

Our Neighborhood: Ocean Park

A Study Conducted

By

Lea, Hunter, Jenny, Ellen, Laura, Danny and Patrick

**THIS IS A
DRAFT**

March 2005

On Thursday, March 17, 2005, seven students in a class called Santa Monica Exploration took a walk down to the beach. For the last two months, we have been studying an area in Ocean Park. We did a costal mapping project for the Surfrider Foundation's annual beach report. For this project, we looked at beach access, general beach description, shoreline structures, outfalls and swimming/surfing areas.

In March, we continued the study of our neighborhood and began looking at the Youth Planning Project: Shape the Future 2025. We are focusing on a section of Ocean Park and the beach.

On Thursday, March 17th, a group of students, Lea, Hunter, Jenny, Ellen, Laura, Danny and Patrick took a walk to the beach. We started on Ocean Park Boulevard and 6th Street and headed west on Ocean Park Boulevard. We took lots of notes and we put them all together and summarized them.

GETTING AROUND SANTA MONICA

1. Tell us what you liked/disliked about walking in this area: **We liked many things about our walk to the beach. We liked the pretty murals of whales and horses on Ocean Park between 5th and 3rd Streets. We also saw a mural of a beach scene on the side of a building on Ocean Park and Main Street. We also noticed a bike path on Ocean Park which lead to the beach. We also like the crosswalks, especially the one on Ocean Park and 3rd Street. It operates on solar energy and when you push a button, the crosswalk lights up. We like the bus stops on Ocean Park and Main Street. It's a very pretty walk to the beach because you can see a glimpse of the beach all the way down Ocean Park.**

Here are things that we disliked: We saw graffiti on sidewalks, murals, crosswalk buttons and street signs. We also did not like the trash on the sidewalks.

2. What has been your impression of driving and parking in this area? The traffic to the beach was ok. We didn't notice a traffic jam. The cars were driving fast and smoothly. We noticed a lot of noise on the street from all the cars driving on Ocean Park.

There are plenty of parking spaces for people going to the beach and Main Street. On Ocean Park, there are about 12 metered parking spots, but there are plenty of metered parking spots behind Main Street. If you go to the beach, at Ocean Park Boulevard, there are two big long term parking lots (over 3,000 spaces) and short term parking lot (about 80 spaces). Long term parking costs \$6.00 for regular cars, \$18.00 for buses and \$24.00 for RV's. Motorcycles also have to pay fees. Short term parking costs \$1.00 per hour, and you can park there for a maximum time limit of two hours.

QUALITY OF EXPERIENCE

1. What did you like or dislike about your experience? Even though it was a cloudy day, it was nice walking to the beach. We liked walking in our neighborhood and playing in our neighborhood. One thing we did not like was the cars. They were noisy and we could smell the fumes.
2. What were people doing in this area and how did it impact your experience? People were shopping on Main Street and

eating at Main Street. At the beach, we saw people relaxing, jogging, biking, walking, and rollerblading.

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES

1. Do you like the activities available in the neighborhood? **Yes!** On Main Street, people can go shopping, get their nails and hair done, people can eat because there are lots of restaurants. One of the things that we like about Main Street is that there is a public library and a California Heritage Museum. Of course, you can walk a few blocks and there is the beach!

At the beach, there are tons of things you can do. You can rent bikes, skateboard, rollerblade, swim, surf, boogie board, eat, play volleyball and basketball.

2. Are there any other activities or services that you would like to see in the neighborhood? **Yes!** One thing we noticed was a shoreline structure at the beach. At Tower #26, there is a playground for young kids but there is not a play area for kids our age. We think there should be a bigger playground so that kids of all ages can enjoy it. Another thing we noticed was the number of homeless on the beach. We think it would be a good idea to have a shelter near the beach to help those who are homeless.

NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

1. What is your impression of the buildings in the area? **We** think our neighborhood is a very good neighborhood. **We** see buildings from the past and new buildings. **We** noticed the different designs of homes in the neighborhood. Some are old fashion looking and others are modern looking. **We** saw a construction area on Ocean Park Boulevard/2nd

Street. There are multiple unit townhouses being built there. The architecture of the townhouses did not fit the design of the old fashion homes that we like across the street. We also noticed that as we walked closer to the beach, we saw many more apartment buildings and condominiums. We also saw two high towers and we think they were apartments.

2. What was unique about the area? We walked on a street perpendicular to the beach (we can't remember the name) and we saw many old fashion homes. We liked the street because the houses fit the beach theme. We also liked seeing how residents were keeping up the houses and making them look modern with the original theme and architecture.
3. What did you like or dislike about this area? One thing we did not like about this area is the different styles of architecture. We like the style of the homes we saw on 3rd Street and ??? Street (by the beach). Some of the modern architecture didn't fit the theme and they looked out of place. We also don't like the two towers of apartments at the beach.

VISIONING!

Tell us how you imagine this area to be in 20 years. We think more people will move in this neighborhood because it's close to the beach. It's a very nice area. Tower #26 is special because it has a lifeguard on duty 365 days! It's beautiful and we are proud of it. Even though we don't like it, we think there will be more apartments, condos and townhomes. We are hoping that the architecture of the building will stay the old fashion way because that's one of the many things that make Ocean Park a very special place.