Figure 14
TRAFFIC VOLUME ON LAGUNA CANYON ROAD

HWY 1 AT BROADWAY

		Average Daily Trips	
Year	Peak/Hour	Peak/Month	Annual
1990	2,950	50,000	40,500
1991	2,950	39,500	36,500
1992	3,200	39,500	36,500
1993	3,300	41,500	38,000
1994	3,200	39,500	36,500
1995	3,300	41,500	38,000
1996	3,200	39,500	36,500
1997	3,200	41,500	39,000
1998	3,350	41,500	39,000

HWY 133 AT EL TORO

		Average Daily Trips	
Year	Peak/Hour	Peak/Month	Annual
1990	3,500	41,500	35,000
1991	3,500	41,500	35,000
1992	3,500	41,500	35,000
1993	3,600	42,500	36,000
1994	4,500	53,000	45,000
1995	3,600	42,500	36,000
1996	3,600	42,500	36,000
1997	3,400	44,500	40,000
1998	3,250	42,500	38,000

Source: State of California Department of Transportation

Projected population growth in Orange County will result in additional traffic. By the year 2020, OCTA expects a 43% increase in the number of total vehicle miles traveled on freeways and streets within the county every day. Residents and visitors will experience increased congestion, longer commute times and reduced travel speeds. Today most Laguna Beach residents travel 15 or more minutes to reach their employment destinations, but eighteen percent travel more than 45 minutes to work.[7] While automobile travel will continue to be the primary modal choice, larger portions of travelers are expected to carpool, ride transit, use telecommunication/work-at-home opportunities and use non-motorized transportation modes such as biking and walking.[8]

Parking

The City has engaged in considerable discussion with regard to the number of parking spaces that exist in the City's downtown area. Resident shoppers, local employees, beach visitors, festival visitors and out-of-town shoppers all vie for the approximate 1,900 available parking spaces. During the summer months, the City operates the "festival tram service" and provides some seasonal parking along Laguna Canyon Road. The City encourages motorists to park in the City's periphery and tram into the downtown to attend the art festivals and other recreational activities. There has also been discussion regarding the construction of additional parking at the vicinity of the City's art festivals.

Transit

Laguna Beach Transit, operated by the City, provides bus service to the community. Service is within walking distance of nearly 90% of the developed areas in the City. The Green Line serves North Laguna, Laguna Canyon and Top of the World, while the Blue Line serves Arch Beach Heights and Bluebird Canyon, and the Red Line runs between the Downtown area and the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Dana Point. The buses accommodate wheelchairs, bikes and surfboards. In fiscal year 1998-99, Laguna Beach Transit reported 106,118 riders.

OCTA serves Laguna Beach with the #89 line, which runs from Laguna Hills through Laguna Canyon to Newport Beach from 5:30am to 10:00pm. The #1 line runs from San Clemente through Laguna Beach to

Long Beach. OCTA reported an 8.4% decline in passengers between 1996 and 1998.[9]

Bicycle and pedestrian system

Laguna Beach offers a wide range of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Laguna Canyon Road and the Pacific Coast Highway are Class II Bikeways providing some on-road striped areas for riding. Aliso/Wood Canyons Regional Park provides a Class I off-road bikeway connecting to the Cleveland National Forest and has proposed connections to the Pacific Ocean. Crystal Cove State Beach has a proposed bikeway.

For those on foot, Laguna Beach has many attractive features. Pedestrians can easily explore the Downtown area, walk miles of ocean bluffs and beaches, and hike on dozens of trails located throughout the designated open space. The Downtown is a pedestrian-oriented area where people see friends, shop, enjoy public art and browse storefronts, and enjoy food and drink. Heisler Park offers walkways along the ocean bluffs, providing spectacular views and public access to many of the beaches and coves along the rocky coast.

Geology and topography

Once a tidal marsh and small delta, the City of Laguna Beach lies within an area characterized by three separate geomorphic regions: Coastal Fringe, Hillside Canyons, High Terrace Lands, and the Central Basin. The Coastal Fringe is the site of unusual rock formations, small pocket beaches and steep cliffs ranging in height from a few feet to over 100 feet above sea level. The inland hillside canyons and high terrace lands which rise to over 1,000 feet above sea level were initially formed by geomorphic uplifting of the San Joaquin Hills and subsequent stream cutting, which created steep slopes and exposed bedrock. The Central Basin provides a nearly level expanse of land at the confluence of Laguna Canyon and the Pacific Ocean.[10]

The hills surrounding Laguna Beach form a dramatic visual backdrop for the community. While Laguna residents enjoy the benefits of hillside living and the surrounding open spaces, they also experience landslides and fires associated with those natural features. Four major landslides have occurred during the past five years some of which resulted in the death of two of its residents. In 1978, Laguna Beach also experienced a serious landslide in Bluebird Canyon that destroyed 24 homes. The October 1993 firestorm spread from the hillsides to residential areas and damaged and/or destroyed over 400 homes.

The City of Laguna Beach lies in a seismically active zone vulnerable to ground shaking and related geologic hazards. The three major faults in the region are: Newport-Inglewood, San Jacinto, and San Andreas. Locally, Laguna Beach has two major fault systems: Laguna Canyon and Temple Hills. Technically, both of these faults are inactive, which means that geological evidence shows that no motion has occurred for 11,000 to three million years.[11]

Biological Resources

Laguna Beach abounds with valuable biological resources. It encompasses 15 different biotic communities or habitats.[12]

Hillsides

The primary vegetation type in the hillsides and canyons is coastal sage scrub, named for the community of low-growing, fragrant shrubs and other plants found in the area. Within the coastal sage are 100 specialized plants and animals that exist nowhere else and would disappear if the scrub were eliminated.[13] Currently, 38 plant species and 32 animal species identified as endangered, rare or distributionally restricted are at least partially protected in the natural open space system in and around Laguna Beach.[14]