were previously unavailable to students. The labs provide a space for the students to be innovative and creative and help put them in the best position academically to prepare for college and careers in the aerospace engineering field.

Computer gaming is now a sport and U.S. eSports is now at district schools and continuing to grow. Before the pandemic, there were two eSports teams practicing or field hockey, high school eSports kicks off with tryouts and the appointment of team captains. From there, the season involves daily team practices and frequent regional matches that lead to big state-sanctioned tournaments. Teamwork is the number one thing. Many games are played by six players at a time, and players need to prepare a team-based strategy that effectively responds to various offensive and defensive patterns by their opponents. Students practice teamwork and collaboration, as well as strategic thinking, spatial understanding and innovation.

Summer will offer a variety of fun learning experiences for district students to participate in extended learning opportunities. In addition to continuing the Math-Engineering summer camp, there are also plans for CyberPatriot camps at four different schools. Students in the Antelope Valley will also have a choice of drone, rocketery and robotics camps scheduled for June and July. The focus is to provide students with a week of free, fun-filled STEM activities and the knowledge to apply the skills in the classroom.

Last November, the district and the Air Force Research Lab hosted the tenth annual STEM Conference for Girls for more than 50 middle and high school students. This year, the conference was held in person for the first time in two years.

The girls participated in three half-hour sessions that focused on health science, computer science and engineering. Members of the Antelope Valley chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers were the keynote speakers. There were also parent sessions that provided information on opportunities available at Antelope Valley College and district academies.

The Gateway Summer Academy, hosted by Antelope Valley High School, provided free virtual summer camps open to all middle school students throughout the Greater Antelope Valley region. Students participated in STEM activities, such as hands-on engineering projects. STEM kits were given to the students prior to the beginning of the summer camp because of COVID-19 requirements. Teachers created innovative lesson plans to deliver hands-on activities and lessons to students via Zoom.

For more information about AVUHSD programs, contact Duane Robertson at drobertson@avhsd.org, or Betsy McKinstry at bmckinstry@avhsd.org.
CERRO COSO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Part of the Kern Community College District and headquartered in Ridgecrest, Cerro Coso has expanded its service to seven instructional sites that include the East Kern region of California City, Mojave, Boron, Edwards Air Force Base, Lake Isabella and Tehachapi. With a spirit of innovation and creativity, the college engages in activities designed to enhance the learning environment and provide for the ever-changing needs of the students and communities it serves. With a large range of online and in-person courses, the college also offers a dual enrollment program throughout its service area, allowing high school students an opportunity to earn college and high school credit simultaneously. Students can also earn an associate degree for transfer by participating in the college’s dual and concurrent enrollment programs.

www.cerrocoso.edu

LANCASTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

The mission of the Lancaster School District is to provide relevant, high-quality education within an inclusive and culturally respectful environment, preparing all students for personal and professional success. The district’s vision is to create options and excellence in education, empowering all students to reach their full potential.

In addition to the district office, Park View Educational Complex, Welcome and Wellness Center and Innovation Center, the district operates 23 schools serving preschool through eighth grade.

UMASS GLOBAL – ANTELOPE VALLEY

Established as an educational resource for the Edwards Air Force Base in 1971, the Antelope Valley campus of UMass Global (formerly Brandman University) strives to make education more accessible to military personnel, their families and others. A campus focused on working students, UMass Global is located just off Highway 14 near the Antelope Valley Mall. It provides year-round sessions, flexible formats, tutoring, scholar-practitioner faculty and an exceptional educational value with a variety of degree programs available.

www.umassglobal.edu/about-umassglobal/campus/anteelope-valley

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

CSULB offers an engineering program in the Antelope Valley. It is a full-time, highly structured program for transfer students seeking a bachelor of science degree in either mechanical or electrical engineering. The program is located at the Lancaster University Center satellite campus. Designed for students who've completed two years of coursework at a community college or another university, the program provides students an opportunity to apply for internships and long-term employment at Air Force Research Lab, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, Air Force Test Center at Edwards, NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center, Northrop Grumman, and Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center, as well as other organizations in the Antelope Valley.

www.csulb.edu/college-of-engineering/av-engineering-program

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD

ANTELOPE VALLEY CAMPUS

Located on the Antelope Valley College campus, CSUB Antelope Valley offers accredited programs leading to bachelor’s degrees in a number of areas including business administration, child, adolescent and family studies, criminal justice, interdisciplinary studies, liberal studies, natural sciences, religious studies, RN to BSN (online) and sociology. Teaching credential programs for all grade levels and special education are offered, along with master’s degree programs in business administration, education administration, special education, social work, administration and curriculum and instruction.

www.csusb.edu/av

ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE

Antelope Valley College, a public institution of higher education, provides a quality, comprehensive education to a diverse population of learners. We are committed to student success offering value and opportunity, in service to our community.

No. 1 In February 2021, AVC was proud to officially open Fox Field, an aerospace teaching facility comprised of a 10,000 square-foot hangar, composite lab, computer lab and classroom/office space. The college is the only in the state to offer this type of facility for hands-on learning.

No. 2 In October 2021, AVC debuted Sage Hall, the new home to the Language and Communication Arts division, featuring interactive study locations, multi-use classrooms, and a fully equipped computer lab. As part of Measure AV, the bond measure passed in 2016 to help modernize buildings on campus, the college is pleased to offer students and employees a beautiful, state-of-the-art building.

www.avcol.edu
HEALTH CARE

Palmdale Regional opened The Birth Place and became the newest full-service hospital in the Antelope Valley. The Birth Place offers a new option for Antelope Valley residents to welcome their babies with all private labor, delivery, and recovery suites, two surgical suites, convenient access to the unit and highly skilled doctors and staff.

Palmdale Regional also gained a new partnership with City of Hope in 2021. This venture plans to provide additional access to cancer care to the local community in a collaboration that will begin by bringing additional medical oncology, urology and surgery services to the region.

Additionally, City of Hope will open a new clinical network site on the Palmdale Regional campus by the end of 2022. Along with expanded specialties, this joint effort will build a community cancer program that incorporates interdisciplinary support services into the patients’ cancer care plan.

Palmdale Regional Medical Center operates a hospital in Palmdale and an urgent care center in Rosamond.

Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley is proud to be the region’s premiere healthcare provider, offering a state-of-the-art critical access hospital, three medical offices for primary care, a rehabilitation center and specialties new to our hometown and surrounding communities.

Compelled by the heartfelt mission of “living God’s love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope,” Adventist Health is reimagining healthcare in Tehachapi and beyond. As the community grows, Adventist Health continues to identify needed services, expand options, attract new physicians and provide an elevated quality of care for all those who visit, live in and love their town. Together, we are inspired to build a healthier community in Tehachapi for generations.

AdventistHealth.org/TehachapiValley.

TOP 2021 MILESTONES

No. 1 The newest technology in robotics surgery — the da Vinci Xi — expands the capabilities of the hospital and brings the most up-to-date technology in the field of robotics and minimally invasive surgery. The hospital also upgraded medical equipment in the CT scanner and Cath Lab areas.

No. 2 Demonstrated quality of care by being recognized with multiple awards in joint, stroke, heart and bariatrics care. The hospital’s Advanced Primary Stroke Center Certification once again earned The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval.

BUSINESS/COMMUNITY QUOTES

“Palmdale Regional continues to grow to meet the healthcare needs of the Antelope Valley. With the replacement of imaging technology, upgrading treatment areas and earning service line quality awards, Palmdale Regional is committed to serving the full spectrum of healthcare needs.”

“Adding ‘The Birth Place’ was truly a labor of love and offers expecting parents a family-centered environment to welcome their new bundles of joy. Additionally, by partnering with City of Hope to bring medical and support services related to cancer care, Palmdale Regional and City of Hope are able to elevate and create accessibility to world-class cancer care without having to leave the Antelope Valley.”
As the hospital enters its 67th year in operation it has announced that Antelope Valley Hospital is now Antelope Valley Medical Center. This marks a new era for the Antelope Valley and the Center is excited to share what this next chapter will look like. AVMC stands at an important threshold to redefine itself — with a renewed vision for the future. The hospital is evolving, and the new name and brand reflect its history, its present and its future.

What hasn’t changed is the commitment Antelope Valley Medical Center has for the Antelope Valley and its surrounding communities. The health care organization is committed to improving and expanding services to continue the care provided since 1955.

Clinical locations:
Antelope Valley Medical Center - Lancaster
Women & Infants Pavilion – Lancaster
OB/GYN outpatient clinic – Lancaster
Antelope Valley Outpatient Lab Services – Lancaster
Antelope Valley Outpatient Imaging Center – two in Palmdale and two in Lancaster

Non-clinical locations:
Antelope Valley WIC service offices – Palmdale and Lancaster
New to You Thrift Store – Lancaster

Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH) seeks to improve the lives of the most vulnerable and underserved population of the Antelope Valley. This population includes adults and children of diverse ethnic origins who are currently living at or below the poverty line, have no access to health care services and must overcome the geographic barriers of living in the area. AVPH has made significant changes in the following areas: access to health care, community needs assessments, mental health care in schools, dental health for low income children, nutrition and physical activity programs for children and their families, infant mortality issues, women’s health education, housing concerns for transitional foster youth, case management services for pregnant women, developed a community resource directory, developed a community based care management consortium for senior citizens, addressed transportation issues, developed and implemented a coordinated comprehensive community network to support at-risk youth and their families, and played a lead role in most local health and health policy issues. Helping families stay strong together! AVPH.org.

Founded in 1913, City of Hope is one of only 48 comprehensive cancer centers in the nation. One hundred years after its founding in Duarte, The City of Hope extended its outreach to the Antelope Valley to better serve area patients who require the world-class level of care for which this famed cancer research, diagnostic, and treatment center has long been known. Within this light and bright 25,000-square-foot facility, patients experience a positive healing environment with advance chemo and infusion therapy, rendered in an atmosphere of care and compassion. CityofHope.org/AntelopeValley.
HIGH DESERT MEDICAL GROUP
High Desert Medical Group (HDMG) in Lancaster and its affiliated Heritage Health Care in Palmdale are multi-specialty providers of health services to patients of all ages throughout the Antelope Valley. Formed in 1981, HDMG’s network of more than 60 family practitioners and specialists offer patients the highest quality health care experience. Providing a 24-hour Urgent Care Center, a 24-hour nurse help line and a comprehensive program for those over 65, HDMG ensures patients are “Empowered for Life!” HDMG.net.

CALIFORNIA DESERT MEDICAL GROUP
(IPA) is a group of physicians located throughout the Antelope Valley, including California City, Tehachapi, and Rosamond, who have joined together to form an IPA. The IPA physicians remain affiliated with HDMG while practicing in their own private offices. Patients of the IPA may utilize the full range of services, programs, and specialists at the main facility in Lancaster including Urgent Care Center.

HERITAGE CALIFORNIA ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION
(ACO) is a unique program designed to improve the health and well-being of Medicare members. As one in a diverse group of leading-edge health care organizations from around the country, HPN was chosen specifically by the Innovation Center to test the effectiveness of several models of payment in helping organizations make a rapid transition to higher quality care at a lower cost to Medicare.

THE COMMUNITY WELLNESS RESOURCE CENTER (CWRC)
CWRC provides many services to the community to promote health and wellness. The goal of this program is to help people be aware of small changes they can make so that health and wellness choices become habit. The CWRC provides education within classrooms of all ages to educate on nutrition and health. Fun, interactive lessons are provided to allow children and adolescents the opportunity to learn in a meaningful way. The CWRC also provides educational programs to workplaces and organizations.

Serving the Indian Wells Valley and Southern Sierra communities, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital provides a 24-hour emergency room, ICU, maternity and pediatric care, cardiac and pulmonary rehab services, as well as community clinics and urgent care services. The Hospital also puts significant emphasis on prevention to ensure better health outcomes. rrh.org
WESLEY HEALTH CENTERS (WCH)

WCH is a leading health care provider for low-income and homeless patients. The care network extends across Los Angeles County operating 17 clinics (including three in the Antelope Valley), three recuperative care facilities, three mobile health units, a residential Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment facility, outpatient SUD treatment clinic, and transitional housing. Wesley specializes in providing comprehensive primary health care, oral health, mental health, substance abuse treatment and relapse prevention services, family planning, STD/HIV treatment and prevention services, optometry, pharmacy, radiology and laboratory services, case management, health education, nutritional counseling, benefit enrollment services, and other services depending on the needs of patients. All services are available to patients regardless of ability to afford care. jwchstitute.org/

QUALITY OF LIFE

1968 was an eventful year. Both Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy were lost to us. Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act, and Richard Nixon was elected the 37th U.S. President. History was made when physicians performed the first heart transplant in the United States, and three Apollo 8 astronauts orbited the moon on Christmas Eve. These were all remarkable milestones in a changing world.

In the Antelope Valley many extraordinary changes were under way as well. The astronauts viewers watched on TV had trained for their missions at nearby Edwards Air Force Base. The innovative Lockheed L-1011 was being assembled at Palmdale’s Air Force Plant 42, and Kaiser Permanente came to the Antelope Valley to better serve the people who made both possible. KP.org/AntelopeValley

Primary care services—pediatrics, internal medicine, and family medicine—are available in Lancaster and Palmdale. Each location houses diagnostic imaging, pharmacy, and laboratory. Kaiser’s state-of-the-art Antelope Valley Medical Offices is home to 25 specialty care services, as well as an outpatient procedure suite, diagnostic imaging, pharmacy, and laboratory all provided by more than 70 clinicians.

Kaiser is committed to strengthening its relationship with the community and helping the Antelope Valley not only be a place to live but a place to thrive as plans to expand behavioral health services into the Palmdale medical offices continue. Additionally, improving the health of communities served by supporting local nonprofits, schools, community-based organizations, community clinics, and government organizations through grants, technical expertise, volunteer hours, in-kind services, and board participation remains key to our mission. This commitment to the local community helps the most vulnerable people in our service area, and helps friends, loved ones and neighbors thrive. In December 2018, KP announced a $6 million grant program to combat and improve access to mental health services. The initial grant allocation funds a group of two-year grants to support 16 nonprofit community partners, including an Antelope Valley based non-profit.
**ANTELOPE VALLEY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

The Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) is located just a short distance from the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area. The AVAQMD is a practical, community partner that is always willing to work with businesses looking to make the Los Angeles County High Desert home.

The AVAQMD’s ability to work with industry to find practical air quality solutions is one of the primary reasons large corporations and unique businesses continue to establish operations in the Antelope Valley.

With nearly 500,000 residents, the AVAQMD has managed to attract new industry and commerce while maintaining air quality standards through a corporative program of planning, regulatory development, permitting, ambient air monitoring, compliance assistance and public education.

The proactive partnership between the AVAQMD and the regulated industries creates a strong local economy while maintaining high air quality standards.

To learn more about AVAQMD and its programs, visit AVAQMD.ca.gov or call (661) 723-8070.

AVAQMD.ca.gov

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**KERN COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**

The Board of Directors acts as the governing body of the East Kern Air Pollution Control District a special district in east Kern County. The Board consists of five members; three city council members and two county supervisors. Board meetings are open to the public.

(661) 862-5250  KernAir.org

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**UTILITIES**

**ELECTRICITY**
Southern California Edison
(800) 655-4555  SCE.com

**NATURAL GAS**
SoCal Gas Sempra Energy
(800) 424-2200  SoCalGas.com

**WATER CONSERVATION**
Mojave Public Utility District
(661) 824-4161  Wkwc.com

**SANITATION**
Waste Management
(661) 947-7197  wm.com
Kern County Waste Management
(661) 862-8900  KernCountyWaste.com
J. Torres Co.
(661) 823-4898  JTCorporation.com
REGIONAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

ACTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
32039 Crown Valley Rd, Acton, CA 93510
(661) 269-5785
Aadcoc.com

AV CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
554 W. Lancaster Blvd, Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 538-0607
AVChambers.org

AV HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
819 E Ave Q-9, Palmdale, CA 93550
(661) 538-0607
AVHispanicChamber.org

BORON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
26962 Twenty Mule Team Rd, Boron, CA 93516
(760) 762-5810
BoronChamber.com

CALIFORNIA CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
8001 California City Blvd, California City, CA 93505
(760) 373-8676
CaliforniaCityChamber.com

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE GREATER ANTELOPE VALLEY
37765 53rd St E, Palmdale, CA 93552
(661) 361-8254
Cocgav.com

GREATER TEHACHAPI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
209 E Tehachapi Blvd, Tehachapi, CA 93561
(661) 822-4180
TehachapiEDC.com

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY EDG/CHINA LAKE ALLIANCE
(760) 382-6013
ChinaLakeAlliance.org

LAKE LOS ANGELES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
(661) 264-2786

MOJAVE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
(661) 824-2481
VisitMojave.com

PEARBLOSSOM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PO Box 591, Pearblossom, CA 93553
(661) 305-6519

QUARTZ HILL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
42043 50th St W, Quartz Hill, CA 93536
(661) 722-4811
QuartzHillChamber.com

RIDGECREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
128 E California Ave, Ridgecrest, CA 93555
(760) 375-8331
RidgecrestChamber.com

ROSAMOND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
2861 Diamond St, Rosamond, CA 93560
(661) 256-3248
RosamondChamber.org

SUN VILLAGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
10164 E Palmdale Blvd, Palmdale CA 93591
(661) 400-1026

TEHACHAPI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
209 E Tehachapi Blvd, Tehachapi, CA 93561
(661) 822-4180
Tehachapi.com
PARKS & RECREATION

CITY OF LANCASTER
Lancaster’s Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Community Services (PARCS) Department has been extremely busy despite the impacts COVID played on community and sporting events. Throughout the pandemic, the team pivoted and came up with creative solutions to still engage the community. Once restrictions were eased, events came back without missing a beat.

Lancaster began a new partnership with the Antelope Valley Fair to create a re-envisioned event for the annual California Poppy Festival. This year’s event will include live entertainment, amusement park rides, hundreds of vendors and is slated to be bigger and more successful than past events.

The former home of the minor league baseball team, the JetHawks, is being reimagined. When MLB ended their contract with the team, it gave the City the opportunity to reinvent the space. Plans include a multi-purpose facility that can be used for various types of sporting events, conferences, concerts and other community gatherings.

CITY OF PALMDALE
Partnerships play an important part in providing entertainment and educational events for our residents. In addition to City sponsored events like Kaleidoscope Art & Music Festival and the Palmdale Healing & Honor Field, there were several exciting community programs made possible through our partnerships such as GraceFest, Welcome Home Ceremony for Vietnam Veterans and the new Palmdale Holidays on Parade. Holidays on Parade was a drive-through, themed lighting experience at the Palmdale Auto Mall that provided residents an opportunity to celebrate the holidays while drawing new visitors to our local businesses.

In addition, the City is investing over $12M in recreational facilities for residents and visitors. The new Rancho Vista Park is under construction and improvement projects are currently underway at McAdam, Desert Sands, and Courson Parks. The City’s Public Art Program also has several exciting projects in the planning or construction phase including the new Revolutions sculpture that will be unveiled later this year.

KERN COUNTY
Parks are an important part of the quality of life, and Kern County continues to invest in parks.

Planned this year is a $3 million project to improve Mojave East Park, replacing restroom facilities, providing a new paved parking lot and more.

Kern County Parks & Recreation manages eight regional parks, 40 neighborhood parks and 25 public buildings, supervises three golf courses and landscapes 76 county buildings.

Parks in East Kern include the 490-acre Tehachapi Mountain Park offering hiking, nature awareness, camping and equestrian trail riding. Neighborhood parks in East Kern managed by the county include Boron Park, Inyokern Park, Mojave East and Mojave West parks, North Edwards Park, Randsburg Park, Rosamond Park and two parks in Ridgecrest — Leroy Jackson and Petroglyph Park.
CITY OF TEHACHAPI
Tehachapi continues to offer recreation opportunities through a variety of parks and facilities managed by both the City of Tehachapi and the Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Parks District and the County of Kern. In addition, the City of Tehachapi has made substantial investments in recent years on a series of bike lanes and paths that connect the Tehachapi Valley with a series of safe routes for both recreational and competitive cyclists.

While 2020 led to the cancellation of Tehachapi’s marquee events, the popular Gran Fondo cycling event as well as Mountain Festival and the Apple Festival are slated for successful recoveries in 2021.

CITY OF CALIFORNIA CITY
Located in the middle of two state parks, Red Rock Canyon and Tomo-Kahni, the closest park is just 17 miles to the north via Neuralia Road, Red Rock Canyon. Red Rock has something to offer everyone. Drive up to or take a serious hike to the amazing cliffs and rock formations that have been shaped by time. No matter what time of year you visit, there is desert life to discover.

California City is the home of the Desert Tortoise Natural Area. Desert Tortoises find refuge in this reserve and emerge from their burrows in spring and fall. While visiting, follow interpretive trails to learn about the plants and animals that make the desert home.

CITY OF RIDGECREST
Ridgcrest is situated in the Indian Wells Valley between the high country of the Sierra Nevada mountain range and the deep desert of Death Valley. Within an hour’s drive through some of the West’s most beautiful country are great opportunities including:

• Fishing
• Hiking
• Hunting
• Sailing
• Skiing
• Every Other Outdoor Pastime

The Valley is within two hours of the highest and the lowest points in the continental U.S. The air is clear and sunny days are the rule.

The City of Ridgecrest is a largely “company” oriented community big enough to provide plenty of fine schools (public and private), shopping (including large chain stores), churches, health care, and recreation but still small enough to avoid most of the usual big-city problems. A wide variety of excellent housing is readily available at reasonable prices, and you can live only minutes from your office.
Retail is an important sector of the local economy for a number of reasons. A portion of sales tax generated at local stores stays in the community to help build and maintain important infrastructure and fund programs enjoyed by all.

Big box stores and other large retailers not only generate a lot of sales tax but also help keep shoppers in the community. And those who shop at locally-owned businesses are helping the community in more ways than one. Entrepreneurs are the engine of growth — small business fuels economic innovation and growth, bringing a better quality of life to all concerned.

Major retailers have been attracted to larger cities in the Antelope Valley — Lancaster and Palmdale — and draw customers from throughout the region. Ridgecrest, Tehachapi and smaller communities all have some larger chain-type grocery stores and other retailers. But each of the communities also has unique home-grown retailers to discover.

Check out this selection:

**LANCASTER**

**AVPopShop**
An expansive indoor swapmeet with many vendors, a food court, an ice cream shop and specialty services. AVPopShop.business. site

**SOL PLAZA BOUTIQUE MALL**
Shop, eat and be entertained at Lancaster’s only indoor shopping center. It hosts a variety of unique shops and services as well as an array of different eateries to satisfy any appetite. SolPlazaShopping.com

**The BLVD**
Nestled between Avenue I and Avenue J, the bustling shops and activities found on Downtown Lancaster BLVD are located between 10th Street West and Sierra Highway. The BLVD is an endeavor to bring back the downtown experience, with a decidedly modern twist. Part of a wider trend to create inviting new spaces for people to mix and mingle. It is a place where the community comes to celebrate, enjoy good friends and meet their neighbors. You’ll find a wide range of shopping, dining and service establishments as well as entertainment and special events. TheBlvdLancaster.com

Also in Lancaster, you will find a number of unique businesses including:

**FloraDonas Cakery**
Spreading love through sugar since 2018 (not your usual bakery). FloraDonacakes.com

**Li’l Book bug on the BLVD**
A wide selection of new and used books at reasonable prices. Facebook.com/lilbookbug

**Nantiquez Vintage Flairr**
A unique vintage boutique specializing in fun, creative and special clothing, furniture and retro items. https://nantiquezvintageflairr.com/

**Pharmacy Lancaster**
One of eight retail locations in Southern California (another is in Palmdale) offering skateboards, clothing and accessories. PharmacyBoardShop.com

**Vinyl Alley/Voodoo Vinyl**
A small family-owned and operated record shop in Lancaster (and also in Newhall). VoodooVinylrecords.com

**Wow Beauty**
A beauty supply superstore on THE BLVD in Lancaster. WowBeautySupply.com

**Mom Boss Boutique**
Fun, fashionable and affordable clothing for all body shapes and sizes. MomBossBoutique.net

**PALMDALE**
You will find major shopping in Palmdale at and around the Antelope Valley Mall and at shopping centers throughout the city including:

**ANTELOPE VALLEY MALL**
With about a million square feet of shopping and dining opportunities, the Antelope Valley Mall is home to a 16-screen Cinemark theater as well as numerous large and small retailers and restaurants. AV-Mail.com

**PALMDALE INTERNATIONAL SHOPPING MALL**
Multiple vendors offer a wide variety of merchandise at great prices in an indoor venue. PalmdaleMall.com

RIDGECREST
Among the unique businesses you will find in Ridgecrest are:

**Butterfly Boutique**
An upscale resale store that supports Ridgecrest Regional Hospice. RRH.org/RRH-Foundation/The-Butterfly-Boutique

**Just Imagine**
Toys and games for kids and adults, hobby supplies, collectible card games and comics. Facebook.com/JustImagineToysandGames

**Red Rock Books**
More than 7,000 square feet of used and new books near downtown Ridgecrest with, unique gifts, comfy seating, an official feline greeter, a children's area and a welcoming atmosphere. RedRockBooks.net

GREATER TEHACHAPI
Among unique shops in Greater Tehachapi, you will find a number of shops along the city’s main street, Tehachapi Boulevard — most within walking distance of each other — and others near the downtown area — that offer a variety of vintage items. These include:

**Auntie Em’s Antique Mall**
Go2Girlz.org

**Bliss**
Facebook.com/BlissInteriorsandAntiquities

**Go2Girlz Antique Boutique & Antiques and Funky Junk!**
Go2Girlz.org

**Sheridan’s Boutique Home Consignment**
SheridansConsignment.com

**This & That Home Decor**
Facebook.com/ThisandThathd

**U-Neek Findz**
Facebook.com/uneekfindz
From museums to sporting events, performances to outdoor activities — the Antelope Valley offers an amazing array of entertainment. Here are just a few examples:

**LANCASTER**

**Antelope Valley Rural Museum**
AVMuseum.org

**Axe N’ Dagger (axe-throwing fun)**
Axendagger.com

**Big 8 Softball Complex**
Big8.org

**Lancaster National Soccer Center**
LancasterSoccerCenter.com

**Lancaster Performing Arts Center**
LPAC.org

**Museum of Art & History**
LancasterMOAH.org

**Saddleback Butte State Park**
Parks.ca.gov?page_id=618

**PALMDALE**

**Blackbird Airpark**
Facebook.com/BlackbirdAirpark

**Dry Town Water Park**
DryTownWaterPark.com/

**Joe Davies Heritage Airpark**
CityofPalmdale.org/205/Joe-Davies-Heritage-Airpark

**Palmdale Amphitheater (venue)**
PalmdaleAmphitheater.com

**Palmdale Playhouse (venue)**
PalmdalePlayhouse.com

**Rancho Vista Golf Club (public)**
Ranchovistagolfclub.com

**BORON**

**20 Mule Team Museum**
Facebook.com/TwentyMuleTeamMuseum

**Borax Visitor Center**
Borax.com/about/community/Borax-Visitor-Center

**Boron Aerospace Museum**
SaxonAerospaceMuseum.com

**GREATER TEHACHAPI**

**BeeKay Theatre (performance venue)**
TCTOnstage.com

**Golden Age Flight Museum**
GoldenAgeFlightMuseum.org

**Skylark North / Mountain Valley Airport (gliderport)**
SkylarkNorth.com/

**Tehachapi Depot Railroad Museum**
TehachapiDepot.com

**Tehachapi Museum & Errea House Museum**
TehachapiMuseum.org

**Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park**
Reservations required; call (661) 946-6092 or email: Mojave.Sector@parks.ca.gov

**MOJAVE**

**Plane Crazy Saturdays**
MojaveMuseum.org/

**RIDGECREST**

**Maturango Museum**
Maturango.org

**ROSAMOND**

**Willow Springs International Raceway**
WillowSpringsRaceway.com
**BEER & WINE**

**LANCASTER**

**ANTELOPE VALLEY WINERY**
The Antelope Valley Winery/Donato Family Vineyard is located between the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale and uses sustainable grape-growing practices. The winery is celebrating its 32nd year in business. Special events including seasonal Farmers Markets are also offered.

AVWinery.com

**BARRETT CELLARS**
A unique destination with a private club atmosphere offering exceptional wines and a relaxed social experience. BarrettCellars.com

**BRAVERY BREWING COMPANY**
Founded in 2011, Bravery Brewing is a microbrewery that crafts adventurous, memorable and delicious beers for its community. BraveryBrewing.com

**CORUCE VINEYARDS AND WINERY**
Proprietors Corren Savikko and Bruce Burch began growing wine grapes in the Antelope Valley in 2000 and harvested for the first time in 2012. A wine club and tasting room is offered, along with entertainment and special events.

CoruceVineyardsandWinery.com

**CHALLENGER TAP HOUSE BAR & GRILL**
Restaurant and bar specializing in authentically hand-crafted food and cocktails with 60 tap handles of beer. Facebook.com/ChallengerTapHouse

**COMPLEXITY WINE LOUNGE**
A fine wine and cheese lounge featuring a full food menu, extensive wine list and selection of beers from local breweries.

ComplexityWine.com

**DORNER FAMILY VINEYARD**
Mike and Michelle Dorner began Dorner Family Vineyard on the southern side of the Cummings Valley in 2011 as a hobby, inspired by a trip to Europe. They expanded their plantings in 2012 then went on to develop a wedding venue, tasting room and a 3,000-square-foot winery.

DornerFamilyVineyard.com

**LUCKY LUKE BREWPUB**
The Lancaster location offers a full-service restaurant with gourmet burgers and beers (breweries and tasting rooms are also in Palmdale and Santa Clarita).

TransplantsBrewing.com

**O P E N H I G H T L I N E S**

**PALMDALE**

**DOG HAUS BIERGARTEN**
Offering the absolute würst gourmet hot dogs, sausages, burgers, chicken sandwiches and craft beer.

Doghaus.com

**STEPHEN HEMMERT WINES**
Stephen Hemmert, together with his partner and fiancée Nicole St. Julian, created what is now the Stephen Hemmert Wines brand in 2014. Each vintage is produced in small batches, making it unique and rare.

StephenHemmertwines.com

**TRIASSIC LEGACY VINEYARDS**
In the last four years the wines of Triassic have earned 14 awards at the San Francisco Chronicle International Wine Competitions alone and even more from other competitions. In 2018 Triassic bottled 500 cases of their 2015 wines which includes their estate grown Zinfandel and Syrah, Triassic Rocks (a blend of Zinfandel and Syrah), Cabernet Sauvignon from Stray Leaves grapes and Tempranillo (from Paso Robles).

TriassicVineyards.com

**STRAY LEAVES VINEYARD**
Stray Leaves Vineyard produces award winning Riesling, Syrah, Cabernet, Zinfandel and Primitivo. At the 2018 San Francisco Chronicle International Wine Competition Stray Leaves received a Double Gold for 2015 SL Dry Riesling, Gold for 2015 Stray Primitivo, Silver for SL 2015 Cabernet (Kate’s Reserve) and Bronze for 2015 Syrah and 2015 Riesling (semi-sweet).

Facebook.com/StrayLeavesVineyard/
RANCHO DE LOS VIAJEROS VINEYARD
Tehachapi's newest vineyard is Rancho de Los Viajeros. The Ranch's first crush was in 2014 and that wine brought home a bronze medal.  RanchoDeLosViajeros.com

LOCAL CRAFT BEER
With an 8 bbl manual brewhouse and 120 bbls of fermentation space, everything at Tehachapi’s Local Craft Beer is done by hand. Special events, too.  LocalCraftBeer.net

TEHACHAPI WINE & CATTLE CO.
They bottled their Zinfandel under the name Tehachapi Wine and Cattle Company and since then Souza Primitivo has accumulated 10 medals. Their 2011 Primitivo took a silver and their 2010 a bronze award. In 2018 12 great red and white wines were bottled under the TWCC label.  TehachapiWineAndCattleCompany.com

OLD WEST BREWING CO.
Delicious craft beers and friendly atmosphere just off Highway 58 in an industrial area. Features beers brewed with artisan Tehachapi Mountain well water.  OldWestBrews.com

TEHACHAPI WINERY
Located in Cummings Valley, nestled in the Tehachapi Mountain range, their grapes slowly ripen on the vine with concentrated sunlight, gentle breezes and 278 days of clear days and nights. The well-drained Triassic soils of granite lend to a rich and complex terroir. They focus their passion on four red varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir and Syrah.  TehachapiWinery.com

WESTLANE BREWING
Cold, fresh beer, food, entertainment and hospitality.  Facebook.com/ WestlaneBrewing

DISCOVER TEHACHAPI
Tehachapi’s new touring company offers wine tours and provides an update about events at local wineries every Thursday on its Facebook page.  DiscoverTehachapi.com

INYOKERN
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY BREWING COMPANY
"The Biggest, Little Brewery in the World", produces over 20 styles of beer each year and over 100 flavors of soda. They have partnered with Arrowhead Mt. Spring Water, Rocket Fizz Candy & Sodas and other national beverages to produce, distribute, and create the finest beverages in the world. New items are produced every month. Stop by and visit the brewery, or check in with the website to find out what’s new.  MojaveRed.com

RIDGECREST
FLIGHT LINE TAP ROOM
Ridgecrest’s “local fix” for craft beer with snacks available, along with board games. Kids welcome, too.  FlightLineTap.com

TEHACHAPI BEER MILE
Three local breweries all within walking distance: Local Craft Beer, Westlane Brewing and Old West Brewing.  #northofthetrackstehachapi

MOJAVE
HIGH DESERT CELLARS
In June 2011 Efren’s ambition of opening a tasting room for his wines became a reality and High Desert Cellars Tasting Room held its grand opening. The beautiful tasting room offers fine wines for tasting, as well as draft beer from Kinetic Brewing Company and Indian Wells Brewing, bottled beer, soda, water, snacks and unique gifts. Their wines can also be enjoyed in the outdoor garden area along with a picnic lunch if desired.  HighDesertCellars.com

HIGH DESERT CELLARS SINCE 2010

PDUBS BREW PUB
Old Town Tehachapi location offers a full-service bar, indoor and outdoor dining, jukebox, shuffleboard, pool and more.  PDubs.Pub
## REGIONAL BUSINESS PARKS

### LANCASTER
- **Antelope Valley Medical Main Street**
  - **Location:** Avenue J & 15th Street West
  - **Total Acreage:** 340
  - **Zoning:** Specific Plan
- **Centerpoint Business Park**
  - **Location:** Avenue J & Lowtree Avenue
  - **Total Acreage:** 9.5
  - **Zoning:** Office Professional
- **Enterprise Business Park**
  - **Location:** Sierra Highway & Avenue L-4
  - **Total Acreage:** 75
  - **Zoning:** Office/Light Industrial
- **Fox Field Industrial Corridor**
  - **Location:** Avenue H West of SR-14
  - **Total Acreage:** 8,236
  - **Zoning:** Specific Plan

### PALMDALE
- **Antelope Valley Commerce Center**
  - **Location:** Ave M & Sierra Hwy
  - **Total Acreage:** 339
  - **Zoning:** Specific Plan (industrial, Employment Flex and Film Studio)
- **Challenger Business Park**
  - **Location:** Palmdale Blvd and 5th St West
  - **Total Acreage:** 10
  - **Zoning:** Commercial
- **Fairway Business Park**
  - **Location:** Avenue O and Division St.
  - **Total Acreage:** 115
  - **Zoning:** Business Park/Mixed
- **Palmdale Industrial Park**
  - **Location:** Sierra Hwy and Avenue M
  - **Total Acreage:** 400
  - **Zoning:** Industrial
- **Palmdale Trade & Commerce Center**
  - **Location:** 10th St West and Rancho Vista Blvd.
  - **Total Acreage:** 746
  - **Zoning:** Specific Plan (Industrial and Commercial)

### LANCaster BUSINESS PARK
- **Location:** Business Center Parkway & Avenue K-8
  - **Total Acreage:** 240
  - **Zoning:** Specific Plan

### NORTH VALLEY INDUSTRIAL CENTER
- **Location:** Avenue H & Division Street
  - **Total Acreage:** 270
  - **Zoning:** Heavy Industrial

### SOUTHERN AMARGOSA INDUSTRIAL
- **Location:** Avenues L & M East of SR-14
  - **Total Acreage:** 1,400
  - **Zoning:** Light Industrial

### THE BLVD
- **Location:** Lancaster Blvd & 10th Street West to Sierra Highway
  - **Total Acreage:** 9.5
  - **Zoning:** Commercial/Office/Professional/Specific Plan

### SIERRA BUSINESS PARK
- **Location:** 10th St West and Avenue M-4
  - **Total Acreage:** 30
  - **Zoning:** Commercial

### SIERRA GATEWAY PARK
- **Location:** Avenue O-8 and Sierra Hwy
  - **Total Acreage:** 133
  - **Zoning:** Industrial and Commercial

### TEHACHAPI
- **Bailey Court Industrial Park**
  - **Location:** Tehachapi Blvd/Bailey Court
  - **Total Acreage:** 25
  - **Zoning:** M-1
- **Tehachapi Municipal Airport Industrial Park**
  - **Location:** 411 N. Green Street
  - **Total Acreage:** 2
  - **Zoning:** M-1
- **Enterprise Way/Industrial Parkway**
  - **Location:** Mill Street / Industrial Way
  - **Total Acreage:** 3
  - **Zoning:** M-1
- **Goodrick Business Park (County)**
  - **Location:** Dennison Road/Goodrick Road
  - **Total Acreage:** 110
  - **Zoning:** Light Industrial/Mixed
- **California City**
  - **California City Airport Business Park**
    - **Location:** California City Municipal Park
    - **Total Acreage:** 40
    - **Zoning:** Industrial and M-1
- **Ridgecrest**
  - **Ridgecrest Business Park**
    - **Location:** China Lake Blvd & Ward Avenue
    - **Total Acreage:** 63
    - **Zoning:** Professional/Light Industrial
  - **Ridgecrest Industrial Park**
    - **Location:** West Ridgecrest
    - **Total Acreage:** 81
    - **Zoning:** Light Industrial/Mixed
- **Inyokern**
  - **Inyokern Airport Industrial District**
    - **Location:** Inyokern Blvd
    - **Total Acreage:** 40
    - **Zoning:** Light Industrial/Mixed
TRANSPORTATION

“AVTA empowers mobility-getting people where they need to be safely, timely and cost effectively”

ANTELOPE VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY (AVTA)

COVID 19…it impacted all of us individually and every business. For AVTA ridership plunged by 69%, through it all we still managed to complete our fleet conversion to all electric in mid March. We also crossed the 3 million and 4 million all electric mile benchmarks. We built a world class fitness center for our employees and we partnered with some great sponsors to host three massive grocery giveaways to families and individuals who were struggling.

We currently have our Main office/bus parking and maintenance facility, along with four transit centers and one more under construction.

KERN REGIONAL TRANSIT (KRT)

KRT provides scheduled bus service throughout the Antelope Valley from California City to Lancaster and Metrolink plus various other destinations throughout Kern County. A new transit center will begin service in Mojave to serve five bus lines in East Kern, Eastern California, Mojave and the Antelope Valley with connections to Metrolink and Amtrak.

KernTransit.org/routes-and-schedules/100-bakersfield-lancaster

MOJAVE REGIONAL TRANSIT

Transportation - A new transit center is being constructed to better serve bus lines that connect Mojave to the Southeast Kern and Antelope Valley region with Amtrak, Metrolink, shopping and employment.

Mojave leaders are also working to extend Metrolink service to Rosamond, Mojave, and California City to serve residents who commute to jobs in the Los Angeles area.

More and more businesses, the local California Highway Patrol office, the Mojave Air & Space Port, and the Stater Bros shopping center offer connections for powering electric vehicles.

GRANITE CONSTRUCTION

“At offices throughout the U.S., we’re proud to provide emergency response within hours on an on-call basis to Federal, state and local clients. We provide immediate planning, preparation, deployment of labor and equipment, and mitigation measures to help protect the public and secure critical infrastructure and facilities as needed. Services include mud, waste and debris removal, structural repairs, hazardous material removal, drainage, pipeline and utility repairs.”

As a diversified construction and construction materials company and a full-suite provider in the transportation, water infrastructure and mineral exploration markets, Granite delivers Infrastructure Solutions for public and private clients throughout the Americas.
Lockheed Martin continues to develop next-generation technology in support of its customers and works to enhance the experiences of its employees associated with the work environment and their lives in the Antelope Valley. Lockheed Martin has operations at Plant 10 (LM property), Plant 42, Edwards Air Force Base, Rosamond and Helendale.

“Lockheed Martin Skunk Works®, your mission defines our purpose. Our team of dedicated engineers and scientists assumes it can be done. With a visionary focus on the future, we partner with our customers to anticipate tomorrow’s capability gaps and technology needs to solve the most critical national security challenges today”

We have operations at Plant 10 (LM Property), Plant 42, Edwards AFB, Rosamond and Helendale.

Northrop Grumman is an innovative manned and unmanned air system provider with a proven track record of systems engineering, manufacturing excellence and reliability. The Palmdale site is a world-class facility and home to some of the world’s most technologically advanced aircraft. Employing thousands of talented and diverse employees, it is uniquely suited for the development, prototyping, production, and testing of military aircraft systems, both manned and unmanned. The highly specialized manufacturing and engineering facility is located on the Government Owned/Contractor Operated (GOCO) U.S. Air Force Plant 42. Northrop Grumman has locations throughout the Antelope Valley including the Palmdale site, Edwards Air Force Base and Mojave. For more information on careers at Northrop Grumman, visit ngc.com/careers.

Quote

“Northrop Grumman invests heavily in the Antelope Valley community. Our ASTAR Academy provides advanced, hands-on manufacturing training to both current and future employees. We are proud to have a workforce on the cutting edge of technology.”

— Bryan M. Mahoney, sector vice president, Operation and Palmdale Site Leader.
Stratolaunch is a hypersonic testbed service provider based out of Mojave. The company operates the world's largest aircraft by wingspan (385-feet) known as the Roc carrier aircraft. The company intends to use Roc to air-launch Talon testbeds which are reusable, cost-effective platforms that enable routine access to the hypersonic environment. By delivering flight data critical to validating system performance and achieving rapid technology deployment, together with its customers, Stratolaunch drives innovations that are imperative to advancing national security.

Stratolaunch has one location which is its headquarters at Mojave Air and Space Port at Rutan Field in Mojave. Additionally, offices are located throughout the U.S.

By giving people the freedom to try and freedom to fail, the Mojave Air and Space Port has advanced the aviation and aerospace industry for the past 50 years. Free from bureaucratic red tape, the 3,300-acre facility is a research and testing mecca platform unlike any test facility campus in the world. With a customer-service approach to supporting missions, staff find creative methods and approaches to help achieve visions and dreams.

Mojave Air & Space Port has one location in Mojave, California.

QUOTE

“We foster and maintain our recognized aerospace presence with a principal focus as the world’s premier civilian aerospace test center while seeking compatible diverse business and industry.”

No. 1 The Stratolaunch team completed the second flight of its Roc carrier aircraft, the world’s largest aircraft (385-foot wingspan).

No. 2 Began construction of two Talon-A test vehicles. The first, TA-0, is a separation test vehicle that will be used to verify the carrier aircraft's pylon system that carries and releases the Talon vehicles. The second, TA-1, will be the first rocketed hypersonic test vehicle. The company anticipates completing its first hypersonic flight in 2022.

QUOTE

“Stratolaunch is excited to operate at Mojave Air and Space Port at Rutan Field, for its unique capacity to support flights of the world’s largest aircraft “Roc” and the community of suppliers and machinists that we rely on to support our business operations. We look forward to accelerating hypersonic research for government and commercial providers in the Antelope Valley and the entire country.”

No. 1 Nearing Completion of the Taxiway ‘C’ Rehab Project and awarded an $11M grant for the rehabilitation of Runway 12-30.

No. 2 Awarded a grant to design and construct a paved road, which will encompass the northern perimeter of the facility.

ToP 2021 Milestones

MOJAVE AIR & SPACE PORT

AVEDGECA.ORG | 2022 Economic Report | 49 | AVEDGE
2021 was an exciting year of progress on AVEK’s water storage and recovery projects. The agency is on track to complete the first phase of its High Desert Water Bank Project by 2023. When completed, this project will improve the reliability of State Water Project deliveries with 280,000 acre feet of water storage and 70,000 acre feet per year of dry year water recovery for Metropolitan Water District.

Despite continued drought conditions and poor water quality in the aqueduct, AVEK maintained a consistent supply of treated water to meet all customer demands while exceeding all state water quality standards.

The agency has four conventional water treatment plants, two groundwater banking and recovery facilities and a water transmission system consisting of 184 miles of pipeline, 11 pump stations and 67 million gallons of treated water storage.

Facing persistent drought conditions and scarce water resources, Palmdale Water District is pursuing its Palmdale Regional Water Augmentation Program (PRWAP) that will further purify highly treated recycled water that can be used either for injecting into the groundwater or blending with surface water.

The program includes the construction of an advanced purification facility that runs recycled water through micro-filtration and reverse osmosis filters and ultraviolet light with advanced oxidation. The system would remove 99.99% of bacteria, viruses, and ions (like salt). The final step would be to add chlorine for disinfection.

The PRWAP is estimated to cost $75 to $100 million. The district has two staffed locations and several unstaffed sites.

Staff welcomed customers back to the fully reopened lobby after closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A storm in late 2021 helped increase the water level at Littlerock Reservoir.
Tesla batteries provide backup power to PWD water booster stations during power shutoffs.

Water passes through the sedimentation basins at the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant.

Crew installing a new octave meter and rebuilding piping and valves in a vault.

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RIO TINTO BORATES & LITHIUM - U.S. BORAX

Rio Tinto Borates & Lithium — recognized by many as U.S. BORAX — operates the largest open-pit mine in the state of California. Celebrating 150 years of operation (beginning in the 1800s in nearby Death Valley), the mine holds one of the world’s richest borate deposits.

The operation is 1,000 people strong — serving 500 customers with more than 1,700 global delivery locations. The company supplies 30 percent of the world’s demand for refined borates from a world-class mine in Boron — about 100 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

The company honors its history, but also looks forward to the critical mineral needs of the future. The mine is actively developing technologies to extract lithium from ore tailings. Lithium, a critical mineral, is the backbone of rechargeable battery technology — in laptop computers, cell phones, watch batteries and more. Its use in the electric car market is where the future lies — and the company is happy to play a part in that future.

Whether mining borates or extracting lithium, Rio Tinto Borates & Lithium is pioneering progress for the modern world.

Visitors are welcome to learn more about mining and processing ore by visiting the U.S. Borax Visitor Center located adjacent to the mine operation at 14486 Borax Road, Boron, California.

Celebrating

20 MULE TEAM BORAX

150 YEARS OF INNOVATION
OTHER MINING ASSETS IN THE REGION

CalPortland Cement – Mojave
Calportland.com/locations/california/mojave-plant
Granite Construction – Littlerock, Palmdale, Arvin & Inyokern
GraniteConstruction.com
Searles Valley Minerals – Trona
SVMinerals.com

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON

Electrical energy, once produced, must be used within milliseconds. If we have a surplus, it must go somewhere immediately. Therefore, on sunny but cool days, when lots of solar energy is generated but demand for air conditioning is low, grid stability is affected, and circuits can get overloaded. In extreme cases we are at risk of having to ask solar power generators to temporarily shut down. This limitation impacts the growth of solar and wind generation as we move toward 100 percent carbon-free energy.

In the desert of Lancaster sits the 2.8MW/5.6MWh Connolly battery energy storage system. It is connected to a circuit that supports 15 small solar farms and rooftop solar installations. When customers aren’t using much electricity, excess power can overload the circuit. SCE will use the battery energy storage system to manage this reverse flow.

The second project, DESI 2, sits in a compact, urban SCE right of way at the end of a circuit in Santa Ana. SCE is using the 1.4MW/3.7MWh system to improve circuit voltage control, which affects power quality. Energy stored in this battery might also be used in the wholesale energy market in support of providing clean, carbon-free energy for SCE customers.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Throughout the Antelope Valley, you will find evidence of the region’s increasing importance to renewable energy production in California.

Not much more than a decade ago, only about 12 percent of California’s electricity came from renewable sources — wind, solar, geothermal, biomass and small hydroelectric facilities.

But renewable energy reached 33 percent of the state’s electrical production in 2020 — and will continue to grow.

In December 2021, Los Angeles County announced that nearly all residents and businesses in unincorporated areas of the county now receive half of their energy from renewable sources with a goal of achieving 100 percent clean power. The county projects that much of the renewable energy will come from wind and solar farms in California.

In addition to large-scale commercial solar projects in both Los Angeles and Kern County areas of the Antelope Valley, there are more than 5,000 wind turbines in the Tehachapi-Mojave wind corridor with an important transmission line carrying the power to Southern California.

LANCASTER CHOICE ENERGY (LCE)

LCE is the locally run power program created by the City of Lancaster. In an opportunity to deploy more zero-emission electricity sources, the City is supporting the development of advanced microgrids under a grant awarded by the California Energy Commission. The Lancaster Advanced Energy Community project features a 114-unit, affordable housing, residential microgrid called HNR-1. LCE will provide distributed energy resources to this community, where buildings will have solar energy production, battery storage, and distribution all on-site as a self-contained power grid. The project will serve as a blueprint for the economic and technical feasibility of Zero Net Emissions building design and the new standard for affordable housing in California.

CITY OF LANCASTER - HYDROGEN CITY

Lancaster is committed to becoming the first city to fully embrace hydrogen power. The city has partnered with SGH2 Energy to launch a hydrogen production facility that can produce up to 3.8 million kilograms of hydrogen from 42,000 tons of waste annually.

The City is also working with Hitachi Zosen Inova, New Planet Energy and Waste Management to bring similar waste-to-energy technology solutions to Lancaster and is also supporting Heliogen in demonstrating its novel solar concentration technology to produce hydrogen at its Lancaster facility. The locally produced hydrogen has various applications in industry, infrastructure and transportation, including supplying an expanding network of hydrogen refueling stations across California.

On a global scale, in 2021 a sister city relationship was formed between Lancaster and Namie, Japan, to unite a shared dedication to promoting hydrogen. Namie Town was greatly affected by the 2011 Daiichi nuclear tragedy and has since recovered to become a symbol of green energy with one of the largest green hydrogen plants in the world. With these partners and initiatives, Lancaster is at the forefront of advancing hydrogen innovation to secure a future of clean energy.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON

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- Wireless Internet on All-Electric Zero-Emission Buses

Since 1992, AVTA has mobilized and empowered the residents of the Antelope Valley, connecting our riders to resources that enrich and elevate their lives. AVTA is the first all-electric zero-emission transit agency in North America and recently named the Federal Transit Administration’s Most Accomplished Agency for 2022. Join your fellow riders and get on board AVTA today.

AVTA empowers mobility - getting people where they need to be safely, timely, and cost effectively.