

Public Facilities Element

A "community" is much more than a mere agglomeration of people in a given area. A true community exists only when certain basic needs are met. Beyond these basic needs, the degree of quality of life to be found in an area may in large part be measured by the variety and quality of additional services offered. A community's spirit may be assessed in part through the scope of its public facilities.

Some services are properly the responsibility of the larger urban community, provided through the general programs of the municipal government. Others, designed to meet the unique requirements of each unique community are properly the responsibility of each locality to provide for itself, through churches, citizens organizations and other such local non-profit groups. This element will briefly access the existing situation for public facilities in Ocean Beach, and will make recommendations for the maintenance and enhancement of these services in the beach community.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Ocean Beach is a leisure and recreational area serving the needs of local residents, the population of the San Diego region, and those visiting from outside the San Diego area. Ocean Beach Park and Robb Field are both maintained by the City Park and Recreation Department. They fill active recreational needs in the form of swimming, running, fishing, surfing, volleyball, baseball, football, soccer, handball, and tennis. Robb Field is officially part of Mission Bay Park. Another facility maintained by the Park and Recreation Department in Ocean Beach is the Recreation Center, located on Santa Monica Avenue across from Ocean Beach Elementary School. This Center offers not only organized and informal indoor athletics such as basketball and volleyball, but also preschool, ceramics and day classes, senior citizen activities, and a meeting room for local groups and clubs. All these facilities, much used and appreciated, are nonetheless inadequate in certain areas for Ocean Beach and the surrounding communities.

While the community of Ocean Beach is basically a private residential area, the public beach, Ocean Beach Park, is a regional resource which must be kept available to the use of the general public. Ocean Beach's beach is becoming one of the most popular public beaches in the San Diego area. From 1968 to 1973 the annual attendance rose from 905,000 to 1,922,000. This influx has boosted the customer market of stores along Newport and Voltaire, but also has created a greater traffic and parking problem in the community. Within a few blocks of the beach, street parking used formerly by residents is now under competitive use by both residents and beach-goers.



In addition to maintaining public access to the beach, another need is to confront beach erosion between the south jetty and the pier. The sand beach has receded by as much as 20 feet or more per year in recent years, following a dredging build-up in 1956. Continuing erosion would mean the loss of a valuable regional recreation resource. Besides beach erosion between the south jetty and the pier, erosion of the cliffs along the shore is also a problem. These bluffs between the pier and Adair Street in the precise plan area are part of a unique and beautiful coastal environment, which also includes the tidepool adjacent to the pier and various "street-end beaches." Along the bluff face, lower rock strata are generally more stable than the upper levels, which are primarily sandy soil. The cliffs are eroding by an average of 6" per year in some areas. The cliffs are eroding very slowly in some areas and faster in others. Most erosion is in the form of the loss of large pieces of sandstone over time. This process makes establishing an average somewhat difficult. Altogether, these dramatic bluffs leading directly into the surf, the delicate areas of tidal zone life, and the intimate street-end beaches are important aesthetic and environmental amenities for the community.

Besides preservation, beach cleaning must be included in any consideration of future beach needs. Despite tidal action and the personal responsibility of every beachgoer, it is recognized that occasional grooming is necessary. Beach cleaning is a service provided by the Street Division of the City Department of Public Works. Their operations consist of daily inspection and hand removal of beer cans, paper and other refuse during the summer season; kelp removal in areas where accumulation is a problem and tidal action is not sufficient; and sand screening to a depth of 4".

One very important feature of active recreation in Ocean Beach is the Lifeguard Service provided by the Aquatics Division of the Department of Park and Recreation. Lifeguard services include rescue and first aid during swimming and other beach emergencies and the maintenance of order at public beaches - such as making sure that exclusively swimming and exclusively surfing areas are observed as such. Lifeguard facilities in Ocean Beach presently consist of a permanent station at the foot of Santa Monica Avenue, two mobile units and a small portable secondary station. The Santa Monica headquarters is in many ways outdated and inadequate. In addition, a shift of beachgoers further north along the beach and away from the main station has made efficient and effectual lifeguarding more difficult in recent years.

While recreation in Ocean Beach certainly is dominated by the beach and shoreline, there are other facilities in the community which have a local, as well as a larger area, significance. The Ocean Beach Athletic Area, popularly known as Robb Field, is strictly a sports and active recreational facility in a park setting designed to serve the larger Point Loma community. The physical facilities consisting of multi-sports fields, tennis courts, handball courts, etc. are augmented by regular recreational programs for children and adults. These facilities are

widely used by Ocean Beach residents, for both organized sports such as little league and ad hoc fun such as Sunday softball parties. In the 1975 capital improvement budget are programs to construct new sidewalks, light four existing tennis courts, and provide for six new lighted tennis courts, three handball courts and miscellaneous improvements.

The Ocean Beach Recreation Center, at 4725 Santa Monica Avenue also offers recreational programs, housed in a building including a gym, one small recreation room, a meeting room and an adjoining kitchen. These facilities are now used to capacity. Especially the meeting area is inadequate to serve all of the needs of local clubs and groups. Budgeted in the Capital Improvements Program is a 1,800 square foot addition to the recreation center, as yet undesignated.

The Ocean Beach community and the Point Loma area generally are lacking in passive park facilities. By City standards, every local population of 3,500 to 5,000 people should have a neighborhood park within a 1/2 mile walking distance. A neighborhood park should contain 10 acres, or five when directly adjacent to an elementary school. To help approach this goal for Ocean Beach and its surrounding communities, the Collier East and Collier West parcels just east of the Ocean Beach Precise Plan area have been designated by the City as future park sites. These areas are not yet dedicated, and improvements are not currently included in the six year Capital Improvement Program.

The Sunset-Nimitz triangle is under tideland jurisdiction and, consequently, limited to park-like uses although it is not actually designated for such use by the City.

In addition, there is a key parcel of vacant City-owned land located south of Interstate 8, east of Nimitz Boulevard, and north of West Point Loma Boulevard. The parcel (Pueblo Lot 212) comprises approximately 53 acres of R-4 zoned land, of which approximately 12 acres lie within the State of California Tidelands land grant of 1945, and can be used only for specified restricted park and recreation purposes. There is, further, a legal question regarding whether or not the use of the entire parcel must be restricted to park and recreation purposes.

The Progress Guide and General Plan also contains numerous references having bearing on this specific issue. First, a major goal of the Park and Recreation Element is that recreation areas should contribute to the identity of residential communities through utilization as land use and community buffers, and for utilization for community directed activities. The General Plan also designates this property as part of resource-based park lands where natural landscape may be supplemented with a variety of recreational facilities including such items as tennis courts, outdoor theatres and playfields. The extent to which such resource-based parks should be left in a natural state, or should be developed, depends largely upon the unique characteristics of the size, topography and locale of the particular site. The General Plan calls for continuing

studies of park/recreation standards to insure their maximum effectiveness in serving the varied interests and needs of population to be served. With respect to preservation of park lands, the General Plan indicates that where overriding public purposes require the diversion of park land, compensation for this loss must be made by providing equal or better areas both in size and value in a nearby location or locations. Should any consideration be given to lease of park lands, caution should be exercised to insure that the purposes for which leases are used are compatible with the primary recreational aims of the area, and that leases extend for no longer periods than necessary to amortize the investment of the lease.

In addition to the General Plan, The Plan For The Preservation of Natural Parks for San Diego, adopted by City Council in 1973, identifies this subject property as a resource-based park which should be retained in public ownership.

Open space in that plan (referring to this site) is defined as any urban land or water surface that is essentially open or natural in character, and which has appreciable utility for park and recreation purposes, conservation of land, water or other natural resources, or historic or scenic purposes.

Goals

- o Retain and expand the safe availability of Ocean Beach Park to the public while retaining and enhancing the residential character of streets and homes in Ocean Beach.
- o Preserve the natural features and beauty of the coastline adjacent to Ocean Beach.
- o Develop additional active and passive recreational facilities in and adjacent to the Ocean Beach community.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Due in large part to the shoreline and ocean, Ocean Beach is both a nice place to visit and live. While the goals are to optimize public accessibility to the beach and maintain the "neighborhood" atmosphere of the residential community, these two ends often come into conflict - for example in the increasingly congested traffic and parking situation. To help facilitate this particular problem, the requirement of two parking spaces per unit for all new developments in the residential element of this plan, is proposed to provide more private parking for residents. A more specific and immediate solution, however, is that of a parking reservoir and mini-bus or tram system, as discussed in the circulation element of this plan. This proposal could increase public accessibility

to the beach and increase the customer market of Ocean Beach businesses, while taking the pressure off of the now over-taxed traffic and parking capacity of the community. The parking reservoir concept is proposed in lieu of the expansion of parking directly on the beach, which would remove desired beach area while creating visual blight adjacent to the coast. Such a reservoir must be developed in conjunction with some form of mini-bus service to the beach in order for it to be effectively used.

There must, of course, be a beach for people to visit in the first place. Continued sand erosion would be a significant threat to public enjoyment of the beach as well as community aesthetics. For this reason, a sand replenishment operation should be considered.

Such an operation, however, should only involve the beach area between the pier and the middle jetty marking the Mission Bay Channel. Every effort must be made to maintain the existing shoreline, including the trails, between the pier and Adair Street in as natural a state as possible, if the visual quality of Ocean Beach is to be maintained.

The right of public access to the coastal tidelands is recognized by the California Constitution, and has been further expanded in scope by various statutes and California Supreme Court decisions. Despite historical public use, constitutional justification, and legal precedent, considerable public access, both physical and visual to the shoreline of California has been lost through construction of single-family residences, apartment complexes, freeways, parking lots, industrial developments, and commercial establishments.

Certain controls should be placed on such developments to ensure that the public recreational use of the coastline is maximized and that public access to the coastline is guaranteed. This can be achieved in several ways; development should not be permitted to interfere with the traditional public use of the coastline and should not be permitted to obliterate the public's view of the ocean.

Further, (1) public access from the nearest public thoroughfare to the coastline should be provided in new developments (by the dedication of an access easement or fee title to an access way to a public agency or by the recording of a deed restriction guaranteeing access across the property), or (2) where additional public access is inappropriate (e.g. where adequate access exists nearby, where topography makes access dangerous, where the proposed development or division of land is too small to include an access way, or where the coastal resources are too fragile to accommodate general public use), the developer should pay an "in lieu" fee equal to the cost of obtaining reasonable access at fair market value across the property, to a fund for the acquisition of public access elsewhere.

A regional beach access and use management program should be instituted to regulate beach access and use through the number and location of

public improvements such as access points, stairways, and parking areas. Any proposals to develop adjacent to areas where erosion threats exist should be discouraged. As a move to protect the fragile bluffs a process of acquisition of areas should be considered. Ocean Beach Park could be expanded to include such areas within its boundaries. Any access in the vicinity of the coastal bluffs should be limited to safe, natural trailsand only in stable geologic areas. Existing trails should be evaluated in terms of safety, and improvements should be made as necessary. Any improvements should respect the integrity of these natural bluffs.

While the actual area of the San Diego River flood channel is outside of the planning area it does have a close relationship to the Ocean Beach community. It affords active recreation (along the top of the jetty and in the channel itself) and passive recreation to strollers and joggers. In recognition that the sand bar is being used by the public for recreational purposes and ecological study, the City Council adopted, in March, 1971, Resolution No. 202097. This resolution establishes the sand bar across the mouth of the river at a set size. In addition, the remainder of the channel behind the sand bar should be preserved as a natural wildlife sanctuary and protected from abuse by active recreational users.

Concerning general beach maintenance, the present two programs of seasonal daily inspection with hand refuse collection, and kelp removal, are adequate during the summer months, but these programs need to be expanded during the winter. The Department of Public Works, Street Division, however, has only one sand screener to service all City beaches. In order to protect beach-goers from lacerations due to debris such as beverage can pop-tops; to insure public health in areas like the dog run; and to maintain aesthetic beauty on the public beach, the Street Division should receive adequate funding and staffing to maintain a regular program of sand screening.

The Lifeguard Service in Ocean Beach is, of course, one of the most important public services in the community. As beachgoing attendance continues to increase, lifeguard services provided by the Aquatic Division of the Parks and Recreation Department must be maintained at a level adequate to insure public safety. Also, due to the age and location of present lifeguard facilities on the beach, consideration and recommendations such as those outlined in the October 1973 report by Lifeguard Lt. Albert Bretton, Jr., titled Restructuring of Ocean Beach Lifeguard Facilities, should be given close study by the Parks and Recreation Department. Any necessary improvements should be implemented as soon as is economically feasible, in order to insure safety to the growing beach crowds.

As a definite recreational asset to both residents and visitors to Ocean Beach, the Ocean Beach Pier and its facilities should be maintained and preserved. Means to stimulate and improve fishing activity should be investigated.

Concerning recreational facilities in the community other than beach and shoreline areas, the Ocean Beach Athletic Area should continue to be maintained as a multi-use recreational complex, and be expanded as needed. Existing facilities and programs at the Ocean Beach Recreation Center should likewise be maintained. Concerning the proposed addition to the Center, the total addition should have its own entrance and exit apart from the existing building. Its location and design should minimize the loss of the existing outside lawn and play area, and maximize accessibility to senior citizens and the handicapped.

Regarding passive recreation and open space, every attempt should be made to insure that both Collier Park sites are dedicated for park purposes and developed as soon as it is economically feasible. One of these sites known as Collier Park West, is a passive recreational facility with shade trees, picnic tables, etc. The other, Collier Community Park, is to be a park and recreation facility which would include multi-sports fields, multi-purpose courts, recreation building, tot lots, and possibly tennis courts, handball courts, and a senior citizens complex.

Improvements should be made on the Sunset-Nimitz triangle in conjunction with a parking reservoir for beach users. Any park improvements should consist of passive recreational facilities and a limited amount of recreational activities. The entire parcel should be designed similar to the improvements in the Bonita Cove area of Mission Beach. The parking reservoir should be sited and screened with landscaping to enhance its appearance to every extent possible. To provide for better and safer pedestrian access, pedestrian over-crossings or undercrossings should be considered at West Point Loma Boulevard and at Sunset Cliffs Boulevard between the facility and the Sunset-Nimitz triangle.

Concerning the 53 acre parcel of land adjacent to the San Diego River Flood Control Channel, the recommendations of both the Progress Guide and General Plan and the Plan for the Preservation of Natural Parks for San Diego allow for types of development on this property consistent with the Ocean Beach Precise Plan goal of strengthening community cohesiveness and fostering the sense of community identity. Such uses might be: community gardens, a community theater, educational institutions, traditional park and recreation development, or perhaps a mixture of these. In the event these objectives are difficult to achieve perhaps another possibility is to further the Plan goal of promoting an economically and ethnically balanced housing market by leasing the property for residential development and insuring that a portion of it provide housing for low- and moderate-income families and senior citizens. In any event, this land should be retained in public ownership. To best assure achievement of the Plan goals, it appears reasonable that this property also should be rezoned to a low density residential or agricultural use similar to the approach recommended for regulation of private lands proposed as part of the open space system.

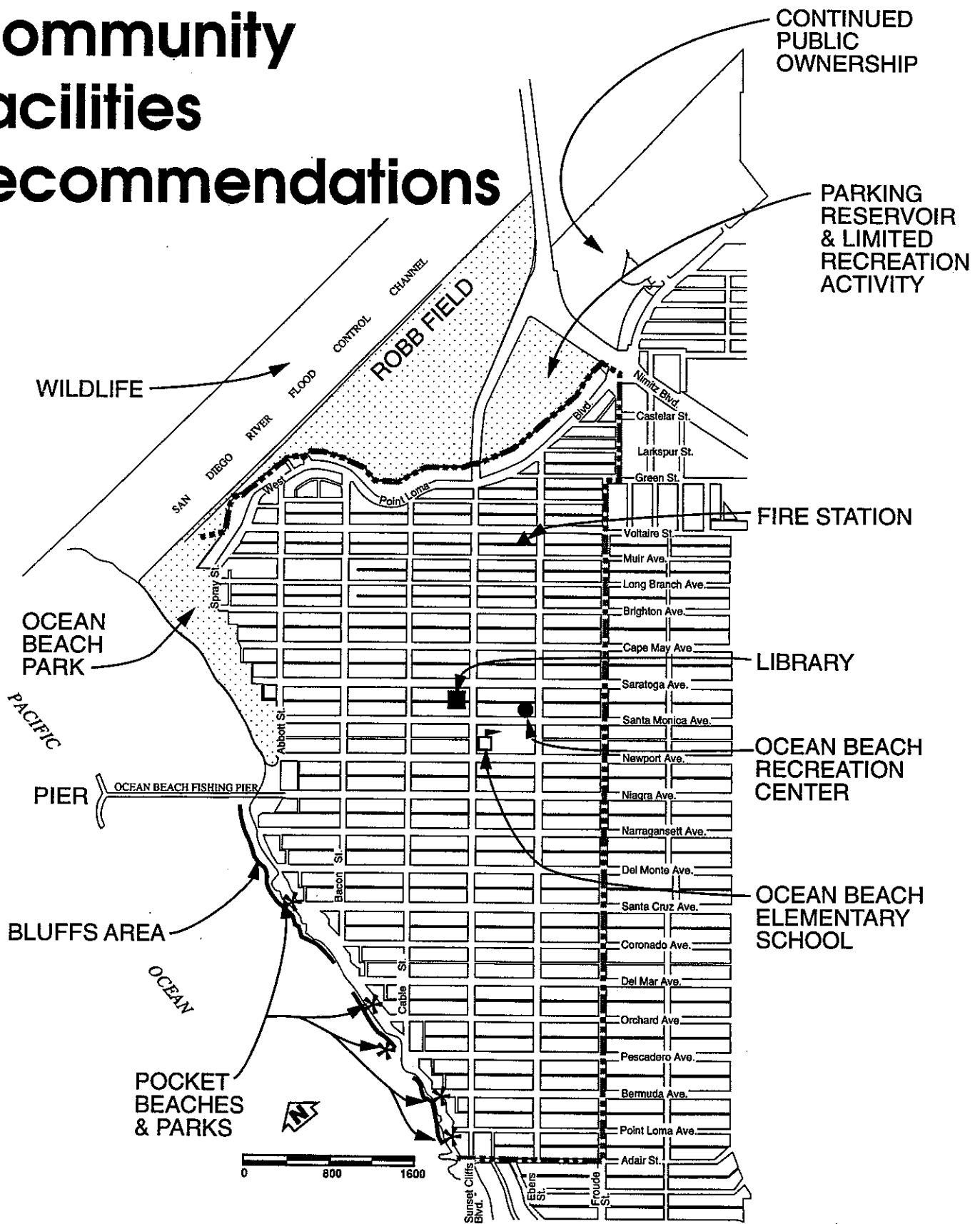
In addition to these proposals, it should be recognized that this land may be needed for either a mass transit terminal, a fixed rail transit route or perhaps both. Therefore, consideration must be given to this possibility prior to reaching a determination of any future development of this land. Furthermore, trade of this site could also be warranted if by so doing other critical City goals could be achieved. Consideration must also be given to insure that whatever is proposed for this site is consistent with the Coastal Plan currently being prepared by the San Diego Coast Regional Commission.

Summary of Plan Recommendation

- o That all beaches be easily accessible to the general public.
- o That a sand replenishment operation between the south jetty and the pier be considered as an on-going procedure to combat erosion.
- o That the tide pools, cliffs and street-end beaches between the pier and Adair Street be maintained in a natural state.
- o That public access to beaches and the shoreline be protected, first by clearly establishing public access and use rights, and second by requiring new developments to provide visual and physical access.
- o That a regional access and use management system, as proposed by the Coast Regional Commission, be instituted.
- o That access down the cliffs be limited to safe, natural trails in stable geologic areas, and that existing trails receive improvements only where needed to insure safety.
- o That bluff-top construction having a potential harmful effect upon cliff erosion be prohibited and that consideration be given to acquiring the property if necessary.
- o That the San Diego River Channel should be maintained as a natural wildlife sanctuary as much as is practically possible by limiting use to passive recreation.
- o That existing programs of beach inspection, hand refuse removal, mechanical sand screening, and kelp removal be maintained and expanded as necessary.
- o That improvement to existing lifeguard facilities, necessary to insure public safety, be implemented as soon as possible.
- o That the Ocean Beach Pier and its facilities be maintained and preserved, and that fishing activity be stimulated where possible.

- o That the proposed addition to the Ocean Beach Recreation Center be designed and sited to maximize ease of access while removing as little of the existing outdoor playing area as possible.
- o That the Collier East and Collier West sites be dedicated and improved for park use.
- o That the Sunset-Nimitz triangle be dedicated for park use, and improved for park use and a parking reservoir.
- o That safe pedestrian overcrossings or undercrossings between the Ocean Beach Athletic Area, the community, and the Sunset-Nimitz Triangle be considered.
- o That the 53 acre parcel of land adjacent to the San Diego River Flood Control Channel be retained in public ownership and rezoned to a low density residential or an agricultural zone classification. Future use of this land must be consistent with regional and community goals, the future coastal Plan, and future transportation proposals.

community facilities recommendations



COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES

Because a "community" is a network of people, all with feelings, desires, and attitudes about the place where they live, comprehensive planning requires that these feelings, desires and attitudes be taken into account. The very meaning of the word "community" itself suggests that a person should be able to find self-expression within the surrounding physical and social environment. The goal, then, of a true human community is to provide as positive and fulfilling a human environment as is possible.

It should be recognized, however, that the ability of governmental processes to provide each community's social environment are quite limited. Less is known about the basic human care services needs. Such characteristics as low paying jobs, health problems, overcrowded housing, low incomes, low educational attainment levels, unemployment, drug abuse, and female headed households need to be carefully and specifically reviewed and addressed.

Some efforts have been made in Ocean Beach, however, in some areas by establishing programs to deal with these situations. A senior citizen's club, for example, sponsors monthly group trips, daily lunch programs, accessibility to discount tickets for movies, restaurant meals, and activities at Balboa Park. Also included are programs for tax and voting counseling, and self-expression "rap" sessions. Above and beyond such governmental programs, however, Ocean Beach has other private, non-profit organizations aimed at providing human services. One such organization is the In-Between, located on Newport Avenue. The In-Between began in 1967, mainly as a drop-in facility for young runaways and as a community center to provide guidance and orientation for the youth element gathering in the area. From this base, however, and especially with new administrative direction gained a few years ago, the organization is branching out into a full community human service agency, designed to serve all segments of the local population. Presently, services offered include youth and runaway counseling and social orientation; drug counseling by two staff persons from D.E.F.Y.: long range problem-solving counseling by professionals, including family counseling and therapy groups; and employment counseling through a special program funded by the United Way. Also, at present, County Welfare Service and eligibility workers are working out of the Newport Avenue office. During any given evening, forty to sixty persons use those services offered by the In-Between. Future plans of the organization include further expansion of programs to better serve senior citizens and other population elements in Ocean Beach. Finally, there are two day care type centers in Ocean Beach, the Martha Franklin school and the Christian pre-school.

Goals

- o To encourage a range of human services within the Ocean Beach community, which will help provide for the needs of all community

residents and, in particular, to ensure the provision, as a minimum, of a basic level of well being among residents.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Visible in many ways in Ocean Beach is a tremendous potential for an applied community spirit. This developing potential deserves to be encouraged, wherever possible.

Concerning the senior citizen's club at the Recreation Center, this program, providing the basics of social participation and self-expression for the oft-forgotten segment of senior citizens in society, is extremely popular in Ocean Beach. It should not only be maintained, but expanded to provide more regular activities especially for self-expression and self-evaluation.

Like the Beach Area Free Clinic, the In-Between is funded by donations, and grants from various public agencies. Because it provides a range of necessary human services it should continue its operation into the future. The In-Between and all other peninsula organizations are encouraged in their efforts to link up and coordinate the range of human services offered by all.

Much potential still remains in the Ocean Beach community for the development of human service activities and programs. In particular, the many churches and public institutions in the planning area should make their extensive building facilities and possibly their staff resources available for secular programs, including child day-care and activity groups.

In addition, a task force of residents and City staff should be established. This group should be charged with documenting the specific needs for basic levels of human well being in the Community. Alternative strategies for improving these problems should be developed.

Summary of Plan Recommendation

- o That the Senior Citizens Club and its programs be maintained and expanded to be accessible to as many community seniors as possible. The program should be enlarged to regularize self-expression and self-evaluation activities.
- o That the In-Between continue its operation, and be coordinated with efforts of other Peninsula human service agencies.
- o That Ocean Beach residents and business people be encouraged to support developing community human resource agencies and groups. Especially churches in the area are encouraged to develop secular programs.

- o That a task force be established to examine and propose alternative strategies for maintaining a basic level of human well being in Ocean Beach.

EDUCATION

In the long run, perhaps the most important service which a community provides is education for its young. Ocean Beach is part of the San Diego Unified School District, and is served by Ocean Beach Elementary School (within the plan area boundaries on Santa Monica Avenue), Collier Junior High and Point Loma High School. Any child growing up in Ocean Beach may be expected to spend a considerable amount of his life in these institutions, for the purposes of not only academic enlightenment, but also socialization, self-actualization and preparation for the realities of life. These purposes ought to be carried out in the best facilities, using the highest quality materials and methods, which can reasonably be expected to be provided.

Many factors, of course, affect the ability and effort of the school district to provide a quality education. One factor is a changing attendance. Between 1968 and 1974, enrollment for the 3 schools serving Ocean Beach declined as follows:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>Enrollment</u> <u>1968</u>	<u>Enrollment</u> <u>1974</u>	<u>DECLINE</u>
Ocean Beach Elementary School	724	430	40.6%
Collier Jr. High School	923	735	20.4%
Point Loma High School	2152	1880	12.6%

While the Ocean Beach community has been developing alternatives to the public school system, the great bulk of this decline could be attributed to a decrease in the number of school age children living in the community. This is part of a general phenomenon in the San Diego region where both migrants to the area and established San Diegans with school-age children are moving out to the newer tract developments in the northern periphery of the City, leaving other sections closer to downtown to senior citizens and young adults.

While the school district foresees a leveling-off trend developing for this decline of school attendance, nevertheless even revised projections call for school enrollment in Ocean Beach to continue to fall through the year 2000. What this, in effect, means for the schools serving Ocean Beach is that formerly overcrowded facilities will now have equitable proportions of students per room, and if staff sizes are maintained, equitable numbers of students per teacher. Enough extra space can mean room for special and needed programs, such as the learning center which was recently developed at Ocean Beach Elementary.

To help take just such changes into account and provide a better overall coordinated education throughout the City, the San Diego School District presently maintains a comprehensive long-range planning program, covering every school in the City district.

Also, as part of its general planning effort the San Diego School District initiated its school-community Goals Program in 1973. The purpose of this program was to develop goals for each school's facilities and curricula from localized school-community participation. The goals developed for the three schools serving Ocean Beach were adopted by the School Board on July 24, 1973.

Public education in the Point Loma area is not limited to students between five and eighteen years of age. The Adult Education Program, under the jurisdiction of the San Diego Community College District, offers a chance for older persons and those working days to complete their high school education or otherwise supplement their knowledge and skills. While the night school at Cabrillo Elementary offers only English as a "Second Language" (E.S.L.), the regular facility at Midway Adult/Junior-Senior High School offers courses in business, E.S.L., art, printing, child development, foreign language, history and others leading to a high school diploma.

The Ocean Beach community has made available alternative and supplementary programs to the public education system. Within the planning area there are three such alternative institutions: the Catholic Sacred Heart Academy, the Warren Walker Private School, and the Ocean Beach Free School.

The Sacred Heart Academy is a Catholic parochial school offering grades K - 8. Accredited, the school offers a full general academic and recreational curriculum, plus religious training. The texts used by the school are the same available to San Diego area public schools. The cost of running the Academy is covered by a nominal tuition, plus parish income, with some Federal assistance in the form of Title II funds which are used to supply supplementary books, filmstrips and other audio-visual aids. The Academy tries to stress especially reading development skills, with various special programs and material. The present enrollment of the school is about 250, and with a rising kindergarten enrollment, the Academy expects to remain a healthy, viable parochial alternative to the public secular system.

Warren Walker School, established in 1932, is an accredited secular private institution supported fully by tuition charges. It is one of three schools in the San Diego area which is a member of the California Association of Independent Schools. Offering grades preschool - 7, with a total enrollment of 190, the school stresses an individualized learning pace and maintains an optimum class size of 18-20. The curriculum offered at Warren Walker is full range, using texts chosen from both the State recommended list and other sources. Learning stresses a phonetics

approach to reading starting in kindergarten, and Spanish taught in all grades above preschool.

The Ocean Beach Free School is an established community institution with strong enough local support to maintain and expand its present program of basic humanistic education. Operating from a philosophy of total family participation, group decision-making, and growth through self-actualization, the school offers education in the academic basics to students aged preschool through secondary. The Free School is funded mainly by a sliding-scale tuition based on a family's ability to pay, but in the past has also received special grants from the City, County Revenue Sharing, etc. The school also serves as an educational alternative to problem students, referred through Juvenile Hall, who cannot function in public school.

Goals

- o The provision for access to a relevant, effective and meaningful elementary, secondary and adult education to all persons in Ocean Beach.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

A public supported quality education ought to be expected for every child. In attaining this end, Ocean Beach Elementary, Collier Junior and Point Loma Senior High should devote increasing extra space due to lower enrollments to smaller class sizes and specialized programs. Specifically, Ocean Beach Elementary should develop a general school library when funds become available.

One program which is funded and now proceeding is the rebuilding of school facilities declared unsafe by earthquake safety standards. The replacement of such buildings at Ocean Beach Elementary and Point Loma High School should continue as scheduled.

Concerning the projections and evaluations connected with the School District's planning efforts, the district and school board should consider such evaluations in further expanding its planning effort, and in deciding the distribution of funds for improvements. Especially those shortcomings noted should be improved as soon as possible. Special considerations should be given to the problem of aircraft noise, one of the most significant drawbacks affecting all schools serving Ocean Beach. Further, the district and its Goals Committee should endeavor to translate those general goals formulated by the Goals Program into concrete programs and curricula, in coordination with other innovative programs and improvements desired at each school. The school board together with the City should as soon as practically possible provide the time and funding necessary to implement these programs adopted from the school-community goals effort.

It is clear, also, that much more than just physical facilities must be planned for in education. The setting of curriculum is a complex area, with some jurisdiction from the federal, state, and local levels. Each school however, and ultimately every individual teacher has a great amount of say over the content, materials and especially methodology of specific class courses. The teachers and administration of Ocean Beach Elementary, Collier Junior High and Point Loma High School therefore should continuously endeavor to upgrade their curricula to provide a challenging, meaningful and realistic education pursuant to the dual goals of student self-actualization and preparation for the realities of life. Such upgrading should include interesting and relevant elective courses, and new methodologies designed to better communicate basics.

Continued community interest and cooperative efforts between the community and public schools serving Ocean Beach are encouraged. Such continued association should help to bring the home and school environments into closer juxtaposition, helping to achieve those goals of education and socialization mutual to each. The community is also encouraged and the City is encouraged to make available, the use of the public facilities unused on school grounds during non-school hours and sessions. Food programs for the elderly are examples of the types of after hours use that should be instituted.

Concerning the adult education program of the Community College District, the list of offered courses should periodically be reviewed, to insure its' serving the purpose of relevant adult education. The Midway location suffers a number of problems and inadequacies in conjunction with its location and facilities. The Community College and regular school districts should endeavor to resolve these problems as soon as practically possible, in order to facilitate the efforts of both the regular and adult schools. In addition, the Community College District should consider the offering of courses at more convenient locations, for example at the Ocean Beach Elementary School campus.

Last, as long as the alternative educational institutions in Ocean Beach provide for special needs, they should continue to remain open to the support of those in the community who wish to use them. Past grants and governmental aids, such as tax revenue received by the public schools, the Title II funds received by Sacred Heart and Warren Walker, and the City grants received by the Free School should remain open to those institutions.

Summary of Plan Recommendation

- o That Ocean Beach Elementary School, Collier Junior High School, and Point Loma Senior High devote increasing class space and teacher resources to lower per-class student levels and special education programs.
- o That Ocean Beach Elementary develop a general school library.

- o That the replacement of pre-Field Act facilities at Ocean Beach Elementary and Point Loma High continue as scheduled.
- o That the School District should continue and expand its comprehensive long range planning effort. Those shortcomings for the three public schools serving Ocean Beach should be corrected as soon as funds are available. The problem of aircraft noise should be given immediate and strong attention.
- o That the School District and Goals Committee endeavor to implement those goals for the schools serving Ocean Beach, derived from the 1973 School-Community Goals Program and adopted by the School Board, as soon as possible.
- o That the teachers and administration of Ocean Beach Elementary, Collier Junior High and Point Loma Senior High continually upgrade curricula, to provide challenging and meaningful programs including the initiation of interesting and relevant elective courses, and new methods and techniques designed to better communicate basics.
- o That community interest and cooperative efforts between schools and their communities continue.
- o That courses offered through the Adult Education program of the San Diego Community College District continue to be reviewed, updated and supplemented to insure meaningful adult education.
- o That the Community College District consider offering adult school courses at a convenient location in Ocean Beach, e.g. Ocean Beach Elementary School.
- o That the alternative educational institutions in Ocean Beach remain open to the support of those in the community who wish to use them.

LIBRARY

Ocean Beach has a local branch library at the corner of Santa Monica Avenue and Sunset Cliffs Boulevard. The facility was built in the mid-1920's and enlarged in the early 1960's. The library, supplying not only books but long playing records on regular loan-out, is oriented toward both adults and children. There are about 2 1/2 adult books in the collection for every juvenile book. Usage is about 77 percent adult and 23 percent juvenile. The Point Loma Branch Library, since it opened, took some business away from the Ocean Beach Branch. Both, however, are enjoying an increase in usage.

Goals

- o The maintenance and periodic expansion of this local depository of public library resources.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The present program of continual upgrading and volume addition to the Ocean Beach Branch Library should be maintained. The library, due to its basic educational function and central location, will continue to serve the needs of the residents of Ocean Beach. Because of the relationship of Ocean Beach to the larger Peninsula community, however, future development of this facility should take this into account. Somewhere in the Point Loma-Ocean Beach area there is a need for another facility of 8,000 to 10,000 square feet to meet increasing demands. Library authorities feel this to be a better solution than an increase in size of existing facilities. The eventual location of such a facility should be evaluated in terms of the needs of the entire Peninsula area.

Summary of Plan Recommendation

- o That the present program of upgrading and volume addition be maintained.
- o That eventual expansion of the physical plants in Ocean Beach and Point Loma be based on the total needs of the Peninsula community.

FIRE PROTECTION

Fire fighting and prevention is a vital public service to local communities. With a local fire station at the corner of Voltaire and Ebers, Ocean Beach receives adequate and efficient fire protection service from the City. The incidence of fires in the community is not high, nor is access for fire-fighting equipment impaired by present traffic levels.

Besides the usual fire fighting function, the City Fire Department also maintains various fire prevention programs including regular inspections of commercial, industrial, public assembly and care facilities. Field inspections by local fire station personnel of selected private residential areas are also done regularly. It is the purpose of these programs to insure conformance to fire codes and other laws and ordinances designed to minimize the threat of fire in the City.

Department personnel will also often appear before groups to present talks and lectures, in a communicative and educational effort to prevent fires through public knowledge. Present limits in time and manpower, however, prevent a broader, more routine educational program (including educational and demonstration visits to schools) from being maintained.

Goals

- o The continuation of adequate fire protection facilities and fire prevention programs in Ocean Beach.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Adequate and safe levels of fire protection, and street access for fire fighting equipment, should be maintained. Existing fire prevention programs, such as Fire Code inspections and field inspections should also be maintained. The existing fire station located at the southwest corner of Voltaire and Ebers should continue at its present location in order to provide service to Ocean Beach.

In addition, the City should try in the future to initiate and maintain such educational programs as regular school visitations, whenever feasible.

Summary of Plan Recommendation

- o That adequate and safe levels of fire protection and street access for fire fighting equipment in Ocean Beach be maintained.
- o That adequate fire prevention programs, e.g. inspections of public buildings, field inspections etc. be maintained.
- o That the existing fire station continue at its present location.
- o That a broader program of fire prevention through public education and communication be initiated.
- o That private citizens be encouraged to maintain their property and belongings so as to prevent potential hazards.

HEALTH CARE

There are presently eleven privately practicing medical doctors, and fourteen dentists and orthodontists in or around the immediate Ocean Beach planning area. For the majority of the community, this represents an adequate number for routine and preventative medical needs. The large contingent of college students in the community may avail themselves of campus health facilities while enrolled in school, while Navy, Marine and other armed service personnel also have similar medical care at their disposal. There is a substantial number of lower income persons

in Ocean Beach, however, who cannot afford regular or emergency medical care. The San Diego County Department of Public Health and the Beach Area Community Clinic in Mission Beach are the only resources left to these people. The nearest hospital or clinic to the Ocean Beach community offering 24 hour emergency service is Doctor's Hospital located in the Midway Area.

The Free Clinic, one of several in the San Diego area, is attempting to fill a large gap in available medical services for the beach communities. While it is served by a dedicated and very capable staff of medical, administrative and reception personnel, almost all on a volunteer basis, it is nevertheless tremendously overcrowded and thus inadequate to provide ongoing medical care to the numbers of young and economically disadvantaged people in the beach areas who need it. Fully one quarter of all those who visit the clinic per evening, or about twenty persons between both the general and women's clinics, are from Ocean Beach.

The Free Clinic consists of the general medical clinic, the women's clinic, a legal clinic, and limited psychological counseling services. In the past it has been funded by grants from the County, the United Way, Federal Revenue Sharing, and donations.

The Ocean Beach Child Health Conference and Immunizations is available on every other Monday at 2083 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard. The County of San Diego Health Department offers a wide range of clinics throughout the San Diego area, open to all San Diego residents.

Besides personal medical and dental care, there are also substantial public health considerations in Ocean Beach, especially in the areas of proper refuse disposal and adequate protection for and control of the large number of dogs and other pets in the community. Fleas, flies and other pests and parasites often find the moist shoreline atmosphere an ideal condition for breeding. Natural springs in the Point Loma area have been a source of mosquito breeding in the past due to seepage and stagnating water.

Goals

- o The provision for adequate medical consultation and treatment facilities for all persons living in Ocean Beach.
- o The prevention of public health problems in Ocean Beach.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The public services offered by the County Department of Public Health and the Beach Area Community Clinic should be continued.

The Free Clinic should be given continuing and expanded consideration for available grants. Consideration should be given to establishing a

branch of the clinic, or a completely independent operation, in Ocean Beach as the need arises.

To help prevent only public health problems in the community, educational programs out of the County Public Health Department covering such concerns as proper refuse disposal, mosquito control, home care, and pet care should be implemented and maintained. Of course increased private maintenance of homes and pets must be relied upon as the mainstay of public health, and is encouraged.

Summary of Plan Recommendation

- o That the Beach Area Community Clinic in Mission Beach continue to receive expanded City, County and Federal funds and grants.
- o That consideration be given to establishing a Free Clinic or medical clinic branch in Ocean Beach as the need arises.
- o That public informational programs concerning proper refuse disposal and pet care be maintained by the County Department of Public Health.
- o That the public be encouraged to increase home and job maintenance and cleanliness and pet care.

POLICE PROTECTION

Even in theory, the Police function is a complex and controversial governmental operation. As an applied reality, even though no one can dispute the need for a peace keeping and law enforcement organization in modern urban areas, neither can anyone deny the complex moral, ethical and sociological consequences of such a centralized police presence in any neighborhood. In Ocean Beach, the situation is compounded by a civilian population composed of highly diverse social classes in a small area and by recent historical events creating animosity between police and individual segments of the community.

The resolution of police-community rapport problems are at least as complex as the problems themselves, and in total are beyond the scope of this plan. Basically, however, these problems and their resolution are in the nature of improved communication. A need exists for real (as opposed to superficial) understanding between civilian and police personnel, and between the different civilian factions in the community. Such communication and contact must be long-term, and must encompass personal attitudes as well as professional duties. A number of programs through the Police Department already exist to help achieve those ends. These include the Youth Ride-A-Long Program, the Chaplain's Patrol, and the Storefront Offices.

The Ocean Beach Community has a storefront office located on Newport Avenue. This facility's main function is to serve as an accessible local office where civilian-police communication can center. According to the Police Department store front office should insure:

- the provision of citizens with a local office removed from the police station, where problems can be discussed
- the development and increased involvement between police and the community in problem areas
- the provision of a place where rumors can be dispelled or verified
- the development of an awareness in the neighborhood of the necessity for mutual cooperation and understanding in the maintenance of law and order
- the provision of an additional channel for the exchange of ideas between the community and the chief of police.

Goals

- o The continued provision of adequate police protection to insure the rights and well being of citizens in Ocean Beach.
- o The reduction and eventual elimination of crime in Ocean Beach through the elimination of those conditions leading to its occurrence.
- o The increase of mutual communication and understanding between police and all population segments of Ocean Beach.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

While a regular police force must continue to operate in Ocean Beach, this force can become a more familiar and accepted community presence. The present programs of the Police Community Relations Section of the Department should continue. The Storefront Office in Ocean Beach especially should be maintained.

Besides these programs, further measures should be taken to increase police-civilian communication in Ocean Beach. Like the Community Profile Project in the Northern Division of the City, Ocean Beach should consider having officers assigned to a longer tour of duty rather than the present three month shifts. If practical, walked beats should be revived. These steps should create a greater familiarity between officers and local persons, and enable officers to operate in any given situation on a more knowledgeable basis. Further, workshops and social situations should be encouraged to promote communication during off-duty and after work hours. Work-shops have occurred in the past, but have not been

organized with any recurring regularity. Generally, both police personnel and community residents should make a continuing effort to understand rather than react on an emotion level.

Summary of Plan Recommendation

- o That present programs of the Police Community Relations section of the City Police Department continue.
- o That the police-community relations office in Ocean Beach be maintained as such.
- o That rather than 3-month shifts of duty, consideration should be given to assigning officers in Ocean Beach to longer tours of duty.
- o That walked beats be considered for officers in Ocean Beach.
- o That police-community workshops, and off-duty or after-work social get-togethers be created to increase police-community communication.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Public utilities in Ocean Beach include water and sewer lines, storm drains and gas and electricity service. Water and sewer service are provided by the City directly, while gas and electricity are provided by the San Diego Gas & Electric Company, a private company regulated by the Public Utilities Commission. S.D.G. & E., of course, has its own quality control and maintenance programs to insure periodic upgrading of electric and gas lines in Ocean Beach.

There is at present, a City-wide program for the burying of all existing above-ground electric lines. The cost of undergrounding existing lines is shared jointly by matching annual funds from S.D.G. & E. and the City in its CIP Program. These funds cover the costs of burying street lines only; the cost of undergrounding all street-to-house connections must be borne by the property owner.

Undergrounding all existing electric lines in the City is a huge task. The money and time devoted to the job is spread out over an extended period on a priority basis, determined by reports from City engineers and the decisions of City Council.

Some of this work has already been done in Ocean Beach. Lines along Sunset Cliffs Boulevard from Adair to Coronado were buried during fiscal year 1974. Projected for fiscal 1979 is the burying of remaining lines on Sunset Cliffs Boulevard from Coronado to Voltaire; and in fiscal '77 and '78, burying of lines on West Point Loma Boulevard east of Sunset Cliffs.

Sewage service and the delivery of water in Ocean Beach are the responsibility of the City, through its Water Utilities Department. It is this department's job to oversee and maintain the quality and adequacy of water serving the City, and the adequacy of its sewage system. It is the present policy of the Department to design and install water and sewer mains to the capacity of population projected by community and precise plans.

There is a City-wide operation now under progress to replace old cast-iron and other inadequate water mains with a superior asbestos-cement design. Again, a limitation of funds and time requires a priority system of replacement.

The replacement of sewer lines and mains is similarly regulated by exigencies of time and costs, and is also, therefore, subject to need priorities. The Fiscal 1975 Capital Improvements budget includes an expansion of the sewer trunk line serving Ocean Beach and other adjacent beach communities, to be completed by fiscal 1978. Other budgeted projects include the replacement of the worn and inadequate Bacon Street

main, a project which should be completed by 1976. In both these cases, sewage flow has reached the capacity of the existing pipes. Additional capacity must soon be installed to avoid overflow and consequent public health hazards. As per the above mentioned policy, the new capacity of these lines will be designed to meet the needs of the population levels discussed in this plan.

Storm drains are under the purveyance of the City Public Works Department. Ocean Beach, traditionally an area of flooding during storms, has slowly been acquiring an adequate drainage system over the years. There are, however, still some problem areas which are flooded during rains in the community.

A major concern to Ocean Beach is the effect of the metropolitan sewer outfall on the west shore of Point Loma on the beach area. The water and sand, augmented by the pier, the jetty and river channel, and the ocean cliffs, provide diverse recreation including sport fishing, beach volleyball, sunbathing, swimming, and pleasurable passive recreation. To insure that these recreational activities and aesthetic resources remain unharmed by the effluent from the Point Loma Plant, the Water Utilities Department presently maintains a continuing monitoring system including a network of (36) offshore and shoreline sampling stations, making a diverse range of periodic biological and clinical tests to insure that the environmental effect of the sewage outfall is minimal and meets standards set by the California Water Quality Control Board and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

The outfall, stretching 2-1/2 miles out to sea, presently leaves the economic and aesthetic assets of Ocean Beach basically unaffected. As the City grows, however, and as the amount of sewage produced per capita rises, the amount of sewage to be treated as well as the total effluent flow will increase greatly. Present flows of 90 to 100 million gallons per day may be expected to double or more by the year 2000. While the present maximum capacity of the Point Loma plant is 100 m.g.d. for adequate primary treatment, upcoming expansion (the addition of two sedimentation basins and one digester) should increase this to 120 m.g.d.

Beyond such periodic incremental expansion, however, there is now under consideration a comprehensive water supply and disposal plan treating the entire San Diego region. The Comprehensive Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin, prepared for the State Water Quality Control Board, would among other things provide for the expansion and modification of the metropolitan sewage system, including seven inland interceptory recycling stations and conversion of the Point Loma facility to include secondary treatment. The result of this would be not only to provide for a cleaner effluent but also to decrease the actual amount of projected future flow into the ocean.

Goals

- o The provision of adequate, efficient service from all public utilities in Ocean Beach.
- o The elimination and prevention of any adverse impact of public utilities in Ocean Beach.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The existing quality control and maintenance programs of the San Diego Gas & Electric Company should continue to provide for adequate and efficient power distribution to Ocean Beach and other San Diego communities. The remainder of above-ground utility lines in Ocean Beach, however, should be undergrounded as soon as is economically and practically possible, as part of a comprehensive effort to maintain and improve the visual and aesthetic worth of the community.

Concerning the replacement of worn and inadequate water and sewer lines, within the exigencies of time and money determining the priority system of line upgrading throughout the City, the replacement of old water delivery mains in Ocean Beach should be completed as soon as is practically possible. Similarly, to adequately serve and protect the community, the existing program to maintain and upgrade the capacity of sewer lines should also continue, with special emphasis on the Bacon Street main and the Ocean Beach trunk line.

Assessing the need for storm drains in Ocean Beach, Bacon Street, some sections of Niagara (including the intersections with Sunset Cliffs and Bacon), the foot of Santa Monica at the beach, and the foot of Point Loma Avenue are still problem areas which should receive attention as soon as possible to prevent future flood damage and assure street safety.

Expansion of the Point Loma sewage treatment plant could be rendered unnecessary in the future if interceptory primary treatment plants were developed in order to provide primary treatment before sewage reached the Point Loma plant. Water recapture programs could preserve the precious resource and eliminate the potential effluent problem that presently exists.

In order to assure the continued economic and aesthetic assets existing on the shoreline of Ocean Beach, such comprehensive plans as the San Diego Basin Water Quality Control Plan certainly should continue to be studied, and should be implemented if found to be practical. The monitoring program of the Water Utilities Department should be maintained and expanded as the understanding of the ocean environment becomes more complete.

Summary of Plan Recommendation

- o That the remainder of above-ground utility lines in Ocean Beach be buried as soon as is economically feasible.
- o That the replacement of worn water mains in Ocean Beach be completed as soon as is practically possible.
- o That the program of sewage main maintenance and capacity upgrading continue, including the Bacon Street main and Ocean Beach trunk line replacement projects.
- o That the need for storm drains in all parts of Ocean Beach be assessed, with special consideration given to Bacon, Niagara and Santa Monica streets.
- o That the sewage treatment plant on Point Loma be used in the future only for secondary or tertiary treatment with primary treatment being provided at other locations, maintaining the Point Loma outfall as the point of discharge.

