

SISTER COUNTY AND PREFECTURE COOPERATION AGREEMENT
Between County of Santa Barbara, California, United States of America and Yamanashi
Prefecture, Japan

Preamble

Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan, and the County of Santa Barbara, California, United States of America (hereinafter referred to collectively as “the Parties”), recognizing the friendly relations between Japan and the United States and the importance of strengthening cooperation at the regional and local levels; acknowledging the shared characteristics of Yamanashi Prefecture and Santa Barbara County, including rich natural environments, agricultural and wine-producing traditions, tourism economies, and a strong commitment to sustainability and community well-being; affirming the value of people-to-people exchange, mutual understanding, and practical cooperation as a foundation for long-term partnership; and desiring to promote exchange and collaboration in a flexible and mutually beneficial manner, while respecting the laws, policies, and administrative authorities of each Party; have reached the following Sister County and Prefecture Cooperation Agreement.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a framework for friendly relations and cooperation between the Parties, with the aim of promoting mutual understanding, regional vitality, and sustainable development through exchanges and collaborative activities.

2. Areas of Cooperation

Subject to applicable laws and available resources, the Parties intend to promote cooperation in the following areas of shared interest:

- Economic development, innovation, and support for small and medium-sized enterprises
- Agriculture, food systems, viticulture, and wine-related industries
- Tourism, culture, arts, and heritage exchange
- Climate change response, environmental protection, and renewable energy initiatives
- Education, youth, and professional exchange
- Public health, community well-being, and administrative best practices
- Disaster resilience, preparedness and recovery

These areas are illustrative and may be expanded or removed by mutual consent.

3. Forms of Cooperation

Cooperation under this Agreement may include, as mutually determined by the Parties:

- Exchange of delegations, officials, professionals, and subject-matter experts
- Joint seminars, forums, workshops, and study visits
- Information sharing and collaborative initiatives
- Facilitation of partnerships among businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations

Specific activities may be implemented through separate written arrangements or action plans agreed upon by the Parties.

4. Coordination

Each Party shall designate an appropriate contact point to facilitate communication and coordination related to activities under this Agreement.

5. Financial Arrangements

This Agreement does not impose any financial obligations on either Party. Each Party shall bear its own costs unless otherwise mutually agreed in writing.

6. Legal Nature

This Agreement expresses the mutual intent of the Parties and does not create legally binding obligations under domestic or international law. All activities conducted pursuant to this Agreement shall be subject to the applicable laws, regulations, and policies of each Party.

7. Publicity and Information

The Parties may, by mutual consent, publicize activities conducted under this Agreement. Any confidential or sensitive information shall be handled appropriately and in accordance with applicable laws and mutual understanding.

8. Amendments

This Agreement may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties.

9. Duration and Termination

This Agreement shall enter into effect on the date of the last signature below and shall remain in force unless terminated by either Party by providing written notice to the other Party at least twelve (12) months in advance. The Parties may review the status of cooperation under this Agreement from time to time.

10. Language

This Agreement is executed in English and Japanese, with both texts being equally authentic.

Signed at _____ on this ____ day of _____, 2026.

For Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan:

Kotaro Nagaski
Governor, Yamanashi Prefecture

Signed at _____ on this ____ day of _____, 2026.

For the County of Santa Barbara, California, United States of America:

Bob Nelson
Chair of the Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Barbara, California