



City of Huntington Beach

P.O. BOX 190

CALIFORNIA 92648

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WENDELL G. HALL
City Clerk
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City Clerk

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Jerry S. Watney
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February 2, 1971

The Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton
Secretary of the Interior
Interior Department Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Pacific Ocean beach in the city of Huntington Beach, California is the most intensively used beach on the west coast of the United States. Ninety percent of the people who use this beach now and in the future are not residents of the city of Huntington Beach. It is really a regional, and even a national, beach in its use and significance. The ocean front is the surfing capital of the continental United States.

On the oceanfront in the city of Huntington Beach there are now three publicly owned beaches. Two of these recreational areas are the Bolsa Chica State Beach and the Huntington State Beach, the third beach is the Huntington Beach City Beach which was purchased and developed at considerable expense by the City of Huntington Beach.

The federal government, including the President of the United States, has said that it is essential that critically needed beaches and open space in heavily populated areas be acquired in the public interest.

Even though the city of Huntington Beach has been the most rapidly growing city in the United States for more than a decade (1958 population was about 10,000 - 1970 population was 125,000), we do not have the many millions of dollars that would be required to purchase the remaining privately owned ocean beach in this city.

As you are aware, Orange County and Los Angeles County are the most rapidly growing urban areas in the United States. We understand that the United States Park Service has stated that critically needed beaches, especially in highly populated areas, be acquired for the

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Director of Public Works

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City Clerk

~~HONORABLE~~
Secretary of the Interior

American people in perpetuity. The Pacific Ocean beach in the city of Huntington Beach is such an area and is of national importance in this respect.

Under separate cover we are sending you information concerning the ocean beach in this city. We believe that as far as urban areas are concerned, this privately owned beach should become a national seashore under the jurisdiction of the United States Park Service. On behalf of the City Council of Huntington Beach, California, we urge you to use every effort to have the federal government secure by purchase all the remaining privately owned Pacific Ocean beach in the city of Huntington Beach.

When it is convenient, officials of the City of Huntington Beach, will be glad to come to Washington, D.C. to confer with the Department of the Interior and the United States Park Service and discuss this beach in detail. It is urgent that this entire beach be publicly owned so that at least some of the recreational and open space needs on the Pacific Coast of the United States may be met. We urge such action in the national interest.

Sincerely,

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

Donald D. Shipley
Mayor

DDS:gbs

cc: Administrator
Director-Harbors, Beaches & Development

EXHIBIT A
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
PRIVATE BEACH PROPOSED FOR PUBLIC RECREATION

I. Area Definition

Municipal Pier, Huntington Beach, California - northwesterly 2.4 miles to the southeasterly boundary line of the Bolsa Chica State Park and the Bolsa Pacific properties. This area includes seventy-three (73) acres of prime beach frontage and is comprised of thirty (30) acres of sand and forty-three (43) acres of bluffs and scenic vistas. The property has been used by the public for over fifty (50) years even though the property is in private ownership. There is also an additional seven and one-half (7½) miles of public lands which are in private ownership. This additional public acreage is seaward of the private properties.

II. Present Use

- A. The property is presently being used for oil and gas production. A private apartment complex built more than two years ago is also located on this property.
- B. The beach properties are also used for public recreation for more than one million people annually. The City of Huntington Beach has a total of 8.4 miles of regional recreational beaches within the corporate limits. These properties are divided into two state parks, the city beach and private beach (operated for the public by the city).

III. Owners

Huntington Pacific Corporation, 2110 Main Street, Huntington Beach, California. The Huntington Beach Company and the Southern Pacific Company form this corporation.

IV. Geographic Location of Beaches in Relation to Metropolitan Areas

The beaches within the corporate limits are of the wide, gradual, gentle, sloping types with a very long gradient seaward. This gradient creates beautiful surf conditions which are utilized by four and one-half million people annually. These beaches are visited by the mass population who inhabit the megalopolis of the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside. The attendance of residents from these counties are of the following percentages:

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|--------------------|-------|
| Orange County | 49.8% |
| Los Angeles County | 42.8% |
| Misc. Counties | 4.1 |
| Out of State | 3.1 |
| Foreign Countries | .2 |

Of the total use, the residents of the City of Huntington Beach represent 15.3%. Major freeways make these areas easily accessible. The single largest beach area of this type available to the public in Orange County is this stretch measuring 8.4 miles.