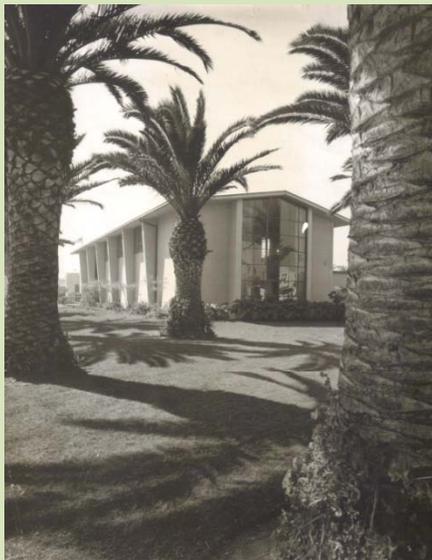




# Huntington Beach Public Library A Century of Service



100 years of  
Education, Information  
And Culture  
1909 - 2009



# History of Huntington Beach Public Library

*From the dedication booklet for the Huntington Beach Library & Cultural Center,  
Saturday, April 5, 1975*

## Beginning

From the beginning the Huntington Beach Public Library has been an illustration of citizen concern for the community and its future generations.

Shortly before the City was incorporated in February 1909, the possibility of opening a library was brought to the attention of the Board of Trade by two citizens, R. W. Blodgett and Mrs. R.H. Lindgren.

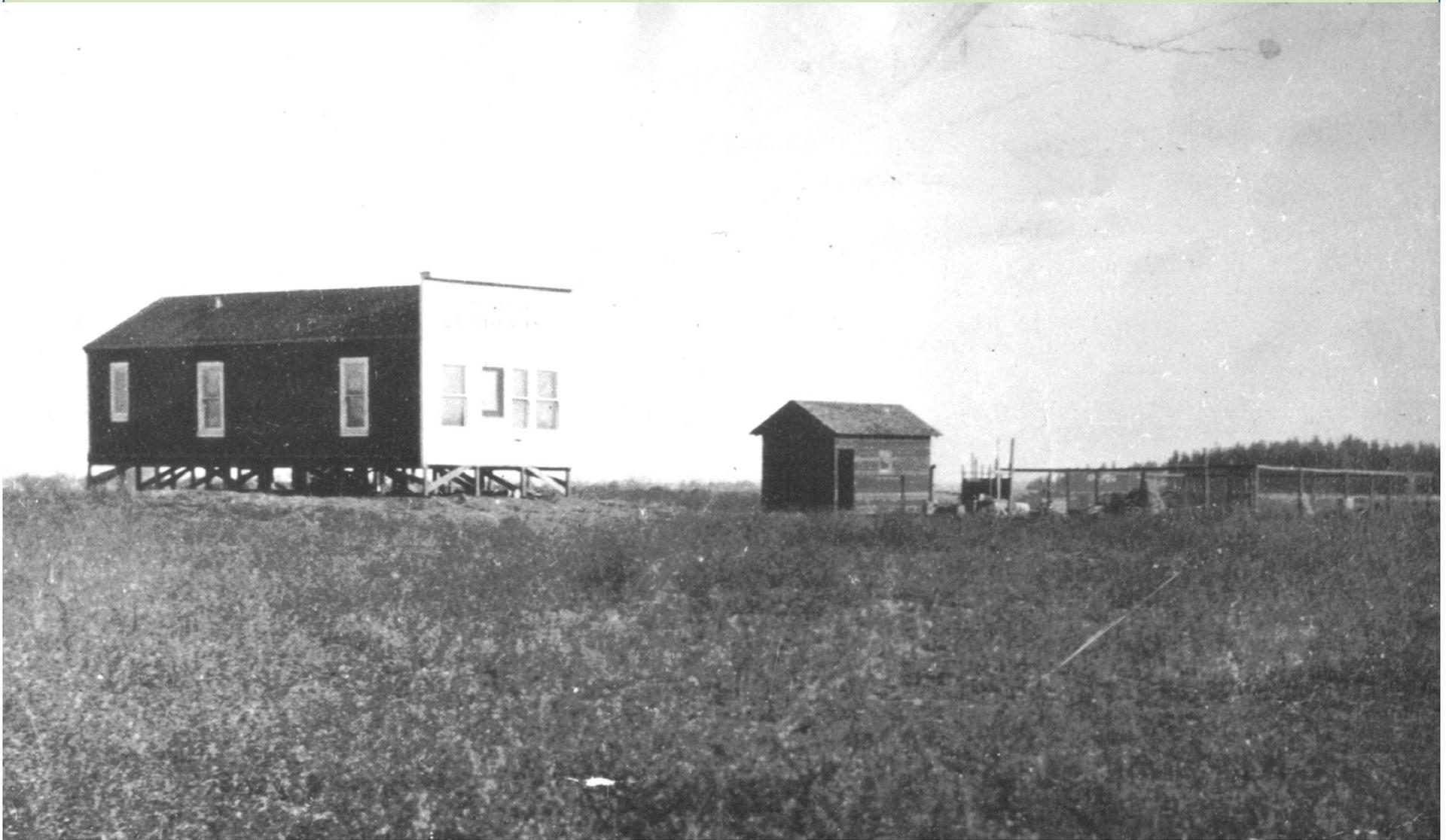
Efforts of these two citizens aroused the interest of some local organizations, and the Huntington Beach Women's Club called a mass meeting on February 15, 1909 to form a library association.

## *History of Huntington Beach Public Library continued...*

### Library Association

This meeting resulted in a temporary organization being established and Mrs. Blodgett was asked to draw up a constitution and by-laws for the new organization. The first board of trustees consisted of Mr. A.W. Everett, Mrs. C.D. Heartwell, Mrs. Mary Manske, Miss Alma Wilson and Mr. A.L. Reed. Each member of this board represented a different group or interest in the City.

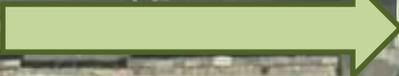
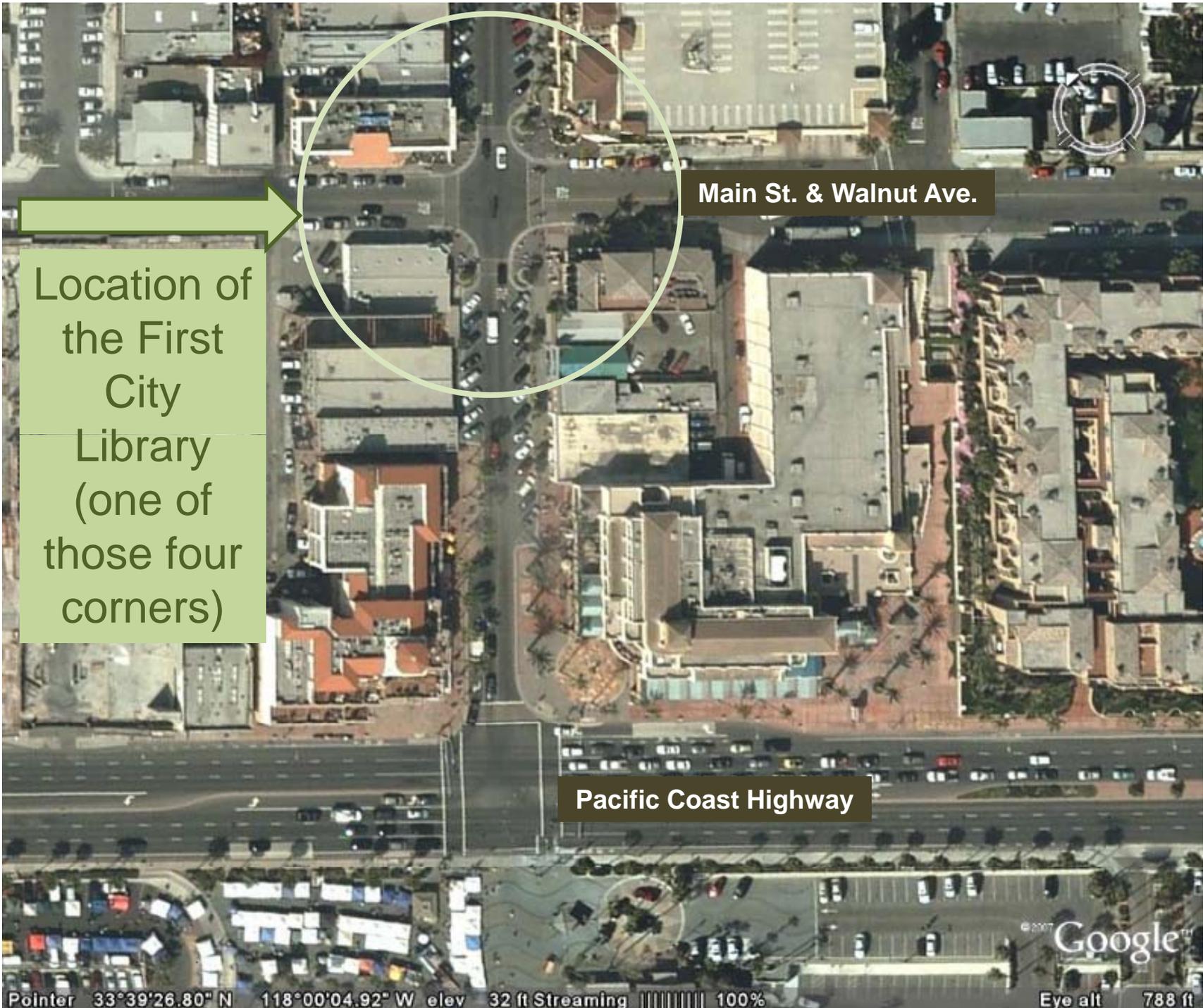
Once the Public Library Association was established, friends in the community began giving books and other necessary things and a home for the new library became a problem. **The board decided to buy an old office building, which was to be moved, and Mr. Reed guaranteed payment of \$50 for the roofless building. Mr. S.E. Hearn agreed to allow the board to move the building to a lot at the corner of Walnut Avenue and Main Street for a nominal rent charge.**



The old office building



Interior of the City's First Public Library



Location of the First City Library (one of those four corners)

Main St. & Walnut Ave.

Pacific Coast Highway

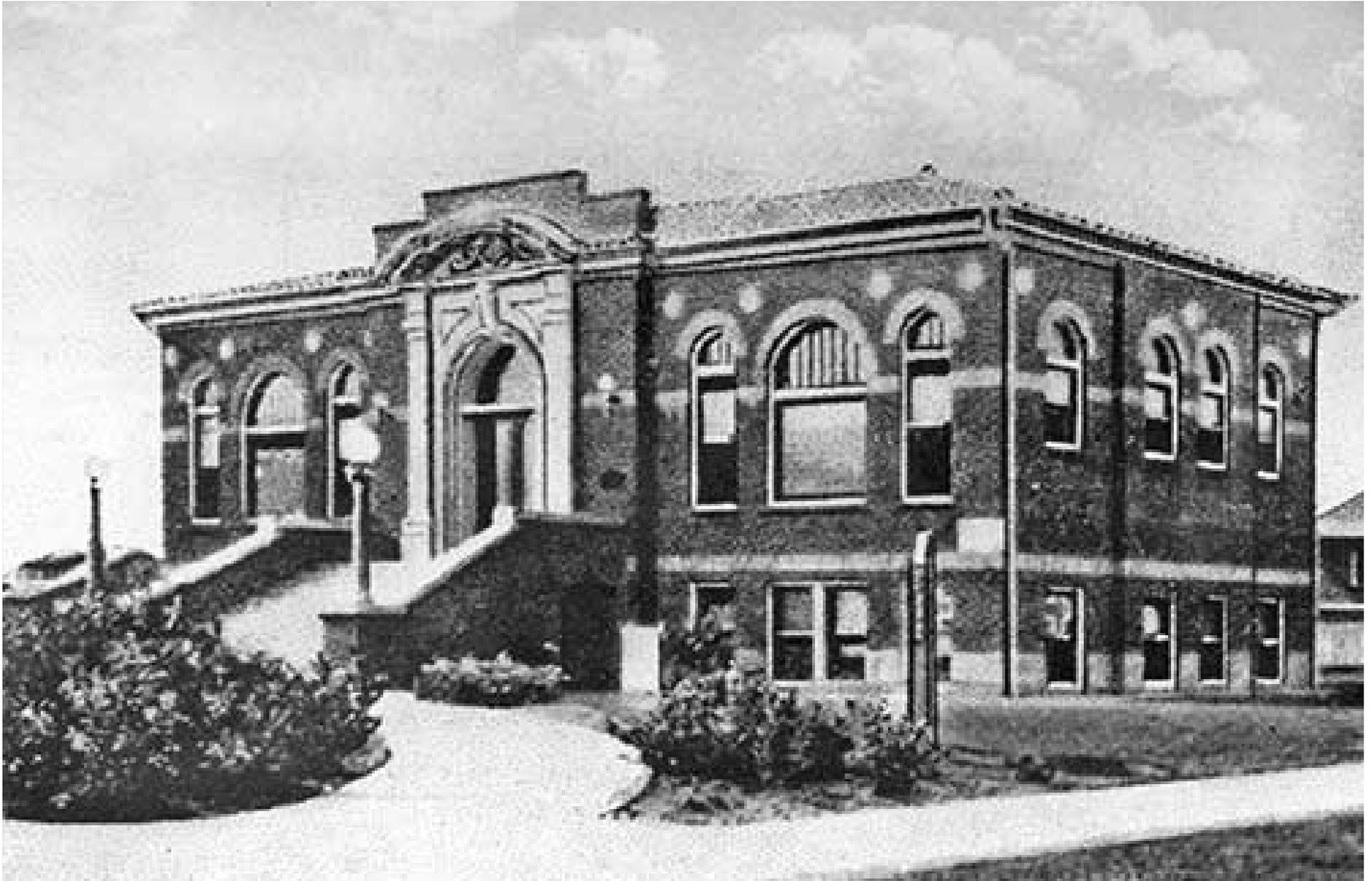
Google

## ***History of Huntington Beach Public Library continued...***

### Carnegie Library

In February 1913, councilmen received notification of [a] \$10,000 grant [offered by the Carnegie Corporation] and they notified the Library Board to begin discussing plans for a new library.

In August 1913, the Carnegie Corporation accepted the plans and W.D. Lambert of Long Beach received the contract. The cornerstone of the Carnegie Library was laid during a big ceremony. The history of the city, the names of all those who had served on the Library Board, city trustees, pastors of the churches, members of the Board of Trade, names of those who had served on the library staff, the name of each child in the schools and a small American flag were enclosed in the stone.



The Carnegie Library, Huntington Beach



Walnut Ave. & 8<sup>th</sup> St.

Carnegie Library

**Downtown  
Mid-1920s**

## ***History of Huntington Beach Public Library continued...***

### Earthquake Damage

In March 1933, the Carnegie Library suffered considerable damage in the great earthquake which struck the area. The board authorized Catching Brothers Company to make the necessary repairs to the Carnegie building.

1934 saw the Library lose its librarian of 23 years when Bertha Reynolds (formerly Proctor) resigned. She had seen the Library grow from the small building at Walnut and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to the Carnegie building at Walnut Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street, and now the Library was outgrowing that facility.

A preliminary set of plans was submitted to the Library Board by architects McClelland, McDonald and Markwith of Los Angeles, but the advent of World War II held up construction until 1949.

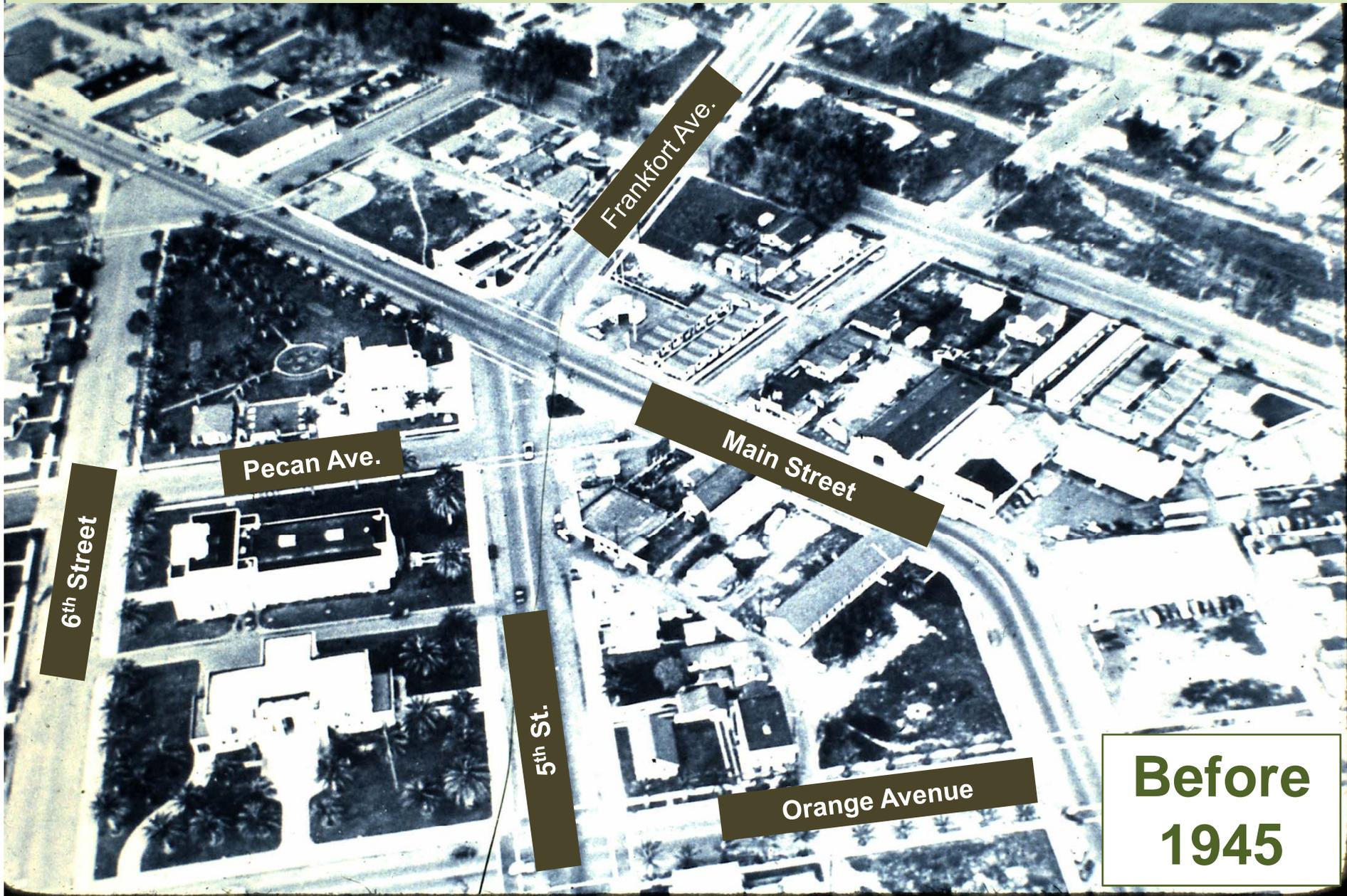
Walnut Ave. & 8<sup>th</sup> St.

Carnegie Library  
Dedicated in 1914  
(southwest corner)

Pacific Coast Highway

Walnut Ave. & 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

First City Library  
Moved in 1911  
(to one of those  
four corners)



**Before  
1945**



Pecan Ave.

Frankfort Ave.

6th Street

Main Street

5th Street

Orange Avenue

2009

## *History of Huntington Beach Public Library continued...*

### One doors closes and another door opens

On Friday, July 13, 1951, the Carnegie Library closed its doors after almost 40 years of service. When the doors closed the library had a total of 42,000 volumes.

On Sunday, September 30, 1951, the new library building at 525 Main Street was dedicated by Mayor Vernon Langenbeck. The library was built at a cost of \$140,000. Members of the Library Board at the time of the dedication were Pearl M. Jones, *President*, Berta Tovatt, J.K. McDonald, Edith Vavra and G. H. Hasson.



525 Main  
Street

~

Dedicated  
September 30,  
1951



525 Main Street

Pointer 33°39'43.56" N 117°59'57.16" W elev 42 ft Streaming 100% Eye alt 907 ft

# Huntington Beach Public Library Branch Locations

## Helen Murphy Branch on Graham Street

February, 1967 – Helen Murphy, the smallest branch library, is located in Marina Park adjacent to Marina High School. Located at 15882 Graham Street, the branch was renamed in memory of Helen Murphy, a Branch manager who worked for 23 years in the library system.



## Banning Branch

February 13, 1969 – Reminiscent of the first Public Library in Huntington Beach, a temporary real estate office was purchased by (given to) the City and converted into a branch library.

## Oak View Branch

June 3, 1995 – The newest branch in the library system, Oak View caters to the City's Spanish-speaking community and offers Family literacy programs, homework assistance and career development.



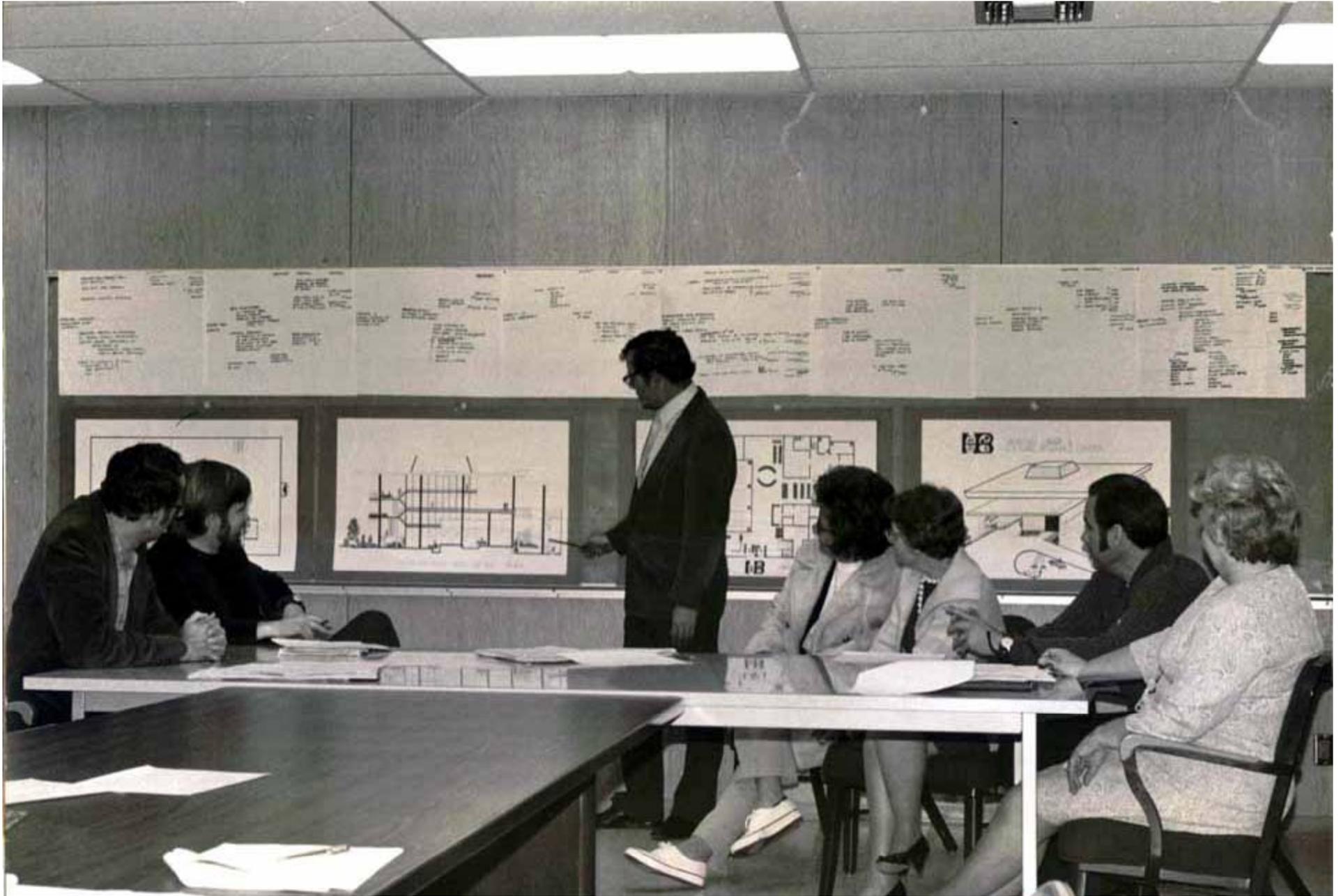
## ***History of Huntington Beach Public Library continued...***

### Central Library

The Huntington Beach [Central] Library started its existence in 1967 when librarian Walter Johnson created a program citing the library needs for a growing community and the Library Board selected the Talbert Avenue site.

The site [was] selected because of its centralized location, both geographically and by population, and also because of the beauty surrounding it.

The firm of Richard & Dion Neutra was asked to design the library, selected from 17 potential firms. A ten-acre plot of land was purchased for the site, including part of Talbert Lake, and the ground breaking took place on October 28, 1972.



Walter Johnson, Director, shows the plans



Late 1972 – The building of Central begins



Early 1973 – The Spiral Ramp takes shape



An Aerial View



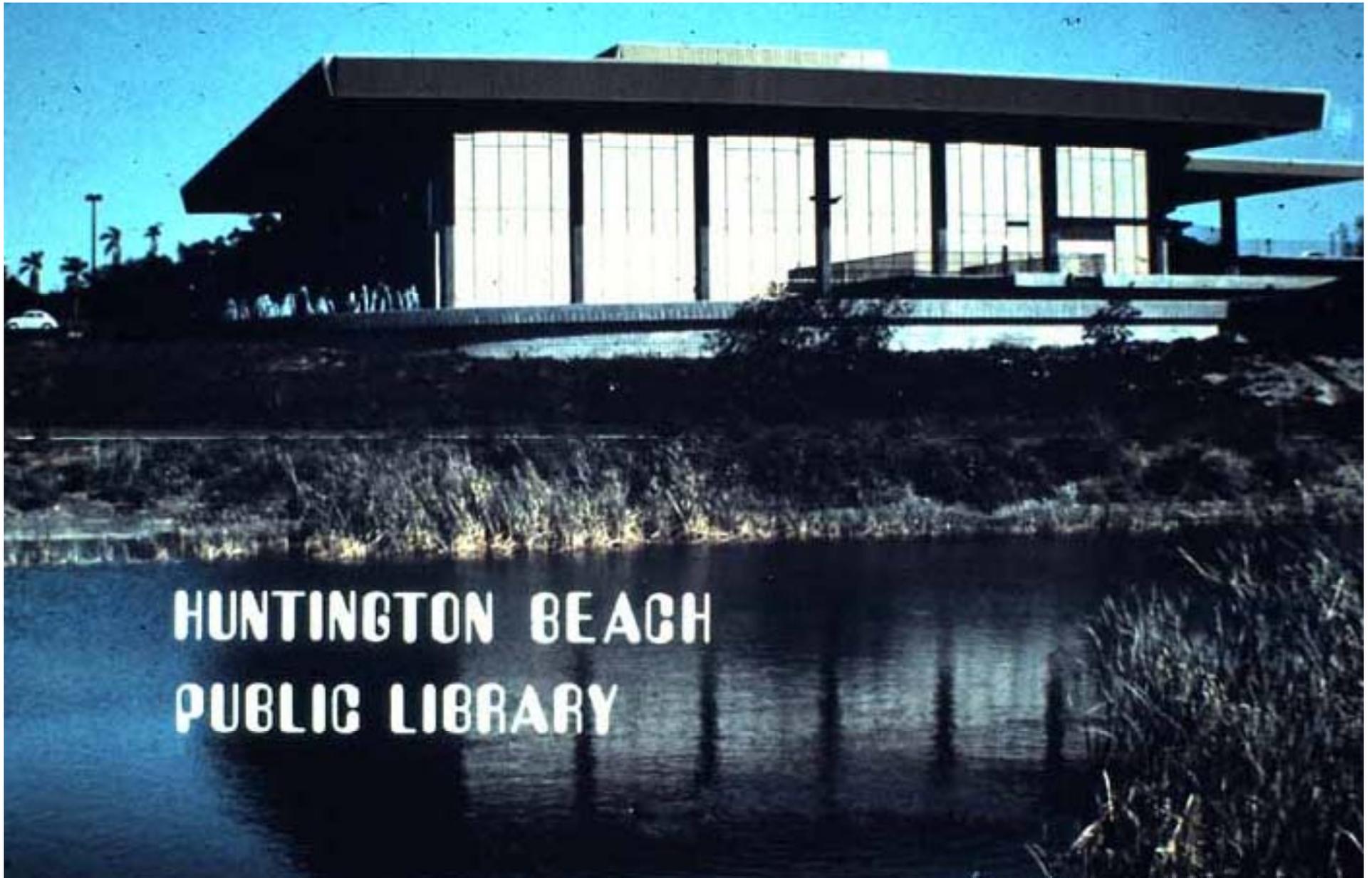




Looking North, Golden West & Talbert







**Central Library & Cultural Center was dedicated  
April 5, 1975**











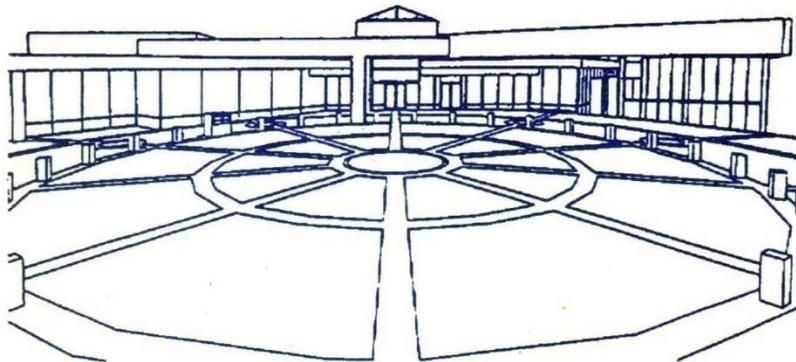
1958



September 1983

Librarians Evalyn Attridge and Ron Hayden

# Huntington Beach Library Expansion Groundbreaking February 21, 1992



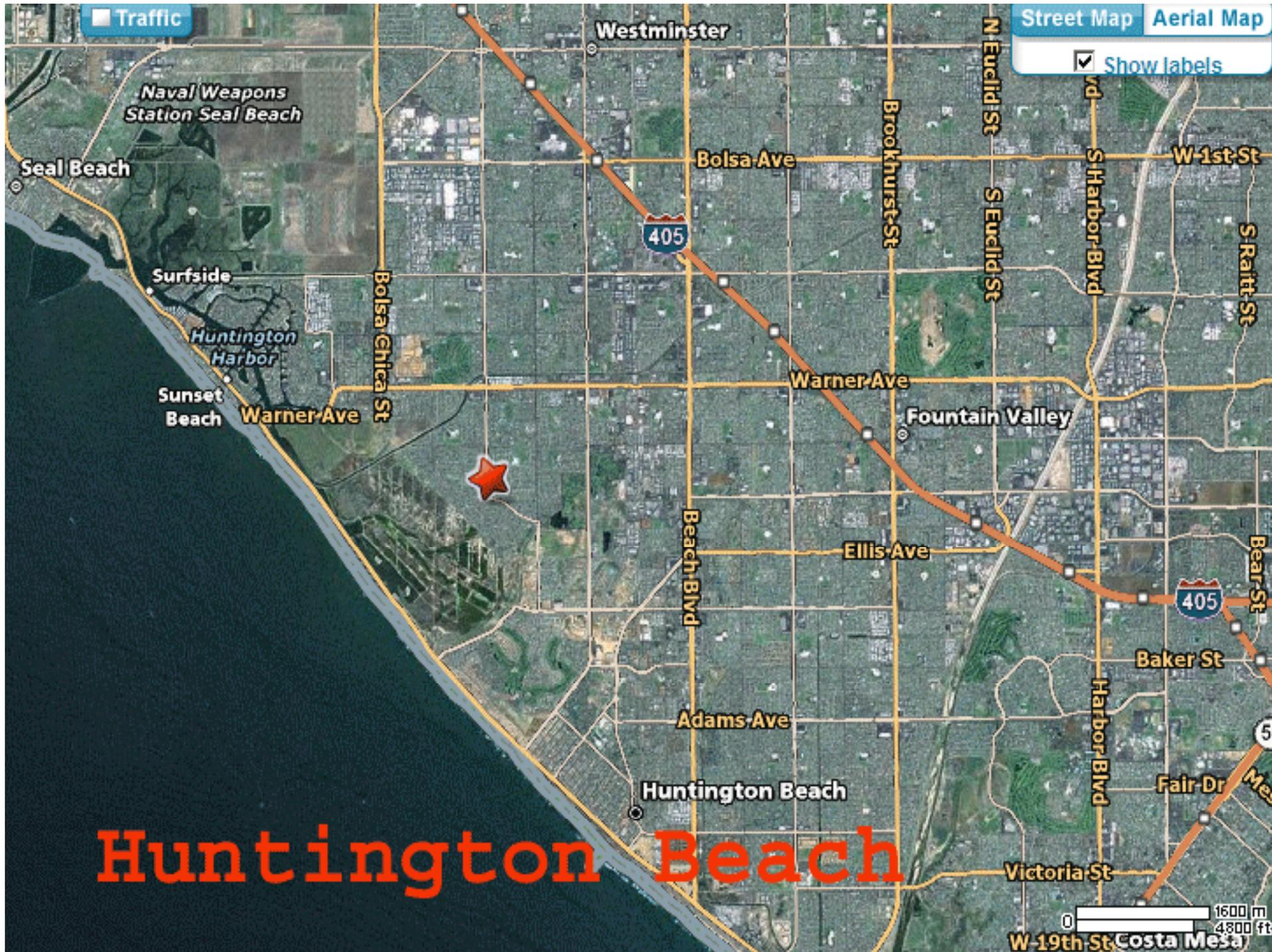
Building on a  
Foundation of  
Knowledge

The Huntington Beach Library System experienced tremendous growth under the direction of Librarian Ron Hayden. In 1994, a 43,000-square-foot expansion of the Central Library, designed by Anthony & Langford, introduced a new Children's area with its own story time theater and a lower level featuring 7 new meeting rooms and a beautiful 319-seat theater.

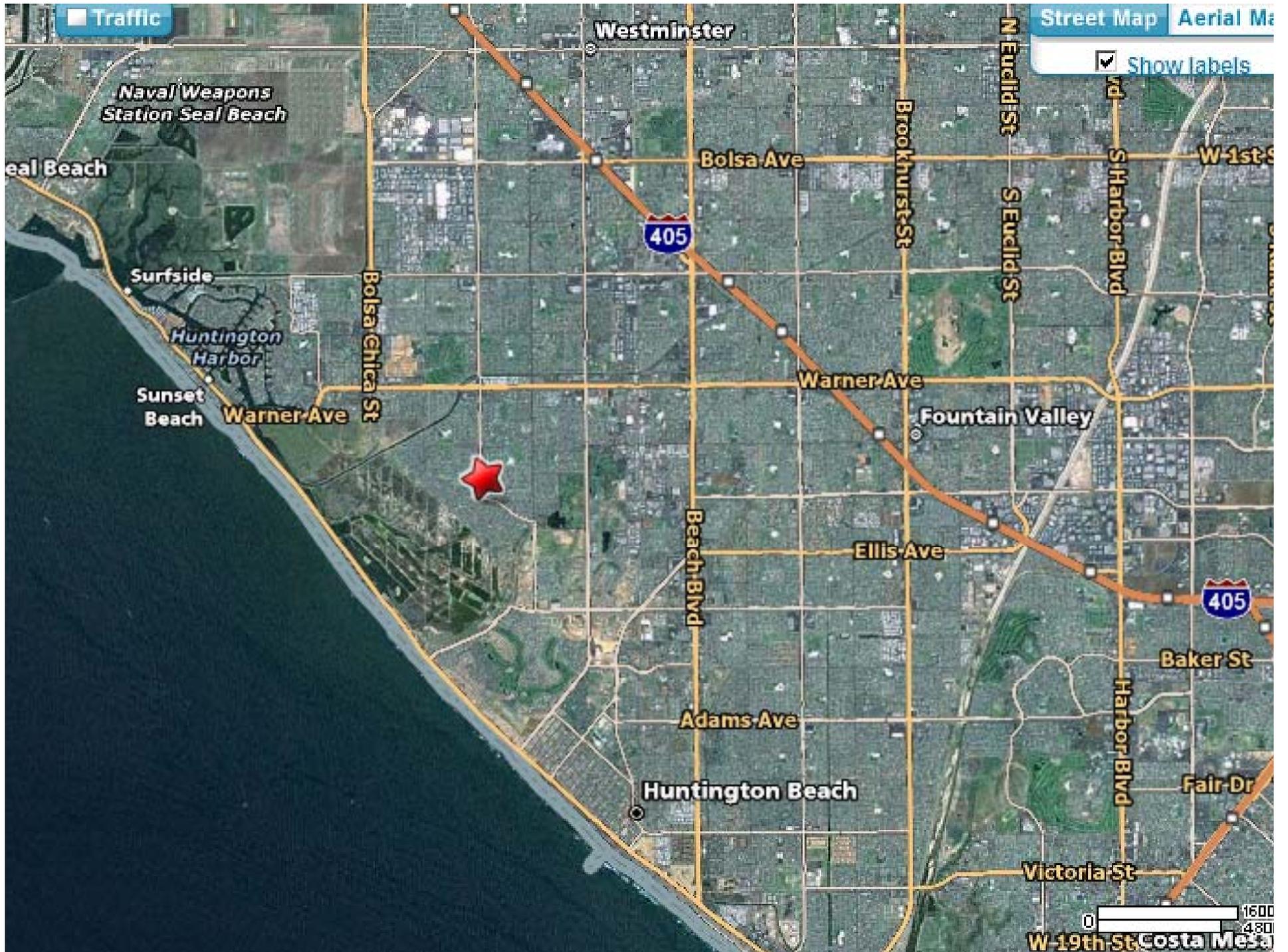








# Huntington Beach



Traffic

Street Map Aerial Map

Show labels

Westminster

Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach

Seal Beach

Bolsa Ave

405

Surfside

Huntington Harbor

Sunset Beach

Warner Ave

Bolsa Chica St

Brookhurst St

N Euclid St

S Euclid St

S Harbor Blvd

W 1st St

Warner Ave

Fountain Valley

Ellis Ave

Beach Blvd

405

Baker St

Adams Ave

Huntington Beach

Harbor Blvd

Fair Dr

Victoria St

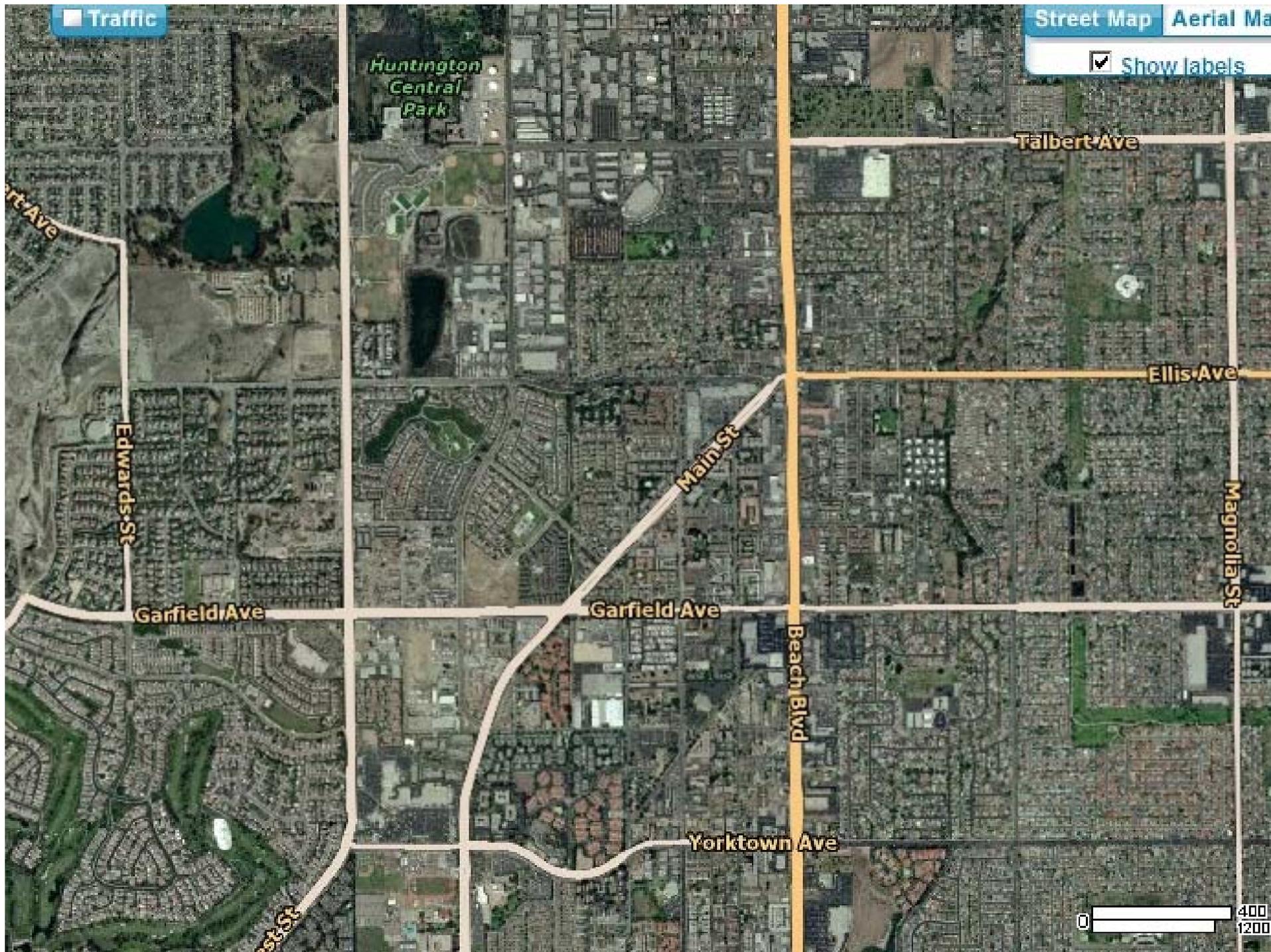
0 480 1600

W 19th St Costa Mesa

Traffic

Street Map Aerial Ma

Show labels



Huntington  
Central  
Park

Talbert Ave

Ellis Ave

Edwards St

Main St

Magnolia St

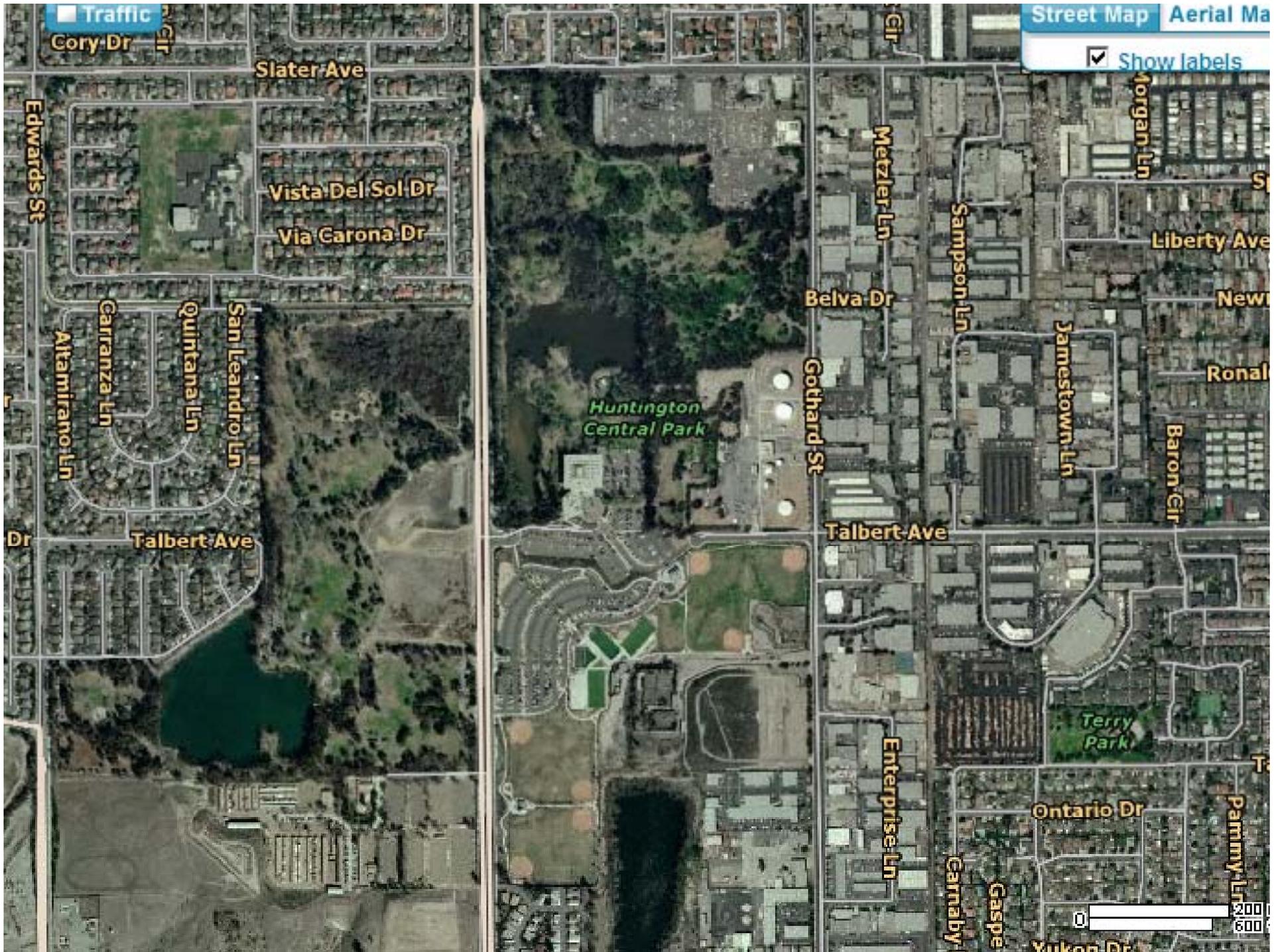
Garfield Ave

Garfield Ave

Beach Blvd

Yorktown Ave

0 400 1200



Traffic

Cory Dr

Slater Ave

Vista Del Sol Dr

Via Garona Dr

Edwards St

Altamirano Ln

Garranza Ln

Quintana Ln

San Leandro Ln

Talbert Ave

Huntington  
Central Park

Belva Dr

Gothard St

Talbert Ave

Enterprise Ln

Ontario Dr

Yukon Dr

Street Map

Aerial Map



Show labels

Jorgan Ln

Liberty Ave

New

Ronal

Baron Cir

Terry  
Park

Pammy Ln

Carnaby

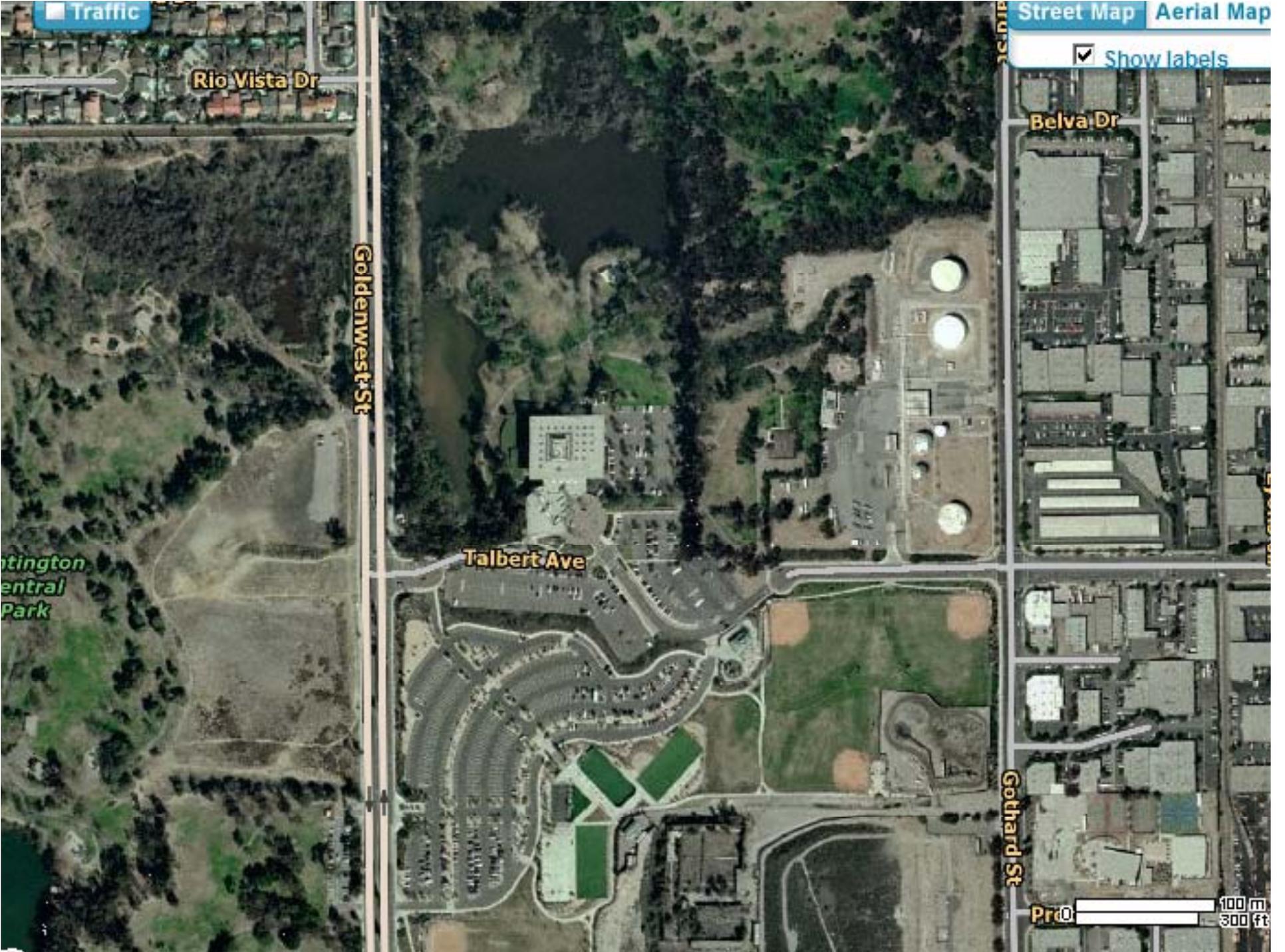
Gaspe

0 200 400

Traffic

Street Map Aerial Map

Show labels



Rio Vista Dr

Goldenwest St

Talbert Ave

Belva Dr

Gothard St

ntington  
entral  
Park

100 m  
300 ft

Pr0

Traffic

Street Map Aerial M

Show labels

