

WHAT IS A PRIVATE ROAD? HOW ARE THEY CREATED?

A private road is a road owned and maintained by an individual, organization, or company rather than by a government agency. The most common type of private road is a road maintained by a homeowners' association, housing co-op, or by the adjacent property owner(s). For information about how a private road easement is created please visit <http://vcpublicworks.org/pwa/private-roads-frequently-asked-questions>

HOW DO I DETERMINE WHETHER MY ROAD IS A PUBLIC ROAD MAINTAINED BY THE COUNTY?

There are two general types of public roads in the unincorporated area of the County. There are public roads that were dedicated to the County and accepted by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) but never accepted into the County-maintained road system, and then there are those roads that were accepted as public roads and accepted into the County-maintained road system by the BOS. Roads that were dedicated and not accepted by the BOS became private roads. Please visit <http://gis.ventura.org/PWA-Transportation/> to find whether or not your road is maintained by the Transportation Department. If the road is shown in a solid color or dashed line then the road is a public road

maintained by the County of Ventura, Transportation Department.

WILL THE COUNTY ACCEPT THE PRIVATE ROAD SERVING MY PROPERTY INTO THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM?

Possibly, but not likely. In order to be considered for acceptance into the County road system, a road must be deemed required for general public convenience. A road that services only a few private properties and has minimal public traffic will not qualify. In addition to meeting a requirement for general public interest, the road must meet current County road design and construction standards. It also must be in a state of good repair.

WHERE CAN I FIND RECORDS RELATING TO PRIVATE ROAD EASEMENTS AFFECTING MY PROPERTY?

The Ventura County Recorder's Office is the best source for public records. These may be accessed directly by members of the public through computer terminals at the Recorder's Office. Easement information is contained in individual deeds and in subdivision maps, both of which are recorded documents.

A copy of your title insurance policy should show all recorded easements affecting your property. If you know the Assessor's Parcel Number for your property, or the lot/parcel number

in a subdivision or parcel map, you may contact the County Surveyor's Map Room at **(805) 654-2068** to confirm there is a map on file showing your property and the road easement serving it.

WHAT IS AN ALLEY?

An alley or alleyway is a narrow lane, path, or passage way, which usually runs between or behind buildings, permitting access from the street to backyards, garages, etc. Alleyways exist in various unincorporated areas of the County, such as: Silver Strand, Strickland, and Somis. Although these may serve as public access, they have not been accepted by the County for maintenance.

WHO MAINTAINS ALLEYS?

The adjacent property owners are typically responsible for maintaining paved and unpaved alleys that were not dedicated or rejected as a public right of way for road purposes by the BOS. By law (California Streets and Highway Code, Section 2150), the County is restricted on the use of Local Road Funds for maintenance or repair work on roads that are not within the County-maintained road system.

REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

If you have further questions, requests, or suggestions relating to

private roads, please call Real Estate Services at: **(805) 654-2402** or for more information please visit <http://vcpublicworks.org/pwa/private-roads-frequently-asked-questions>.

For questions, requests, or suggestions relating to alleyways, please call the Transportation Department at: **(805) 654-2049** or visit the department website at <http://vcpublicworks.org/transportation-department/transportation>.



Rev. 07/31/2014

PUBLIC ROADS, PRIVATE ROADS, AND ALLEYS

**Public Works Agency
Transportation Department**
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura CA 93009-1620

