

Community Information File
Regular Loan

GENERAL INFORMATION

- LOCATION:** Southern California coast, 18 miles southeast of the nearest seaport terminal at Long Beach, 35 miles southeast of Los Angeles and 90 miles northwest of San Diego.
- AREA:** 28 square miles—land; 26 square miles—water.
- CLIMATE:** A Mediterranean climate that is sunny and warm with a mean annual temperature of 61.7 degrees. No smog. Annual rainfall is 11.76 inches and mean annual humidity is 64.66%.
- POPULATION:** Over 168,000
- GOVERNMENT:** Incorporated February 17, 1909 with a population of 915. Huntington Beach is a Charter City, administered by a Council/Administrator government.
- EDUCATION:** 35 elementary schools and five high schools. Golden West and Orange Coast Colleges, University of California, Irvine, State Universities at Long Beach and Fullerton.
- CHURCHES:** 37 churches representing all leading denominations.
- LIBRARY:** Main Library, reading centers and bookmobile. New central library in 200-acre park.
- CULTURE:** Unlimited cultural opportunity in the immediate coastal and Orange County areas.
- RECREATION:** Numerous parks and beaches in the city and a wide variety of recreational activity in the county area. The city has a major central park.
- CIVIC CENTER:** The city has a new Civic Center and police facility.
- TRANSPORTATION:** Easy freeway access—L.A. International Airport, Long Beach Airport, Orange County Airport and heliports, bus service, and rail freight service.
- UTILITIES:** Southern California Edison Company, Southern California Gas Company, Municipal Water Department, General Telephone of California.
- INDUSTRY:** Space systems, public utility, petroleum, manufacturing, data and computer research, precision instruments.
- NEWSPAPERS:** Huntington Beach Daily Pilot; Huntington Beach Independent, Huntington Beach News and Santa Ana Register. In addition, the City has delivery of Los Angeles daily newspapers.
- RADIO:** KWIZ, Orange County (Santa Ana); KEZY, Orange County (Anaheim).
- TELEVISION:** Color Channel 50, Golden West College.

City of Huntington Beach



WELCOME TO HUNTINGTON BEACH

"Informed Citizens are the Guardians and Spirit of Good Government"

HUNTINGTON BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY
INFORMATION & RESOURCE CENTER

WELCOME
TO
HUNTINGTON BEACH

Here is a brief account of the history of the city

Huntington Beach is situated on a portion of the old Las Bolsas Rancho, a Spanish land grant of some 30,000 acres. The Stearns Rancho Company ran cattle and horses and raised barley on what is now Huntington Beach. In the early 1880's the Stearns Rancho Company sold the swamp lands, which were the least valuable, and retained the Huntington Beach mesa. The last sale of the Stearns Rancho was of the mesa to Col. Bob Northam who raised and sold barley to surrounding ranchers.

In 1889, the City was called Shell Beach and consisted of a small group of settlers. In 1901 the name Shell Beach was changed to Pacific City when P. A. Stanton formed a local syndicate and purchased 40 acres along the beach, 20 acres on each side of Main Street and subdivided it. Stanton's dream was to build a town on the Pacific Coast which would rival the eastern Atlantic City.

In 1902, Stanton sold his interest to the Huntington Beach Company composed mainly of businessmen from Los Angeles. The town name was changed again, from Pacific City to Huntington Beach, in honor of H. E. Huntington who sponsored extension of the Pacific Electric Railway to the seaside village.

The City was incorporated in 1909 but remained a sleepy seaside village until oil was discovered in 1920. The famous Huntington Beach oil boom followed with almost every major oil company producing oil from the rich field below. Wells sprang up overnight and in less than one month, the town grew from 1,500 persons to 5,000 persons.

During the years which followed Huntington Beach was known primarily for its oil production and as an agricultural area. Located in one of the richest farming areas in the West, local farms grew lima beans, sugar beets, chili peppers, tomatoes and similar truck farming crops.



MAYOR DON MacALLISTER

Expansion of the City began in 1957 when annexations were made from large property holdings, and many farmers asked for admittance to the City, primarily because of its sound tax base.

From 1957 through 1960, Huntington Beach experienced its most rapid growth in area. It increased its size to 25 square miles, as a result of 11 annexations totaling 20 square miles. From 1961 to the present time, 22 annexations increased the City's area to its present 28 square miles of land area. The ultimate size of Huntington Beach could be 55 square miles; 30 square miles of land and 26 square miles of ocean.

In 1956 construction started on the huge Edison generating plant at Huntington Beach and, in 1963, the Douglas Aircraft Space Systems Center opened. This major industry, which employs approximately 8,000 men and women, together with the Edison Company, have led the way for industrial expansion.

Today, Huntington Beach has a population of over 168,000 and a growing commercial and industrial base.

CITY COUNCIL
Don MacAllister, Mayor
Bob Mandic, Mayor Pro Tem

Councilmembers
Ruth Bailey Ron Pattinson
Ruth Finley John Thomas
Clancy Yoder
City Administrator, Floyd G. Belsito

Departments

Elected:

Attorney	Gail Hutton
Clerk	Alicia Wentworth
Treasurer	Warren G. Hall

Appointive:

Department of Community Development	
Finance	Frank B. Arguello
Fire	Raymond C. Picard
Harbors, Beaches, Recreation & Parks	Vincent G. Moorhouse
Library	Walter W. Johnson
Personnel	Edward H. Thompson
Police	Earle W. Robitaille
Public Works	Paul Cook
Public Information	William G. Reed

In the interest of more democratic government, your City Council invites your presence at Council Meetings.

COUNCIL MEETINGS: First and third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, Civic Center, 2000 Main Street.

PLANNING COMMISSION: First and third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., Civic Center.

HUNTINGTON BEACH is governed by a seven-member council, elected at large to serve four year terms. The Council adopts laws, sets standards, levies taxes, directs expenditures, approves contracts and determines municipal policy.

TO ASSIST the council in forming policy, the Planning Commission, Recreation and Parks Commission, Library Board, Design Review Board, Personnel Board, Environmental Board Allied Arts Board, and other specialized boards and commissions make recommendations to the council on matters within those fields.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR carries out the council's plans and orders by coordinating the work of all the city's departments, applies council's policies, expends authorized funds and recommends to the council.

CITIZENS are invited to express opinions on matters coming before the council during scheduled and advertised public hearings. In addition, every agenda includes a time for oral communications during which citizens may bring matters to the attention of the council or comment on agenda items which are not public hearings.

CITY CLERK is the council's recording secretary and prepares the council agenda. Residents wishing to bring specific matters to the attention of the council may contact the clerk's office at least one week in advance of meetings.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE has a special telephone number, 536-5511, to aid citizens in getting information on their city government and to assist in obtaining services of various kinds. Call 536-5511.