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South Bay Relocation Guide

Santa Clara County Description and Information

Santa Clara County, California

County of Santa Clara, California	
	
 Flag	 Seal
Official website: http://www.sccgov.org/	
Location	

Santa Clara County is a [county](#) located in the [San Francisco Bay Area](#) of the [U.S. state of California](#). It is the site of [Silicon Valley](#). As of 2000 it had a population of 1,682,585. The [county seat](#) is [San Jose](#).

History

Santa Clara County was one of the original counties of California, formed in [1850](#) at the time of statehood. Part of the county's territory was given to [Alameda County](#) in [1853](#).

The county is named after [Mission Santa Clara](#), which was established in [1777](#), and named for [Saint Clare of Assisi, Italy](#). The name "Clare" or "Clara" means "clear" or "bright."

In [1882](#), Santa Clara County tried to levy taxes upon property of the [Southern Pacific Railroad](#) within county boundaries. The result was the [U.S. Supreme Court](#) case of *[Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad](#)*, [118 U.S. 394 \(1886\)](#), in which the Court established the doctrine of [corporate personhood](#).

Geography

According to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), the county has a total area of 3,377 [km²](#) (1,304 [mi²](#)). 3,343 [km²](#) (1,291 [mi²](#)) of it is land and 34 [km²](#) (13 [mi²](#)) of it (1.02%) is water.

The [San Andreas Fault](#) runs along the [Santa Cruz Mountains](#) in the south of the county.

Adjacent Counties

[San Benito County, California](#) - south

[Santa Cruz County, California](#) - south, southwest

[San Mateo County, California](#) - northwest

[Alameda County, California](#) - north

[Stanislaus County, California](#) - east

[Merced County, California](#) - southeast

Demographics

As of the [census](#)² of 2000, there were 1,682,585 people, 565,863 households, and 395,538 families residing in the county. The [population density](#) was 503/km² (1,304/mi²). There were 579,329 housing units at an average density of 173/km² (449/mi²). The racial makeup of the county was 53.83% [White](#), 2.80% [Black](#) or [African American](#), 0.67% [Native American](#), 25.56% [Asian](#), 0.34% [Pacific Islander](#), 12.13% from [other races](#), and 4.66% from two or more races. 23.98% of the population were [Hispanic](#) or [Latino](#) of any race.

There were 565,863 households out of which 34.90% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 54.90% were [married couples](#) living together, 10.00% had a female householder with no husband present, and 30.10% were non-families. 21.40% of all households were made up of individuals and 5.90% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.92 and the average family size was 3.41.

In the county the population was spread out with 24.70% under the age of 18, 9.30% from 18 to 24, 35.40% from 25 to 44, 21.00% from 45 to 64, and 9.50% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 34 years. For every 100 females there were 102.80 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 101.90 males.

The median income for a household in the county was \$74,335, and the median income for a family was \$81,717. Males had a median income of \$56,240 versus \$40,574 for females. The [per capita income](#) for the county was \$32,795. About 4.90% of families and

7.50% of the population were below the [poverty line](#), including 8.40% of those under age 18 and 6.40% of those age 65 or over.

Santa Clara County has the [highest median household income](#) of any county in California.

Politics



Santa Clara County Government Center

Presidential elections results

Year	GOP	Dems
2004	34.6% 209,094	63.9% 386,100
2000	34.4% 188,750	60.7% 332,490
1996	32.2% 168,291	56.9% 297,639

1992	28.4% 170,870	49.2% 296,265
1988	47.0% 254,442	51.3% 277,810
1984	54.8% 288,638	43.6% 229,865
1980	48.0% 299,048	35.0% 166,995
1976	49.5% 219,188	46.9% 208,023
1972	51.9% 237,334	45.6% 208,506

Transportation

Mass transit

Santa Clara County has consolidated its transportation services into the [Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority](#), which operates a rapidly expanding [light rail](#) system and a large system of [bus](#) routes. It also manages certain county-funded highway and expressway projects.

Besides SCVTA, the County is also served by [Caltrain](#) commuter rail service.

Freeways and expressways

The county has an extensive [freeway](#) system (now nearing completion) and a separate [expressway](#) system. Expressways in California are distinct from freeways; although access to adjoining properties is eliminated, at-grade intersections are allowed. However, unlike expressways virtually everywhere else in California, the [Santa Clara County expressways](#) were built, signed, and maintained as county roads; they are not maintained by [Caltrans](#), although they are patrolled by the [California Highway Patrol](#).

Many journalists and mapmakers from outside California do not understand the important difference between freeways and expressways, and incorrectly describe or depict Silicon

Valley as criss-crossed by a "web" of freeways when many of the lines on the map are really expressways.

There is also a large [street](#) network dominated by four- and six-lane arterials. Some of the newer boulevards (primarily in the West Valley) are divided with landscaped medians. They also often have neat concrete [sidewalks](#), although people are rarely seen using them.

County roads

[Santa Clara County Expressway System](#)

[Santa Clara County Route G2](#) - Lawrence Expressway

[Santa Clara County Route G3](#) - Page Mill Road / Oregon Expressway

[Santa Clara County Route G4](#) - San Tomas Expressway / Montague Expressway

[Santa Clara County Route G5](#) - Foothill Expressway

[Santa Clara County Route G6](#) - Central Expressway

[Santa Clara County Route G8](#) - Almaden Expressway

[Santa Clara County Route G10](#) - Blossom Hill Road

[Santa Clara County Route G21](#) - Capitol Expressway

Ports

The county's main airport is [Norman Y. Mineta San José International Airport](#) (SJC). [Moffett Federal Airfield](#) (NUQ), a former Naval Air Station, is used by the [Air National Guard](#), [NASA](#), and [Lockheed Martin](#). There are also smaller general aviation airports in [Palo Alto \(PAO\)](#), [San Jose \(RHV\)](#), and [San Martin \(E16\)](#).

The county has no seaports. Like all other Bay Area counties, it is dependent upon the [Port of Oakland](#) for transport of ocean cargo.

Cities, towns, and neighborhoods

Incorporated Places

There are 15 incorporated cities and towns in the county:

[Campbell](#)

[Cupertino](#)

[Gilroy](#)

[Los Altos](#)

[Los Altos Hills](#)

[Los Gatos](#)

[Milpitas](#)

[Monte Sereno](#)

[Morgan Hill](#)

[Mountain View](#)

[Palo Alto](#)

[San Jose](#) (incorporating the formerly independent unincorporated communities of [Alum Rock](#), and [Cambrian Park](#), as well as the formerly independent incorporated cities of [Willow Glen](#), [East San Jose](#), and [Alviso](#))

[Santa Clara](#)

[Saratoga](#)

[Sunnyvale](#)

Unincorporated communities

Census Designated Places

[Buena Vista](#)

[Burbank](#)

[East Foothills](#)

[Fruitdale](#)

[Lexington Hills](#)

[Loyola](#) also known as *Loyola Corners*

[San Martin](#)

[Seven Trees](#)

[Stanford](#)

[Sunol-Midtown](#)

Other unincorporated locales


[Bell Station](#) also known as *Bells Station*

[Chemeketa Park](#)

[Casa Loma](#) also known as *Loma Chiquita*

[San Antonio](#)

Sister counties

-  [Hsinchu County,](#)
[Taiwan](#)