

City of Oceanside Development Services Downtown Workshop



January 21, 2026
Item #1

Overview

- Staff recommends Community Development Commission (CDC) receive presentation on Downtown Oceanside and provide staff direction on proposed recommendations

Overview

Issue Areas

- 1. Development Density
- 2. Downtown Advisory Committee (DAC)
- 3. Traffic
- 4. Parking
- 5. Urban Design
- 6. Bird Strike Standards
- 7. Palm and Canopy Trees
- 8. Placemaking

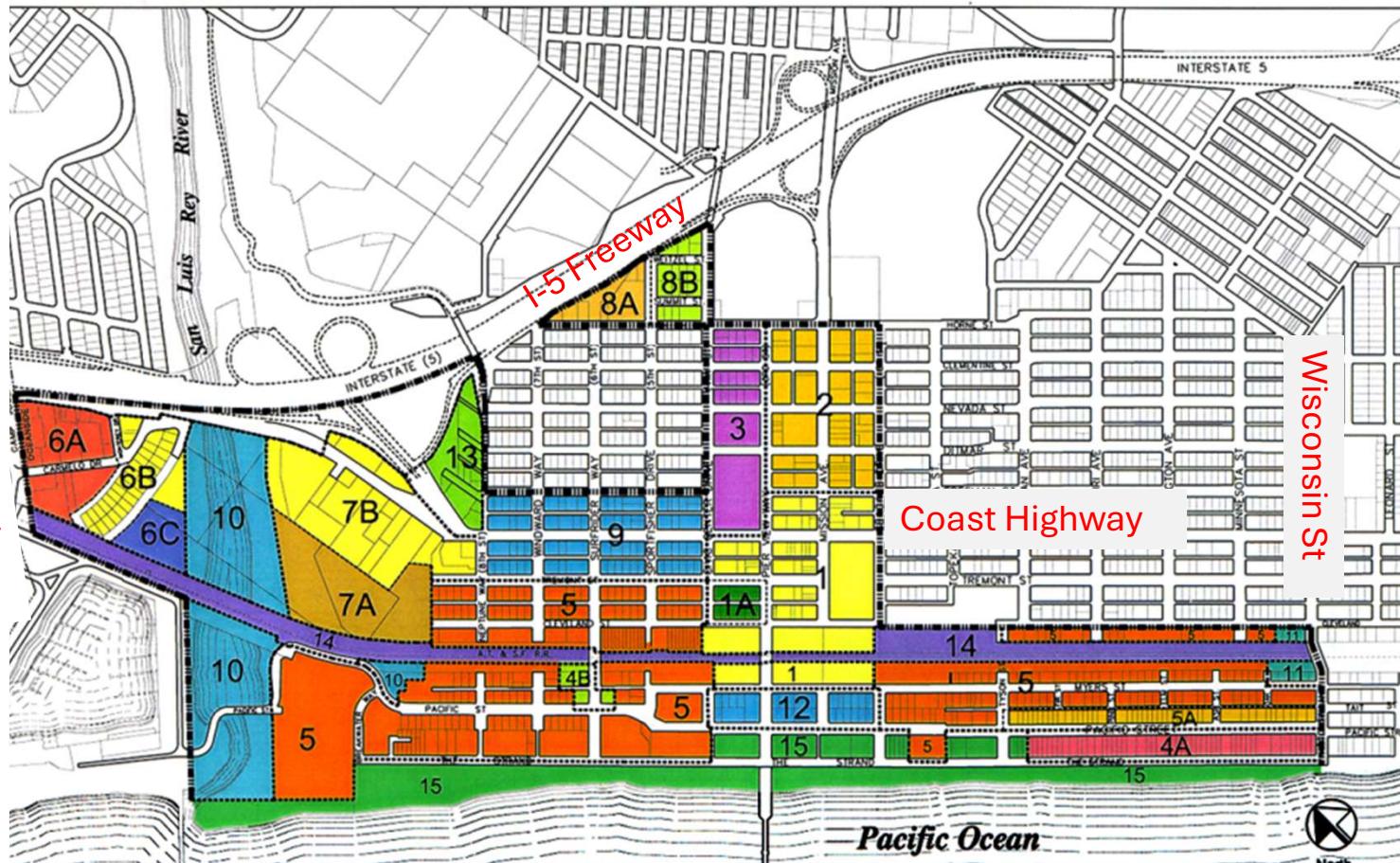
Background

- **October 1, 2025:** CDC direction to prepare workshop on Downtown Oceanside
- **Tonight:** Staff will address issue areas like density, traffic, and constituent concerns



Redevelopment Project Area

1. Commercial Retail and Office / Residential possible	5A. Medium Density Residential	9. Commercial / Residential / SF & Multi (30,000 sq. ft.)
1A. Commercial Retail and Office / Historic / Residential possible	6A. Visitor Serving Commercial	10. Open Space
2. Financial Center / Office Professional	6B. Visitor Serving Commercial / Residential possible	11. Commercial / Residential possible / (Multi with mixed use)
3. Office Professional / Residential possible (SF & Multi)	7A. High Density Residential (SF & Multi)	12. Tourist & Visitor Serving Commercial
1A. Transient Uses & Residential (SF & Multi)	7B. Recreational / Commercial / Residential (SF & Multi)	13. Visitor Serving Commercial / Office / Residential (Multi with mixed use)
1B. Transient uses & Residential (Multi)	8A. Hospital & Medical (SF)	14. Public Transportation and Railroad
5. High Density Residential (SF & Multi)	8B. Hospital / Medical / Office / Residential possible (SF & Multi)	15. Public Facilities, Parks, Open Space



Policy Framework

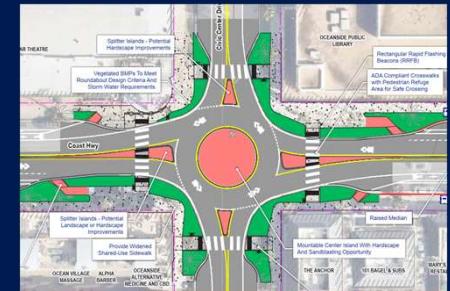
- Downtown Redevelopment Plan
- General Plan
- California Coastal Act, Coastal Zone, and Local Coastal Program
- Zoning Ordinance – Article 12

Sustainable Tourism Master Plan

- Ten-year plan (2024-2034)
- Community input
- Vision and strategies: Sustainable environment, quality of life, local economy, visitor experience
- Downtown identified as key opportunity area

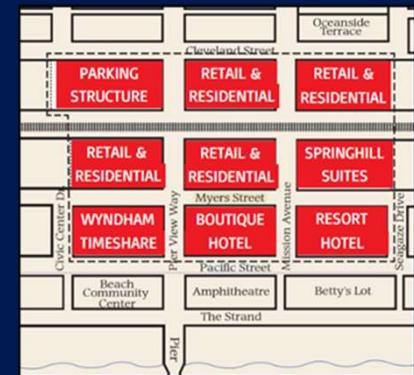
Coast Highway Corridor

- Coast Highway Vision and Strategic Plan
- Coast Highway Incentive District Local Coastal Plan Amendment (LCPA)
- Coast Highway Corridor Design Project
- Phase 1 construction: Neptune Way to Topeka Street



Nine-Block Master Plan

- Five Block Mixed-use Plan
- Objective Design Standards
- *Prepare Downtown Specific Plan*



CDC Recommending Body

- DAC Composition
- Planning Commission Option
- Future development recommendations
- *Determine if DAC is appropriate recommending body for Downtown development projects*

Development Density & State Density Bonus Law

- **Prior to 2019:** 43 dwelling units per acre (du/acre) cap removed; unlimited density
- 712 Seagaze: 497 du/acre
- Proposed cap: 86 du/acre (172 du/acre with Density Bonus)
- Downtown Density Local Coastal Plan Amendment

5,500-unit Cap

- Redevelopment Plan: Maximum 5,500 units in mixed-use developments
- Approximately 5,141 built/approved/in review; 359 remaining
- Harmonize Density Bonus Law and Coastal Act
- *Discuss Coastal Commission Suggested Modification: Replace cap with “target”*

Traffic & Circulation

- Coast Highway Corridor Project potential impact on local streets
- Downtown District Traffic Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
- *Prepare Downtown-specific traffic analysis with traffic calming solutions*

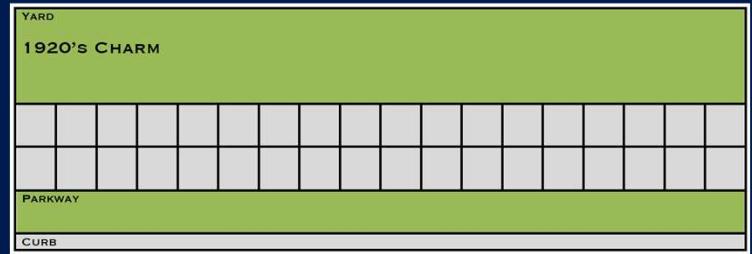
Parking

- Downtown Parking Action Plan (DPAP)
 - Pay-by-plate paid parking; license plate recognition; mobile app; community outreach
- Most goals operational through Parking Enforcement Program and revenue collection
- *Authorize preparation of updated DPAP*



Urban Design Standards

- Need for consistent parkway and sidewalk standards
- Bird strike window types
- 2006 Interim Tree Plan
- Tree palette: Palms and shade trees
- *Develop consistent design standards*



Placemaking & Wayfinding

- Oceanside Cultural Arts District
- O'Arts Master Plan
- Gateway and wayfinding signage
- Placemaking study
- **Summer 2026:** Tremont Street Activation Pilot Project
- *Provide scope comments and authorize pilot project*



Summary

- Downtown as valuable community resource
- Future of development
- Staff recommendations



	Issue Area	Recommendation
1	Development Density	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Direct staff to prepare Downtown Specific Plan, including objective design standards b) Discuss existing 5,500-unit cap and Coastal Commission's Pending LCPA Suggested Modification
2	DAC	Determine whether DAC or Planning Commission is more appropriate recommending body for Downtown development projects

	Issue Area	Recommendation
3	Traffic	Direct staff to solicit consultant services for preparation of Downtown-specific traffic analysis that explores use of local streets and addresses potential traffic calming solutions to be employed on such streets in near- and long-term
4	Parking	Authorize staff to solicit consultant services for conducting updated DPAP to analyze current state of parking in Downtown and determine whether 2018 DPAP remains relevant

	Issue Area	Recommendation
5	Urban Design*	Direct staff to develop consistent design standards for parkways and sidewalk paving patterns in Downtown
6	Bird Strike Standards*	Direct staff to evaluate window design standards that address anti-bird strike concerns

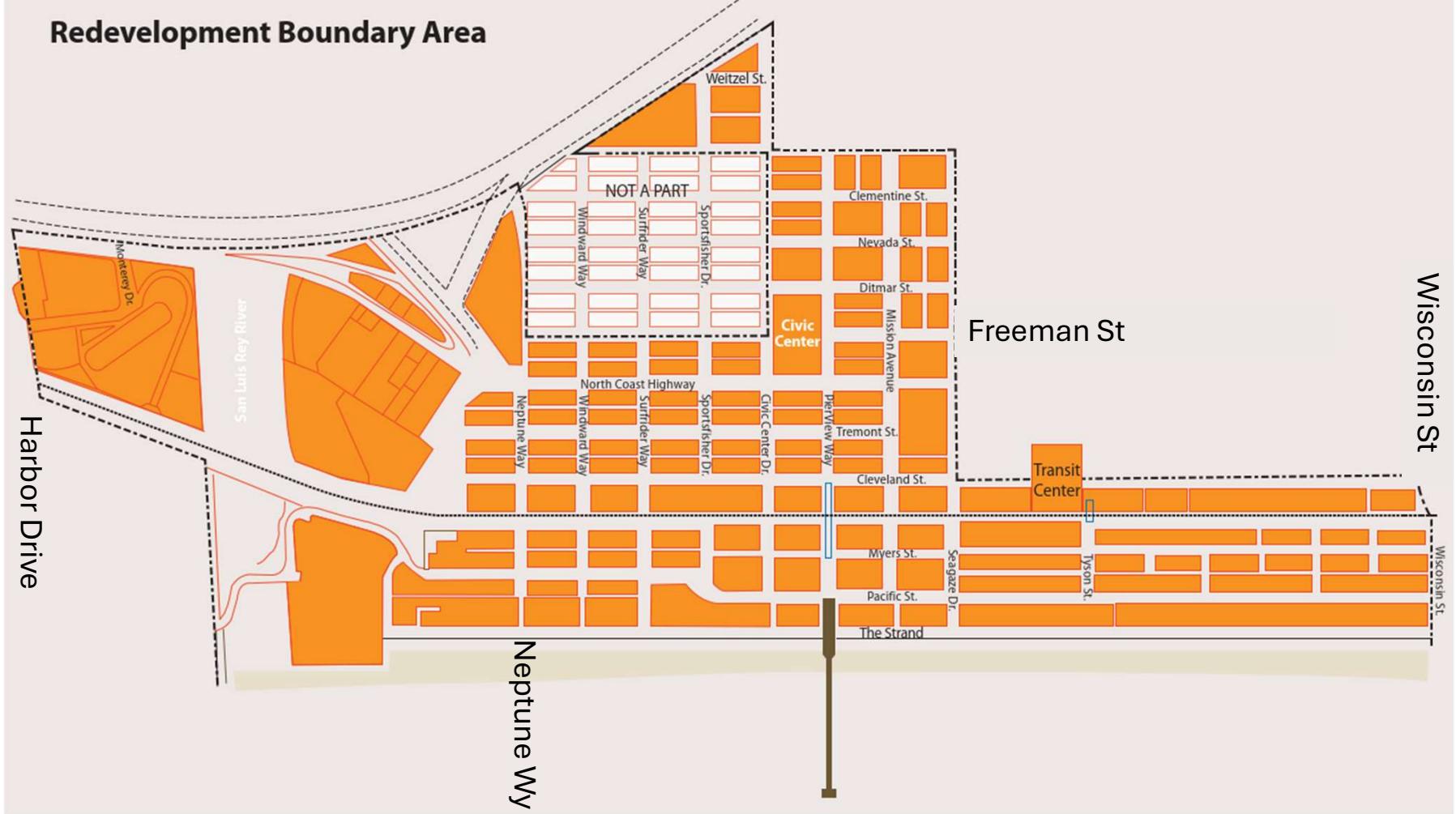
*If directed to proceed, it's recommended that items be incorporated into scope of work for Issue Area No.1 (Downtown Specific Plan)

	Issue Area	Recommendation
7	Palm and Canopy Trees*	<p>Direct staff that during design of Downtown development projects, all existing palm trees along Mission Avenue should remain in place. If a palm tree is removed along that corridor, it may only be replaced with a native palm or shade tree. If the City Council desires preparation of an updated Downtown Tree Plan, staff recommends that it be developed with the proposed Downtown Specific Plan.</p>

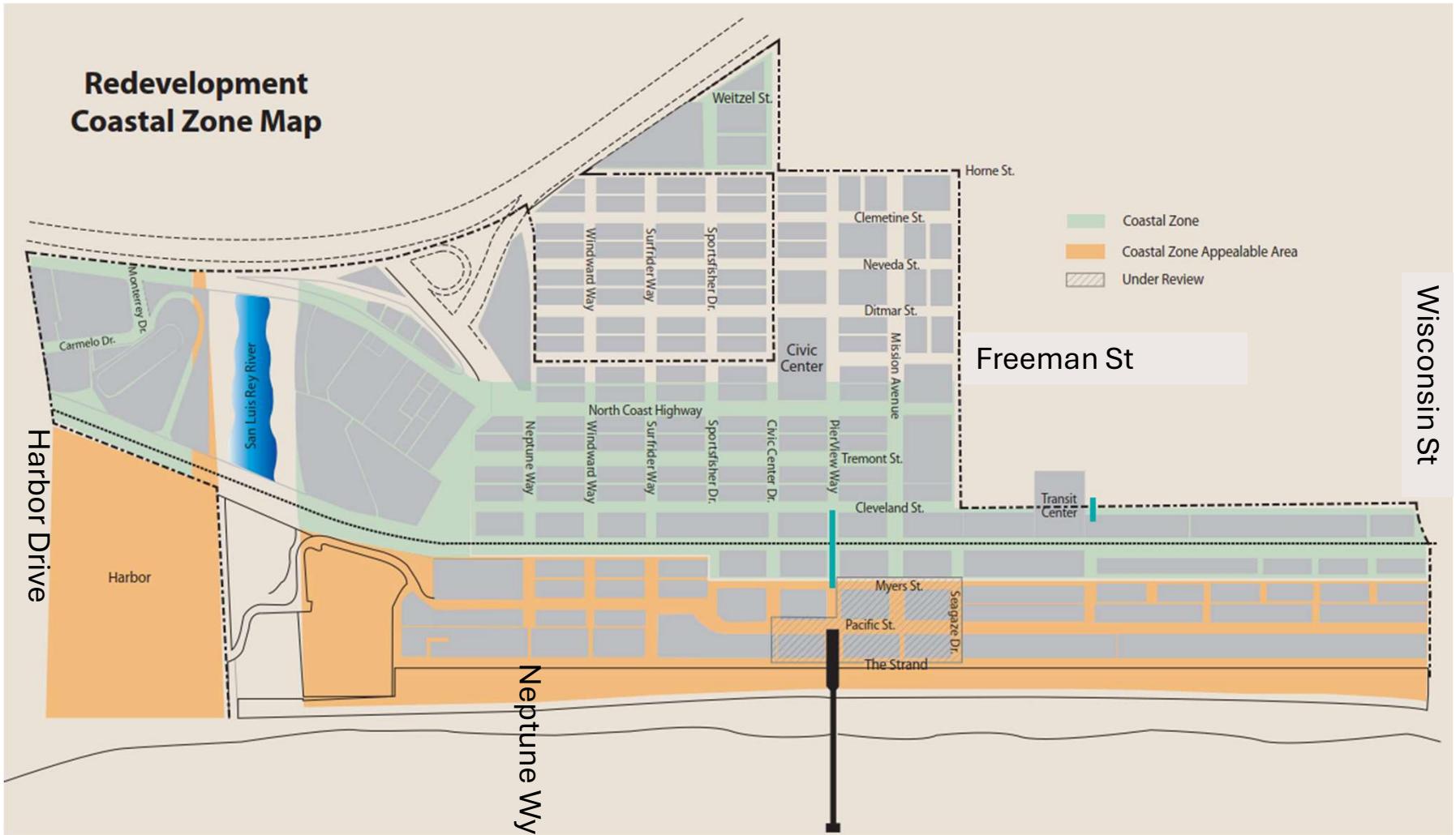
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	Issue Area	Recommendation
8	Placemaking	<p>a) Provide input on proposed scope of work for proposed Downtown Wayfinding/Placemaking Study</p> <p>b) Authorize implementation of placemaking pilot project showcasing possible placemaking ideas (i.e., outdoor games, pop up parks, performance spaces, moveable seating areas, temporary art installation) by closing and activating Tremont Street between Mission Avenue and Pier View Way during Summer 2026</p>

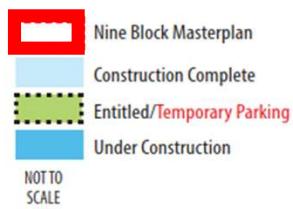
Redevelopment Boundary Area



Redevelopment Coastal Zone Map

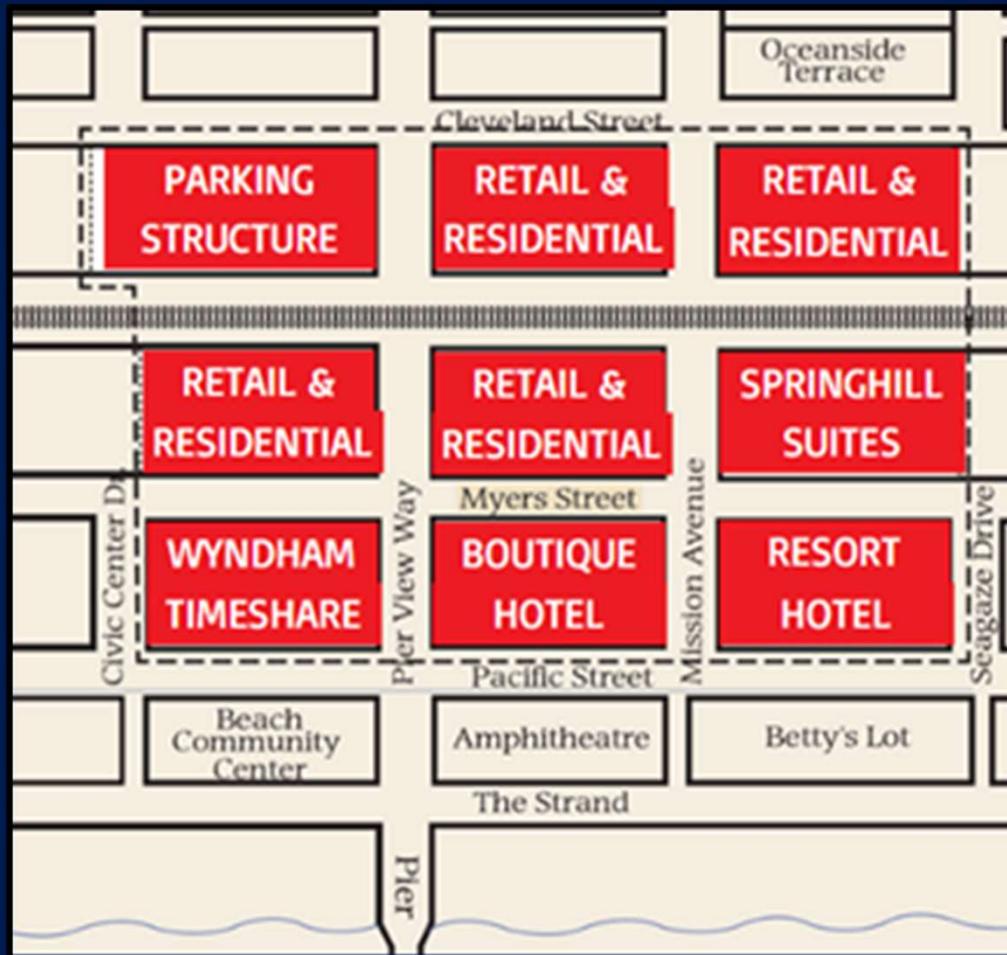


DOWNTOWN OCEANSIDE & 9 BLOCK MASTERPLAN



NOT TO
SCALE





Five Block Mixed-use Plan



Density of Constructed Projects

Project	Total Units	Acres	Density (du/acre)
Pierside North	66	1.17	56.41
Pierside South	110	1.14	96.49
Alta Oceanside	309	5.31	58.19

Downtown Projects

Project	Total Units	Site Acreage	Density (du/ac)	Density Bonus Project	Status
401 Mission Ave (Regal Theaters)	326	2.72	120	Yes	Approved
Block 5	193	1.05	183	Yes	Approved
Block 20	177	1.02	174	Yes	Approved
901 Mission Ave	273	1.51	180	Yes	Approved
801 Mission Ave	230	1.5	153	Yes	Pending CDC Review
Oceanside Transit Center	547	10.6	51	No	Under Review (pending LCPA certification)
810 Mission Ave	206	1.42	145	Yes	Approved
Sunsets 3.0	180	0.77	233	Yes	Approved
901 Pier View Way	64	0.30	213	Yes	Approved
Modera Neptune	360	1.72	209	Yes	Approved

Density Comparisons

City	Maximum Density in Coastal Zone (du/acre)
Oceanside	Unlimited
Carlsbad	40
Chula Vista	105
Del Mar	25
Encinitas	Varies by residential zone
National City	48
San Diego	Extremely varied; dictated by specific zones and Coastal Height Limit restricting structures to 30 feet in many areas
Solana Beach	20

Density of Existing/fully constructed Buildings

Project	Total Units	Acres	Density (du/acre)
Pierside North	66	1.17	56.41
Pierside South	110	1.14	96.49
Alta Oceanside	309	5.31	58.19

Downtown Unit Count – January 2026

Project Title	Number of Housing Units
Approved	
Alta Oceanside	309
North Freeman St Homes	5
Modera Neptune	360
901 Pier View	64
Sunsets 3.0	180
146 S Myers St	4
410 N Tremont St	3
806 Cleveland St	3
212 S Pacific St	2
712 Seagaze Dr	179
901 Mission Ave	273
401 Mission (Regal Cinema)	326
701 Freeman St	24
Blocks 5 and 20	373
810 Mission Ave	206
Total Approved	2311

Project Title	Number of Housing Units
Under Review	
801 Mission Ave	230
Rodeway Inn*	290
319 N Clementine St	2
215 S Myers St	4
217 S Myers St	4
Total Under Review	530
Total Approved + Under Review	2841
~Total Built (Oct 2023)	2300
Total Units per Existing Cap	5500
~Total Remaining Units	359

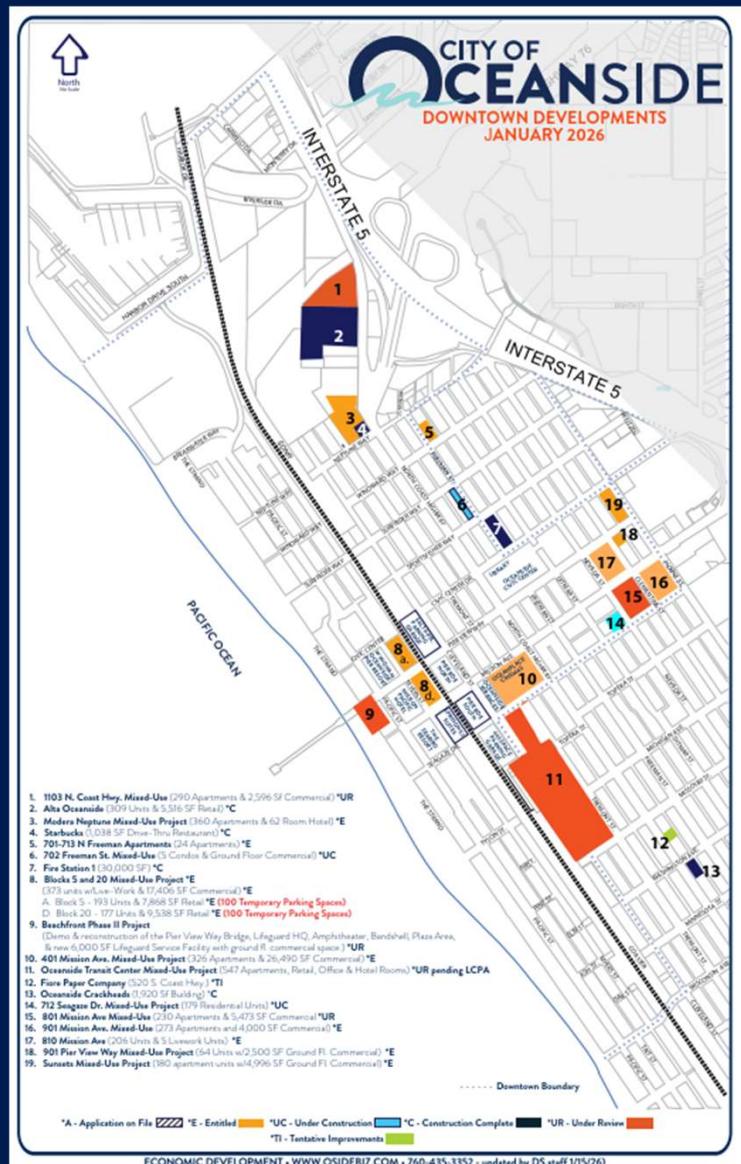
*Project likely to be withdrawn. Pending confirmation from applicant.

Downtown Unit Count for Approved and Under Review – January 2026

Project Title	Number of Housing Units
Approved	
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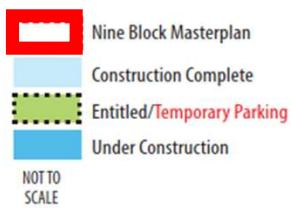


1. 1103 N. Coast Hwy. Mixed-Use (290 Apartments & 2,596 SF Commercial) *UR
2. Alta Oceanside (309 Units & 5,516 SF Retail) *C
3. Modera Neptune Mixed-Use Project (360 Apartments & 62 Room Hotel) *E
4. Starbucks (1,038 SF Drive-Thru Restaurant) *C
5. 701-713 N Freeman Apartments (24 Apartments) *E
6. 702 Freeman St. Mixed-Use (5 Condos & Ground Floor Commercial) *UC
7. Fire Station 1 (30,000 SF) *C
8. Blocks 5 and 20 Mixed-Use Project *E
 (373 units w/Live-Work & 17,406 SF Commercial) *E
 A. Block 5 - 193 Units & 7,868 SF Retail *E (100 Temporary Parking Spaces)
 D. Block 20 - 177 Units & 9,538 SF Retail *E (100 Temporary Parking Spaces)
9. Beachfront Phase II Project
 (Demo & reconstruction of the Pier View Way Bridge, Lifeguard HQ, Amphitheater, Bandshell, Plaza Area, & new 6,000 SF Lifeguard Service Facility with ground fl. commercial space.) *UR
10. 401 Mission Ave. Mixed-Use Project (326 Apartments & 26,490 SF Commercial) *E
11. Oceanside Transit Center Mixed-Use Project (547 Apartments, Retail, Office & Hotel Rooms) *UR pending LCPA
12. Fiore Paper Company (520 S. Coast Hwy.) *TI
13. Oceanside Crackheads (1,920 SF Building) *C
14. 712 Seagaze Dr. Mixed-Use Project (179 Residential Units) *UC
15. 801 Mission Ave Mixed-Use (230 Apartments & 5,473 SF Commercial) *UR
16. 901 Mission Ave. Mixed-Use (273 Apartments and 4,000 SF Commercial) *E
17. 810 Mission Ave (206 Units & 5 Livework Units) *E
18. 901 Pier View Way Mixed-Use Project (64 Units w/2,500 SF Ground Fl. Commercial) *E
19. Sunsets Mixed-Use Project (180 apartment units w/4,996 SF Ground Fl. Commercial) *E

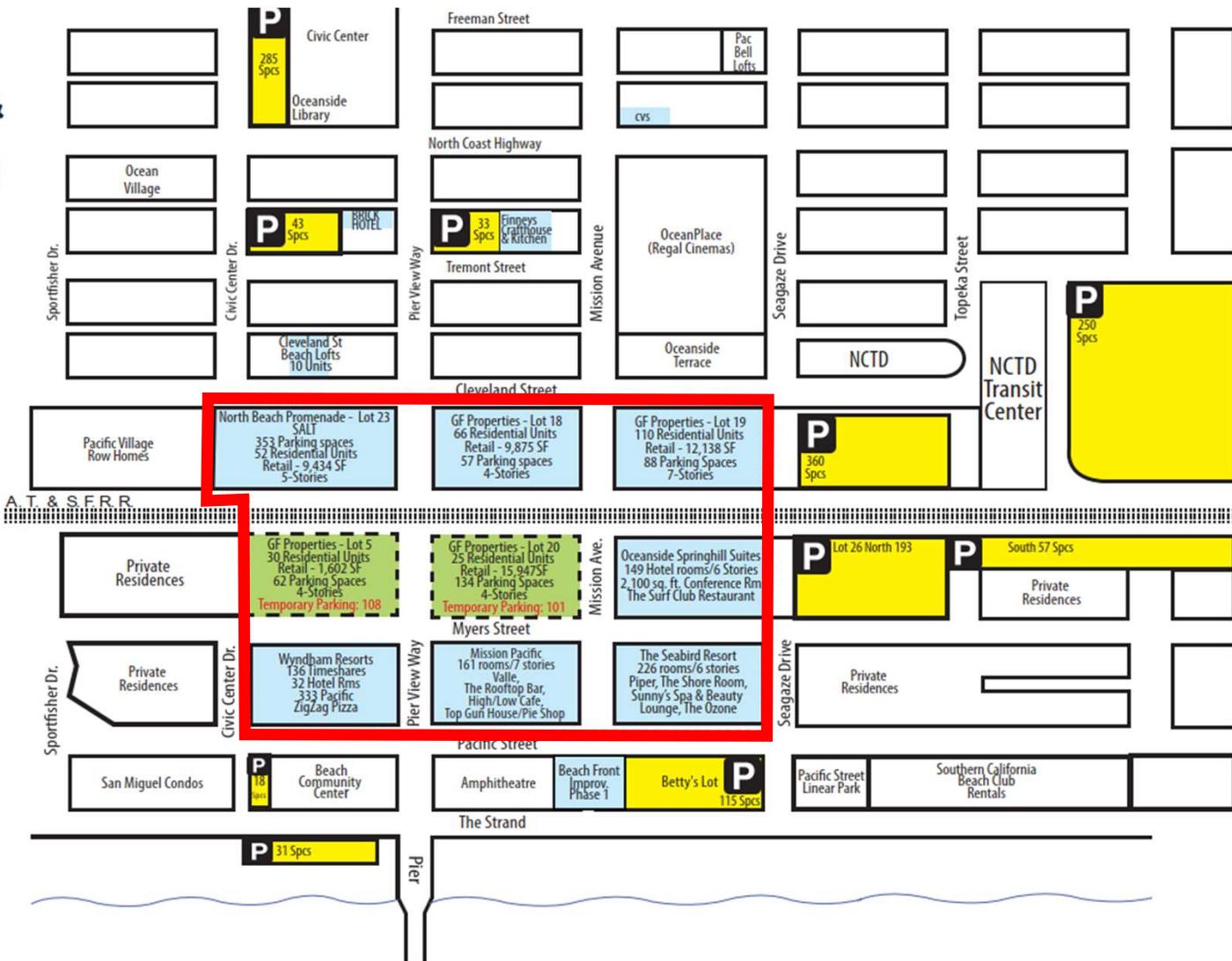
COAST HIGHWAY VISION PLAN



DOWNTOWN OCEANSIDE & 9 BLOCK MASTERPLAN



NOT TO
SCALE



Five Block Mixed-use Plan



Phase 1 – Coast Highway Corridor Improvements





DOWNTOWN PARKING LOTS

34 **320 North Tremont Street**
Four hour free parking 8am-6pm
Lot closed 2am-6am

35 **218 North Tremont Street** • 24-hour lot
Two hour free parking 8am-9pm

36 **101 North Ditmar Street** • 24-hour lot
Access from Seagaze Drive
72 hours maximum

CC* **Civic Center Parking Structure**
300 North Coast Highway
Access from 300 North Ditmar Street or 500 Civic Center Drive
Closed 2am-5am

PS* **Oceanside Transit Center Parking Structure**
290 Seagaze Drive
Open daily • Free parking all day
Closed 2am-4am

PS23* **City Parking Structure/SALT Apartments**
371 N. Cleveland Street
Open daily • \$5 all day or \$3 for two-hour parking in designated spots • Two-hour spaces exempt from all patrons pay requirement
Closed 2am - 4am



OCEANSIDE CULTURAL DISTRICT ASSETS

- 1 | Oceanside Museum of Art
704 Pier View Way
- 2 | Civis Center & Oceanside Public Library
330 N Coast Hwy.
- 3 | Star Theater
402 N Coast Hwy.
- 4 | Artists' Alley
Between N Coast Hwy. and N Freeman St. at Pier View Way
- 5 | Oceanside Theatre Company at the Brooks
217 N Coast Hwy.
- 6 | California Surf Museum
312 Pier View Way
- 7 | Rising Star Dance Company
302 Pier View Way
- 8 | Oceanside Pier and Junior Seau Amphitheater
200 N The Strand
- 9 | Regal Cinemas Oceanside 16
401 Mission Ave.
- 10 | Coastal Music Studio
425 S Coast Hwy.
- 11 | The Hill Street Country Club
Gallery at LinkSoul
530 S Coast Hwy.
- 12 | Oceanside Tattoo - The Arcade
604 Mission Ave.
- 13 | MainStreet Oceanside
701 Mission Ave.
- 14 | Oceanside Historical Society
305 N. Nevada St.

• WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN OCEANSIDE •



ECONOMIC IMPACT

THERE IS WIDE AGREEMENT IN OCEANSIDE THAT ARTS AND CULTURE HAVE A POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT. This takes multiple forms. Arts and culture support the city's tourism, providing an authentic identity and interesting experiences beyond the beach and relaxed atmosphere that visitors love. They also contribute to the community vitality that makes Oceanside attractive to employers and employees – helping make the city an interesting and rewarding place to live.

There are creative businesses in the city fueled by the work of creative professionals in sportswear, design, surfboard manufacturing, artisan foods and many other areas. This economic impact is well-supported by national research. *Americans for the Arts*' Arts and Economic Prosperity Study concludes that, "The arts are not a charity – they are an investment. While we believe in the value of the arts for their own sake, they are also an industry with a substantial return on investment (ROI). The ROI in state and local tax revenues far exceeds their investments."



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

THERE IS ALSO WIDE AGREEMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ARTS EDUCATION TO A CHILD'S WHOLE DEVELOPMENT.

Stated simply, arts education creates positive outcomes for students, including higher attendance, graduation rates, test scores, and empathy. Creativity is also the number one skill employers look for in 21st century workers. For some young people, arts education provides a positive alternative to unhealthy behaviors.



COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE FOR THE CITY

MANY IN OCEANSIDE WANT TO PRESERVE THE COMMUNITY'S UNIQUE CHARACTER IN RELATION TO OTHER COASTAL CITIES. They want to make a distinct statement through Oceanside's culture and to avoid the blandness that can accompany gentrification. Arts and culture are a primary way to distinguish Oceanside from nearby cities as well as its tourism competition.



EQUITY AND INCLUSION

ARTS AND CULTURE FORM NATURAL BRIDGES IN A DIVERSE COMMUNITY. Oceanside's annual ethnic festivals illustrate the value of shared cultural celebrations. They also highlight and celebrate part of what makes Oceanside unique as a coastal city.



COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

OCEANSIDE'S MANY ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS ARE FOCAL POINTS OF THE COMMUNITY. First Friday Art Walk, Noche Mexicana, and Oceanside International Film Festival are but a few examples of events that provide entertainment, stimulation, gathering points, learning, and opportunities to reinforce civic connections in a fragmented and busy world.

STRATEGY 1:

PROMOTE AND DEVELOP THE DOWNTOWN CULTURAL DISTRICT

The State of California's designation of Oceanside's downtown cultural district as one of the first fourteen in the state, is a great opportunity to leverage the potential of this place as a tool for economic development. Realizing gains in tourism, revitalization, and branding will all require targeted investment and management. Without these, the district is at risk of being designated but undeveloped, and not providing the intended benefits of cultural vitality and economic impact. Developing the downtown cultural district can also serve as a model for the creation of other cultural districts in Oceanside.

See Appendix B for more information on the Oceanside Cultural District.

SHORTER-TERM ACTIONS

1. ACTIVATE THE PARTNERSHIP OF THE OCEANSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY, OCEANSIDE MUSEUM OF ART AND MAINSTREET OCEANSIDE TO LEAD AND DEVELOP THE DISTRICT. Convene the partners to create an initial season of activities and events designed to generate greater visibility and attendance, building on existing events and organizations.

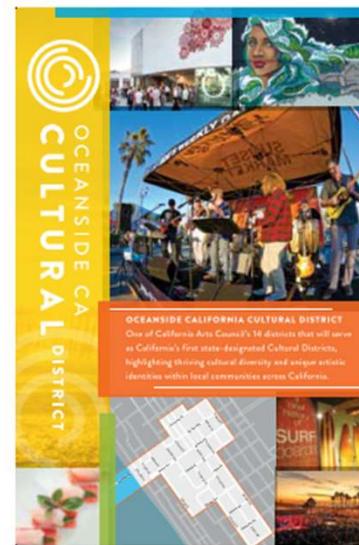
2. SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF MAINSTREET OCEANSIDE'S POTENTIAL PROPERTY BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AS THE FUTURE MANAGER OF THE DISTRICT. As MainStreet considers the formation of a Property Business Improvement District (PBID) it could include the downtown cultural district. While plans for the PBID are still evolving, this is a unique opportunity to create a management structure and revenue source for the downtown cultural district without calling on the City to devote general fund resources. In this approach, the property owners within the district conduct a vote to self-assess an annual, additional property tax to support services of mutual benefit. Services often include "clean and safe," those which add to the visitors' positive experience of the district. Clearly, the downtown cultural district can contribute more to their positive experience. In planning for the PBID, it is advisable to develop a shared governance structure based on the existing partnership and consider including Visit Oceanside as a partner. The partners can participate in PBID planning and advocacy and establish a business plan for the district, under MainStreet management.

3. CURATE ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES OF THE DISTRICT. Cultural districts depend on consistent programming and activities that enliven and define the place as an engaging cultural experience. Establish a small grants program through Arts Commission's current funding to produce or allow temporary art works, busking, artist-initiated projects, small scale events, informal concerts, public art and other ongoing activities. Address regulatory barriers to these activities.

4. ENGAGE PARTNERSHIPS WITH DISTRICT BUSINESSES, ARTISTS, ARTS ORGANIZATIONS, EVENT PRODUCERS, AND OTHERS. The partnerships and relationships will be essential to the success of the district and its community support. The list of cultural assets developed for the downtown cultural district is an excellent source of potential partners.

5. CREATE A MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE FOR THE CULTURAL DISTRICT. The district will require a dedicated staff person and budget for activation/programming, marketing, branding, and wayfinding. This function can potentially be fulfilled through a contract for services. The Oceanside Cultural District Executive Committee will share costs with the Steering Committee formed to include local district businesses and arts organizations. The City may seek grants to help support this cost.

Cross-reference: Goal 1, Strategy 2: Improve and coordinate arts and cultural marketing to visitors and residents. This should include a specific focus on marketing for the downtown cultural district.



LONGER-TERM ACTIONS

1. DEVELOP AN ICONIC CULTURAL FESTIVAL. The most frequently mentioned bold idea for Oceanside was an iconic festival. This festival should distinguish itself from other offerings in the San Diego region (e.g., Carlsbad Music Festival, Del Mar KAABOO, Encinitas Bro Am) by reflecting Oceanside's authentic character. An effective concept is to produce a festival organized around an overarching theme with sufficient lead time that allows Oceanside's arts community to align their programming. In this approach, arts organizations, artists, the Library, parks, MiraCosta College, MainStreet, businesses, restaurants, the school district, churches and others can choose to participate by programming around the theme during a festival time period, perhaps one to three months. While the festival can be centered in the downtown cultural district, it can include programming throughout the city. The central idea is that the theme allows broad community engagement with ideas that have strong resonance in Oceanside. Provide shared festival marketing and promotion. Because the festival is a major undertaking, it may be advisable to produce it every two to three years.

Examples of Bird-friendly Design Alternatives



Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Brooklyn, NY

Architect Firm: Weiss/Manfredi

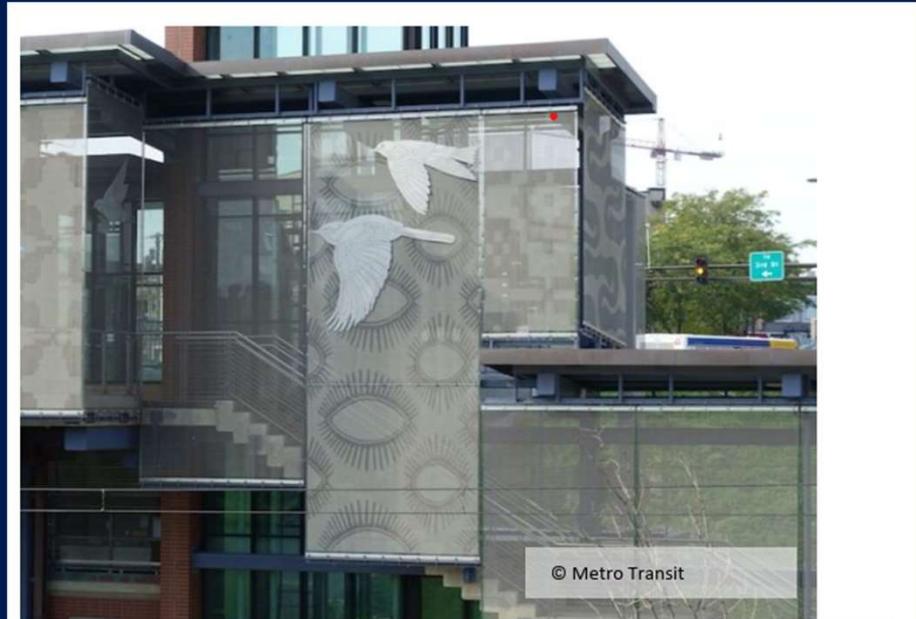
Type: Visitor center

Sq ft: 22,000

Bird-friendly features: Patterned glass, abundant (native) landscaping

Green features: High-energy performance, natural light, green roof, rainwater harvest

Certification: USGBC LEED Gold



West Bank Station

Minneapolis, MN

Artist: Nancy Blum

Type: Mass transit station

Sq ft: 334 of etching

Collision deterrence: 1/8" stainless steel panels and stainless wire mesh with etched images

City of Oceanside

Interim Tree Plan

September 2006

TREE LEGEND

Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistache 'Keith Davey'
Chionanthus retusus	Chinese Fringe Tree
Koelreuteria bipinnata	Chinese Flame Tree **
Washington robusta	Mexican Fan Palm
Cassia leptophylla	Gold Medallion Tree **
Tabebuia avellanedau	Pink Trumpet Tree
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistache 'Keith Davey'
Bauhinia blakeana	Hong Kong Orchid Tree
Cassia leptophylla	Gold Medallion Tree
Arubitus 'Marina'	No common name

www.ci.oceanside.ca.us Economic Development & Redevelopment 760-435-3352

NOTES: * Flowering accent allowed at Plazas

** Alternating with existing palms, replacement palms, or new palms in the R.O.W.
or as approved per R.D.A.

36" box minimum tree size with C.U. soils

New palm minimum 16 to 18 b.t.h. and skinned

TREE LEGEND

Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistache 'Keith Davey'
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