



Figure 15B
LAGUNA BEACH
OPEN SPACE AND PARKS
Central Laguna Beach

Air quality

Throughout the 1990's the air in Orange County has been cleaner than in the previous decade. The ocean breeze in Laguna Beach keeps the City cleaner than inland areas. For the past 9 years, Laguna Beach has not had any days exceeding federal carbon monoxide standards. Air quality is expected and required to be cleaner in the next millennium.¹⁷ Cleaner fuels for vehicles, industrial operations and consumer projects will be needed to successfully reduce air pollution especially as the region's population grows.

Drainage, Flooding and Water Quality

The City lies within a coastal plain while the Downtown area is set within a 100-year flood plain. Drainage occurs through storm drains, channels and natural watercourses. The County is responsible for most of the improved part of the Laguna Canyon Channel and the City is responsible for the rest of the drainage system, excluding the few drains located on the state highways.

Laguna Beach sits within two watersheds—Laguna Canyon Creek and Aliso Creek—which together accommodate the local drainage from the Santa Ana Mountains. The Laguna Canyon Channel originates in the Irvine area. The Aliso Creek, the largest regional creek, drains 75 square miles of densely populated land including Laguna Niguel, Laguna Hills, Lake Forest and Aliso Woods. Consequently, the County designated Aliso Creek as one of its most polluted waterways.¹⁸

Laguna Beach experiences periodic flooding problems due to channel deficiencies and undersized drains. The deficiency of the Laguna Canyon Channel in the downtown and canyon areas caused flooding in 1995, 1997 and 1998. The City, the County and the Army Corps of Engineers are currently cooperating on a project to improve the downtown portion of the channel. The city has submitted an application for County funding for the upstream problem area.

The major sources of water quality degradation in Laguna Beach are brake dust from cars, commercial activities, including washing down of commercial equipment into storm drains, urban residue such as pesticides, herbicides, oil and trash, and deficient water conservation practices.¹⁹

¹ *Laguna Beach Annual Report*. Fall 1999.

² *Laguna Beach General Plan Housing Element*. 1990.

³ *Laguna Beach General Plan Housing Element*. 1990.

⁴ "Affordable Housing: Is there any?" Barbara Diamond. *Laguna News-Post*. February 3, 2000.

⁵ Transportation Corridor Agencies website (www.tollroad.com)

⁶ *Orange County Transportation Authority Long Range Plan*, FY 1998-2020.

⁷ *Orange County Transportation Authority Long Range Plan*, FY 1998-2020.

⁸ *Orange County Transportation Authority Long Range Plan*, FY 1998-2020.

⁹ *Orange County Transportation Authority Long Range Plan*, FY 1998-2020.

¹⁰ *Laguna Beach General Plan, Land Use Element*. City of Laguna Beach. 1983.

¹¹ *Laguna Beach General Plan, Open Space/Conservation Element*. City of Laguna Beach. 1998.

¹² Nature Preserve of Orange County, 1999.

¹³ *Laguna Beach General Plan, Open Space/Conservation Element*. City of Laguna Beach. 1998.

¹⁴ *Laguna Beach General Plan, Open Space/Conservation Element*, 1998

¹⁵ *Laguna Beach General Plan, Open Space/Conservation Element*. 1998.

¹⁶ Orange County Climate Archives, 2000.

¹⁷ *Tracking Orange County: a pilot report reviewing social, environmental, and economic performance indicators*. Center for Demographic Research, Cal State Fullerton. November 1999.

¹⁸ City of Laguna Beach, 2000.

¹⁹ City of Laguna Beach, 2000.