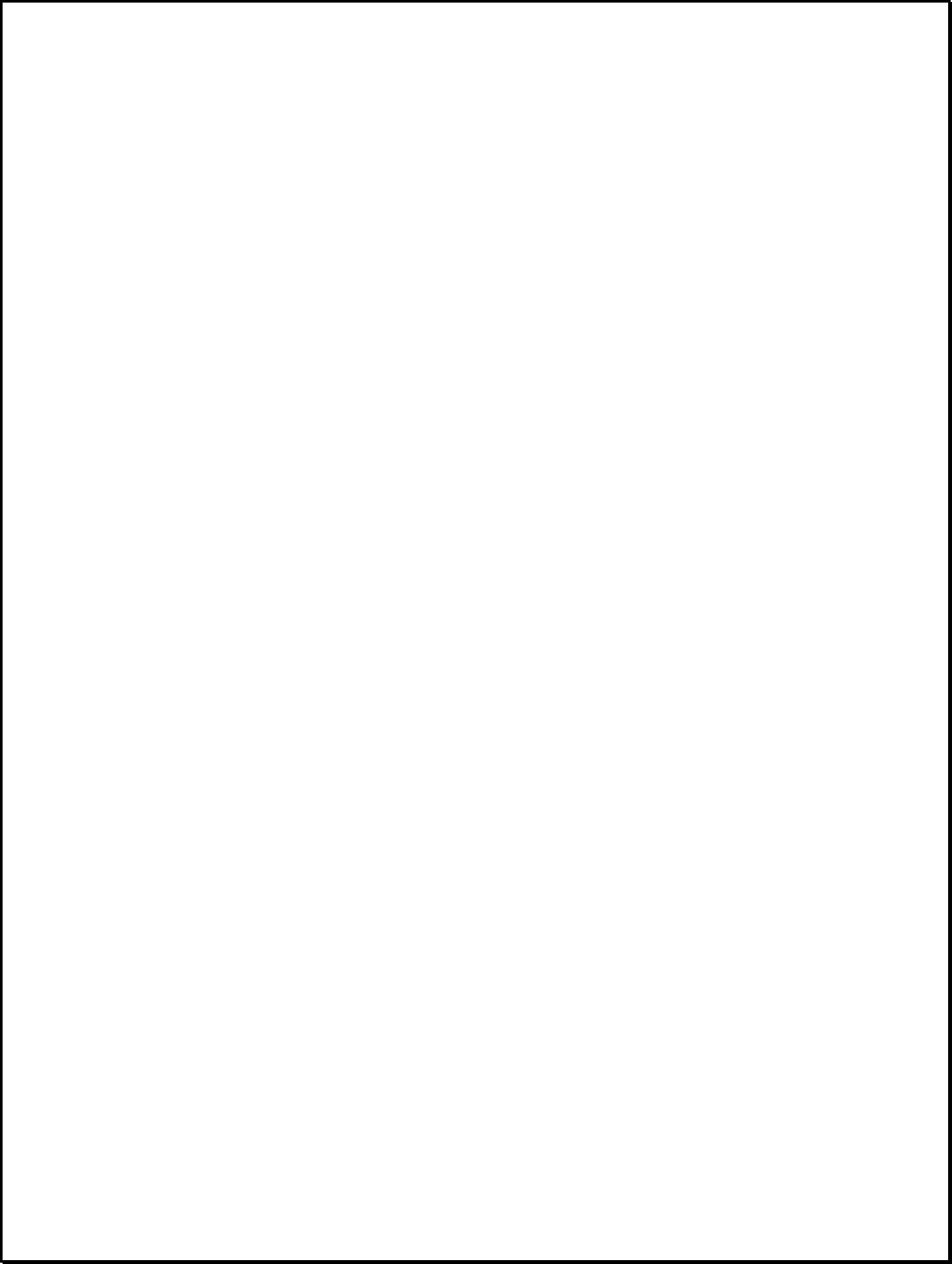


# **CITY OF SEAL BEACH**

## **2013-2021 Housing Element**

October 14, 2013

City Council Resolution No. 6416



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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Purpose of the Housing Element**

State law recognizes the vital role local governments play in the supply and affordability of housing. Each local government in California is required to adopt a comprehensive, long-term General Plan for the physical development of the city or county. The Housing Element is one of the seven mandated elements of the General Plan. Housing Element law, first enacted in 1969, mandates that local governments plan to meet the existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community. The law recognizes that, in order for the private market to adequately address housing needs, local governments must adopt land use plans and regulatory systems that provide opportunities for, and do not unduly constrain, housing development. As a result, housing policy in California rests largely upon the effective implementation of local General Plans and, in particular, local Housing Elements. Housing Element law also requires the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to review local housing elements and to report its written findings to local governments with respect to the Housing Element's conformance with state law.

As mandated by state law, the planning period for this Housing Element extends from 2013 to 2021. This Element identifies strategies and programs that focus on the following major goals:

- Facilitate the development of a variety of housing types for all income levels to meet the existing and future needs of residents;
- Assist in the development of adequate housing to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income households;
- Address and where appropriate and legally possible remove governmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement and development of housing;
- Maintain and enhance the existing quality of residential neighborhoods in Seal Beach;
- Promote equal housing opportunities for all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, marital status, or familial status.

The Housing Element consists of the following major components:

- An analysis of the City's demographic and housing characteristics and trends (Chapter II);
- An evaluation of land, financial, and administrative resources available to address the City's housing goals (Chapter III);
- A review of potential constraints, both governmental and non-governmental, to meeting the City's housing needs (Chapter IV); and
- A Housing Action Plan for the 2013-2021 planning period, including housing goals, policies and programs (Chapter V).

- A review of the City's accomplishments and progress in implementing the previous Housing Element is provided in Appendix A.

## **B. Data Sources and Methods**

In preparing the Housing Element various data sources are utilized. The decennial Census and the American Community Survey (ACS) provide the basis for population and household characteristics. Some population and housing unit data are also prepared by the California State Department of Finance (DOF). Employment data is available from the California Employment Development Department (EDD). Housing market information is drawn from both public agencies and private research organizations. City records also provide data regarding some issues such as units at risk of conversion and housing construction and demolition activity in the Coastal Zone.

## **C. Public Participation**

Section 65583(c)(5) of the *Government Code* states that "The local government shall make diligent effort to achieve public participation of all the economic segments of the community in the development of the housing element, and the program shall describe this effort." Public participation played an important role in the formulation and refinement of the City's housing goals and policies and in the development of a Land Use Plan which determines the extent and density of future residential development in the community.

City residents and interested stakeholders had many opportunities to participate in the Housing Element update process. In addition to meetings with the Planning Commission and City Council, the Ad Hoc General Plan/LCP Advisory Committee provided direction to City staff in the preparation of the Housing Element. Meeting notices were posted on the City's website, and notification was posted on the public notice board outside of City Hall at least 72 hours in advance of the meetings. Additionally, notice of the public hearings before the Planning Commission and City Council were published in the local newspaper. Copies of the draft Element were made available for review at City Hall and were posted on the City website, and notices were sent directly to agencies that serve the City's special needs populations. These service providers included organizations that represent the interests of low- and moderate-income households and persons with special needs. Please see Appendix C for more information regarding the public involvement process.

The following is a list of opportunities for public involvement in the preparation of this Housing Element update.



Ad Hoc Committee meeting	January 8, 2013
Planning Commission Study Session	April 3, 2013
City Council Study Session	April 22, 2013
Planning Commission Public Hearing	September 18, 2013
City Council Public Hearing	October 14, 2013

## **D. Consistency with Other Elements of the General Plan**

The Elements that comprise the Seal Beach General Plan are required to be internally consistent. Together these Elements provide the framework for development of facilities, services and land uses necessary to address the needs and desires of the City residents. The City will ensure consistency between the various General Plan elements and ensure policy direction introduced in one element is reflected in other plan elements. For example, residential development capacities established in the Land Use Element and constraints to development identified in the Safety/Noise Element are incorporated into the Housing Element. This Housing Element builds upon the other General Plan elements and is consistent with the policies and proposals set forth by the Plan. As the General Plan is amended from time to time, the City will review the Housing Element for internal consistency, and make any necessary revisions.

SB 1087 of 2005 requires cities to provide a copy of their Housing Elements to local water and sewer providers, and also requires that these agencies provide priority hookups for developments with lower-income housing. The Housing Element will be provided to these agencies immediately upon adoption.

Government Code Section 65302 requires that the Land Use Element be reviewed annually for consistency with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and state Department of Water Resources (DWR) flood hazard maps, and that amendments to the Safety and Conservation Elements that are required to address flood hazard issues be adopted upon the first amendment to the Housing Element after January 1, 2009.

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## **II. HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Meeting the various housing needs of residents is an important goal for Seal Beach. The first step to achieving this goal is understanding the housing needs in the community. This chapter will explore the various demographic and housing characteristics in the City in order to determine the nature and extent of the housing needs and lay the groundwork for policies and programs to address those needs.

The Housing Needs Assessment utilizes the most recent data from the U.S. Census, California Department of Finance (DOF), California Employment Development Department (EDD), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and other relevant sources. Supplemental data was obtained through field surveys or from private sources.

### **A. Community Context**

Seal Beach encompasses 11.4 square miles in northwestern Orange County south of Long Beach (in Los Angeles County) and north of Huntington Beach (see Figure II-1). Incorporated in 1915 primarily as a farming community, the City has grown while still maintaining its small town atmosphere. The population of the City remained relatively stable from 1915 to 1944 with little more than 1,000 residents. However in 1944 the U S Navy acquired half of the City to construct the Naval Weapons Station bringing new residents to Seal Beach. The population increased to more than 7,000 persons in 1954 with the development of the Marina Hill subdivision. In 1962, Leisure World retirement community was established with an estimated 9,000 senior residents. In 1966, a large housing tract referred to as College Park East was developed and added an additional 5,000 homeowners. Today, the population stands at an estimated 24,354 residents.

The demographic characteristics of Seal Beach have remained relatively stable over the past three decades. With the presence of Leisure World and many condominium developments catering to retired persons the City has a large number of elderly households. The City's prime beachfront location appeals to the affluent, both working and retired. Property values in Seal Beach increased as the City has become increasingly built out. Newcomers to the City who can afford high housing costs tend to be those of upper incomes or retired persons with substantial assets. However the City also has long-time residents who purchased their homes many years ago when real estate was still affordable. Many of these long-time residents may have difficulty in maintaining their homes.

The housing stock in Seal Beach consists of a mix of single-family and multi-family units with one mobile home park. Though a majority of the housing units are more than 40 years of age, housing is generally in good condition with the exception of some older beach areas and some units in the mobile home park.

Figure II-1 Regional Location Map



## B. Population Characteristics

### 1. Population Growth Trends

The population of Seal Beach has been stable for the past two decades. According to the U.S. Census, the city lost population between 1990 and 2000, while virtually no change occurred between 2000 and 2012. During this same time period, Orange County continued to grow, with an increase of about 18% during the 1990s and 7% during 2000-2012 (see Table II-1).

**Table II-1**  
**Population Trends, 1990-2012**  
**Seal Beach vs. Orange County**

	1990	2000	2012	Growth 1990-2000	Growth 2000-2012
Seal Beach	25,098	24,157	24,354	-4%	0.8%
Orange County	2,410,668	2,846,289	3,055,792	18%	7%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; California Dept. of Finance

### 2. Age

Housing needs are influenced by the age characteristics of the population. Different age groups require different accommodations based on lifestyle, family type, income level, and housing preference. Table II-2 shows the city's estimated population by age group. Compared to the county as a whole, Seal Beach has a significantly lower proportion of children and young adults and a much larger proportion of seniors. It is noteworthy that about 38% of Seal Beach residents were age 65 or over compared to just 12% for the county as a whole.

**Table II-2**  
**Age Distribution**  
**Seal Beach vs. Orange County**

Age Group	Seal Beach		Orange County		% of County
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Under 5 years	771	3.2%	191,691	6.4%	0.4%
5 to 9 years	841	3.5%	198,769	6.6%	0.4%
10 to 14 years	909	3.8%	210,195	7.0%	0.4%
15 to 19 years	935	3.9%	227,689	7.6%	0.4%
20 to 24 years	871	3.6%	213,601	7.1%	0.4%
25 to 29 years	952	3.9%	215,362	7.2%	0.4%
30 to 34 years	877	3.6%	198,166	6.6%	0.4%
35 to 39 years	982	4.1%	213,605	7.1%	0.5%
40 to 44 years	1,265	5.2%	225,438	7.5%	0.6%
45 to 49 years	1,376	5.7%	230,596	7.7%	0.6%
50 to 54 years	1,546	6.4%	213,589	7.1%	0.7%
55 to 59 years	1,676	6.9%	175,127	5.8%	1.0%
60 to 64 years	1,915	7.9%	146,727	4.9%	1.3%
65 to 69 years	1,796	7.4%	107,421	3.6%	1.7%
70 to 74 years	1,717	7.1%	80,033	2.7%	2.1%
75 to 79 years	1,662	6.9%	63,133	2.1%	2.6%
80 to 84 years	1,726	7.1%	49,570	1.6%	3.5%
85+ years	2,351	9.7%	49,520	1.6%	4.7%
Total	24,168	100%	3,010,232	100%	0.8%
Median age	57.3		36.2		

Source: 2010 Census Table DP-1

### 3. Race and Ethnicity

The racial and ethnic composition of the city differs from the county as a whole in that a significantly lower proportion of city residents are Hispanic/Latino or racial minorities. About 10% of city residents are Hispanic as compared to 34% for the county as a whole. Asians, at 9%, represent the largest non-Hispanic minority (Table II-3).

**Table II-3  
Race/Ethnicity  
Seal Beach vs. Orange County**

Racial/Ethnic Category	Seal Beach		Orange County	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
Not Hispanic or Latino				
-White	18,580	77%	1,328,499	44%
-Black or African American	255	1%	44,000	1%
-American Indian/Alaska Native	38	0.2%	6,216	0.2%
-Asian	2,273	9%	532,477	18%
-Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	52	0.2%	8,357	0.3%
-Other races or 2+ races	639	3%	77,710	3%
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	2,331	10%	1,012,973	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,168</b>		<b>3,010,232</b>	

Source: 2010 Census

## C. Household Characteristics

### 1. Household Composition and Size

Household characteristics are important indicators of the type and size of housing needed in a city. The Census defines a "household" as all persons occupying a housing unit, which may include single persons living alone, families related through marriage or blood, or unrelated persons sharing a single unit. Persons in group quarters such as dormitories, military barracks, prisons, retirement or convalescent homes, or other group living situations are included in population totals, but are not considered households.

Table II-4 provides a comparison of households by type for the city and Orange County as a whole, as reported in the 2010 Census. Family households comprised approximately 46% of all households in the city, significantly fewer than the county with 71%. Nearly half of all households in Seal Beach consisted of a single person living alone, compared to only 21% of county households. The high percentage of single-person households in Seal Beach is not surprising considering the large number of elderly residents.

**Table II-4  
Household Composition  
Seal Beach vs. Orange County**

Type	Seal Beach		Orange County	
	Households	%	Households	%
<b>Family households:</b>	5,962	45.8%	708,491	71.4%
Husband-wife family	4,891	37.6%	538,268	54.2%
With own children under 18 years	1,368	10.5%	258,719	26.1%
Male householder, no wife present	283	2.2%	54,615	5.5%
With own children under 18 years	122	0.9%	22,972	2.3%
Female householder, no husband present	788	6.1%	115,608	11.6%
With own children under 18 years	264	2.0%	53,896	5.4%
<b>Nonfamily households:</b>	7,055	54.2%	284,290	28.6%
Householder living alone	6,312	48.5%	207,849	20.9%
Households with individuals under 18 years	1,866	14.3%	375,387	37.8%
Households with individuals 65 years and over	7,238	55.6%	252,420	25.4%
<b>Total households</b>	13,017	100%	992,781	100%
Average household size	1.84		2.99	

Source: 2010 Census, Table DP-1

## 2. Housing Tenure

Housing tenure (owner vs. renter) is an important indicator of the housing market. Communities need an adequate supply of units available both for rent and for sale in order to accommodate a range of households with varying income, family size and composition, and lifestyle. Table II-5 shows that three-quarters of housing units in Seal Beach are owner-occupied compared to 59% for the county as a whole.

**Table II-5  
Household Tenure –  
Seal Beach vs. Orange County**

Tenure	Seal Beach		Orange County	
	Units	%	Units	%
Owner Occupied	9,713	75%	588,313	59%
Renter Occupied	3,304	25%	404,468	41%
<b>Total occupied units</b>	13,017	100%	992,781	100%

Source: 2010 Census, Table DP-1

## 3. Overcrowding

Overcrowding is often closely related to household income and the cost of housing. The U.S. Census Bureau considers a household to be overcrowded when there is more than one person per room, excluding bathrooms and kitchens, with severe overcrowding when there are more than 1.5 occupants per room. Table II-6 summarizes overcrowding for the City of Seal Beach compared to Orange County as a whole.



**Table II-6  
Overcrowding –  
Seal Beach vs. Orange County**

Household Tenure	Seal Beach		Orange County	
	Households	%	Households	%
Owner-Occupied	9,839	100.0%	599,032	100.0%
Overcrowded	7	0.1%	18,297	3.1%
Severely overcrowded	0	0.0%	6,489	1.1%
Renter-Occupied	2,984	100.0%	385,471	100.0%
Overcrowded	68	2.3%	38,874	10.1%
Severely overcrowded	0	0.0%	26,217	6.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 ACS, Table B25014

The incidence of overcrowding is very low in Seal Beach, with just over 2% of rental units and almost no owner-occupied units reporting overcrowding. None reported severe overcrowding.

The relatively high cost of housing in Seal Beach and throughout the region is considered to be the primary cause of overcrowding. Several programs in the Housing Action Plan (Chapter V) designed to address housing affordability will also help to alleviate overcrowding. These programs include 1a (Provision of Adequate Sites), 1c (Second Units), 2b (Affordable Housing Resources), 2d (Preserve the Existing Affordable Housing Stock), 3a (Section 8 Rental Assistance), 3d (SRO Housing), and 5c (Housing Information and Referral).

#### **4. Overpayment**

According to state housing policy, overpaying occurs when housing costs exceed 30% of gross household income. Table II-7 displays recent estimates for overpayment by Seal Beach households. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), about 30% of all lower-income renter households and about 81% of all lower-income owner households in Seal Beach were overpaying for housing. For households of all income levels, 27% of renters and 42% of owners were overpaying.

Although homeowners enjoy income and property tax deductions and other benefits that help to compensate for high housing costs, lower-income homeowners may need to defer maintenance or repairs due to limited funds, which can lead to deterioration. For lower-income renters, severe cost burden can require families to double up resulting in overcrowding and related problems.

**Table II-7  
Overpayment by Income Category**

Income Category	Owners		Renters	
	Households	%	Households	%
Extremely low households	700		155	
Households overpaying	550	78.6%	155	100.0%
Very low households	3,130		570	
Households overpaying	875	28.0%	420	73.7%
Low households	1,655		375	
Households overpaying	195	11.8%	310	82.7%
<b>All lower-income households</b>	<b>5,485</b>		<b>1,100</b>	
<b>Households overpaying</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>29.5%</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>80.5%</b>
Moderate-income households	1,215		555	
Households overpaying	285	23.5%	115	20.7%
Above-moderate households	2,845		955	
Households overpaying	655	23.0%	90	9.4%
All households	9,545		2,610	
Households overpaying	2,560	26.8%	1,090	41.8%

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, CHAS, based on the 2006-2008 ACS. Table 15

The relatively high cost of housing in Seal Beach and throughout the region is the primary cause of overpayment. Several programs in the Housing Action Plan (Chapter V) designed to address housing affordability will also help to address this issue. These programs include 1a (Provision of Adequate Sites), 1c (Second Units), 2b (Affordable Housing Resources), 2d (Preserve the Existing Affordable Housing Stock), 3a (Section 8 Rental Assistance), 3d (SRO Housing), and 5c (Housing Information and Referral).

### Extremely Low Income Households

State law requires quantification and analysis of existing and projected housing needs of extremely-low-income (ELI) households. Extremely-low-income is defined as households with income less than 30% of area median income. The area median income for Orange County in 2012 was reported as \$85,300<sup>1</sup>. For extremely-low-income households in Orange County, this results in an income of \$28,900 or less for a four-person household, when adjusted for high housing costs. Households with extremely-low-income have a variety of housing situations and needs.

### Existing Needs

As noted in the previous section, it is estimated that approximately 855 extremely-low income households resided in Seal Beach (Table II-7). HUD reported that 79% of extremely-low-income renter households were overpaying, while 100% of extremely-low-income owners were overpaying.

<sup>1</sup> California HCD, Official State Income Limits for 2012, Income limits are adjusted for high housing costs in Orange County.

## Projected Needs

The projected housing need for extremely-low-income households is assumed to be 50% of the very-low-income regional housing need of one unit. As a result, the City has a projected need for one extremely-low-income unit for the current planning period. The resources and programs to address this need are the same as for low-income housing in general and are discussed throughout the Housing Element, including Chapter V, the Housing Action Plan. Because the needs of extremely-low-income households overlap extensively with other special needs groups, further analysis and resources for extremely low income households can be found in Chapter IV, Constraints, Section A.1.d. (Special Needs Housing).

## D. Employment

Employment is an important factor affecting housing needs within a community. The jobs available in each employment sector and the wages for these jobs affect the type and size of housing residents can afford.

### 1. Current Employment

Current employment and projected job growth have a significant influence on housing needs during this planning period. Table II-8 shows that about 47% of Seal Beach residents age 16+ were in the labor force, compared to 67% for Orange County as a whole. The lower labor force participation rate in the city is attributable to the large population of retired residents.

**Table II-8  
Labor Force –  
Seal Beach vs. Orange County**

Labor Force Status	Seal Beach		Orange County	
	Persons	Percent	Persons	Percent
Population 16 years and over	21,409	100.0%	2,315,782	100.0%
In labor force	10,016	46.8%	1,559,264	67.3%
Civilian labor force	9,865	46.1%	1,556,696	67.2%
Employed	9,221	93.5%	1,442,008	92.6%
Unemployed	644	6.5%	114,688	7.4%
Armed Forces	151	0.7%	2,568	0.1%
Not in labor force	11,393	53.2%	756,518	32.7%

Source: Bureau of the Census, 2006-2010 American Community Survey, Table DP-3

Approximately 57% of the city's working residents were employed in management and professional occupations compared to 39% for the county as a whole (Table II-9). A significant percentage of workers (25%) were employed in sales and office related occupations, which is similar to the county. A relatively low number of workers (10%) were

employed in service related occupations. Blue collar occupations such as construction, maintenance, production and transportation occupations constituted about 8% of the city's workforce compared to 18% for the county as a whole.

**Table II-9**  
**Employment by Occupation – Seal Beach vs. Orange County**

Occupation	Seal Beach		Orange County	
	Jobs	Percent	Jobs	Percent
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	5,262	57.1%	568,087	39.4%
Service occupations	904	9.8%	224,743	15.6%
Sales and office occupations	2,279	24.7%	392,314	27.2%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	449	4.9%	105,652	7.3%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	327	3.5%	151,212	10.5%
Total civilian employed population 16 years and over	9,221	100%	1,442,008	100%

Source: Bureau of the Census, 2006-2010 American Community Survey, Table DP-3.

## 2. Projected Job Growth

Future housing needs are affected by the number and type of new jobs created during this planning period. Table II-10 shows projected job growth by industry for the Santa Ana-Anaheim-Irvine MSA (Orange County) for the period 2008-2018. Total employment in Orange County is expected to grow by 8.4% during this 10-year period. The overall growth is expected to add 135,500 new jobs and bring the total employment in Orange County to approximately 1.75 million by 2018.

**Table II-10**  
**Projected Job Growth by Industry, 2008-2018 –**  
**Santa Ana-Anaheim-Irvine Metropolitan Statistical Area**

NAICS Code	Industry Title	Annual Average Employment		Employment Change	
		2008	2018	Jobs	Percent
	Total Employment	1,620,600	1,756,100	135,500	8.4
	Self Employment (A)	124,300	127,800	3,500	2.8
	Unpaid Family Workers (B)	1,200	1,300	100	8.3
	Private Household Workers (C)	8,900	13,000	4,100	46.1
	Total Farm	4,600	4,600	0	0.0
	Total Nonfarm	1,481,600	1,609,400	127,800	8.6
1133,21	Mining and Logging	600	600	0	0.0
23	Construction	91,200	99,500	8,300	9.1
31-33	Manufacturing	174,100	168,000	-6,100	-3.5
22,42-49	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	271,600	292,800	21,200	7.8
42	Wholesale Trade	86,700	92,000	5,300	6.1
44-45	Retail Trade	155,600	168,700	13,100	8.4
22,48-49	Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	29,300	32,100	2,800	9.6
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	25,400	27,300	1,900	7.5
51	Information	30,100	29,800	-300	-1.0
52-53	Financial Activities	113,100	118,100	5,000	4.4
52	Finance and Insurance	76,100	80,500	4,400	5.8
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	37,000	37,600	600	1.6
54-56	Professional and Business Services	266,600	300,100	33,500	12.6
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	26,100	27,000	900	3.4
56	Admin/Support and Waste Mgmt & Remediation	124,500	136,400	11,900	9.6
61-62	Education Svcs, Health Care, and Social Assistance	150,700	183,900	33,200	22.0
61	Educational Services (Private)	23,600	27,400	3,800	16.1
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	127,100	156,500	29,400	23.1
71-72	Leisure and Hospitality	176,400	195,900	19,500	11.1
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	36,800	40,500	3,700	10.1
72	Accommodation and Food Services	139,700	155,400	15,700	11.2
81	Other Svcs (excludes Private Household Workers)	46,500	49,600	3,100	6.7
	Government	160,800	171,100	10,300	6.4
	Federal Government	11,700	11,600	-100	-0.9
	State and Local Government	149,000	159,500	10,500	7.0
	State Government	28,000	31,500	3,500	12.5
	Local Government	121,000	128,000	7,000	5.8

Source: California Employment Development Department, March 2009 Benchmark

Industry detail may not add up to totals due to independent rounding

(A) Self-Employed persons work for profit or fees in their own business, profession, trade, or farm. Only the unincorporated self-employed are included in this category. The estimated and projected employment numbers include all workers who are primarily self-employed and wage and salary workers who hold a secondary job as a self-employed worker.

(B) Unpaid family workers are those persons who work without pay for 15 or more hours per week on a farm or in a business operated by a member of the household to whom they are related by birth or marriage.

(C) Private Household Workers are employed as domestic workers whose primary activities are to maintain the household.

Industry employment is based on the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program.

### **3. Jobs-Housing Balance**

A regional balance of jobs to housing helps to provide opportunities for people to live near their workplace, and reduce long-distance commuting. When the number of jobs significantly exceeds the housing supply, housing markets may become overheated, requiring households to pay a larger percentage of their income for housing. The current jobs-housing objective within the SCAG region is one new housing unit for every 1.5 jobs.<sup>2</sup>

According to recent Census data, there were approximately 11,565 jobs in Seal Beach, or about 0.8 jobs per housing unit, substantially lower than the regional objective.

## **E. Housing Stock Characteristics**

This section presents an evaluation of the characteristics of the community's housing stock and helps in identifying and prioritizing needs. The factors evaluated include the number and type of housing units, recent growth trends, age and condition, tenure, vacancy, housing costs, affordability, and assisted affordable units at-risk of loss due to conversion to market-rate. A housing unit is defined as a house, apartment, mobile home, or group of rooms, occupied as separate living quarters, or if vacant, intended for occupancy as separate living quarters.

### **1. Housing Type and Growth Trends**

The largest component of the housing stock in Seal Beach is comprised of multi-family units in large (5+) complexes, with 44% of total units in 2010. Single-family detached homes made up about one-third of all units. Table II-11 provides a breakdown of the housing stock by type along with growth trends for the city compared to Orange County as a whole for the period 2000-2010. During this time period, the city added 279 housing units, an average of about 28 units per year. This represented just 2% growth in the housing stock compared to 7% for the entire county, which reflects the lack of vacant developable land in Seal Beach.

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<sup>2</sup> SCAG 2008 Regional Comprehensive Plan, Land Use & Housing Chapter

**Table II-11**  
**Housing by Type, 2000-2010 –**  
**Seal Beach vs. Orange County**

Structure Type	2000		2010		Growth	
	Units	%	Units	%	Units	%
<b>Seal Beach</b>						
Single-family detached	4,539	32%	4,711	32%	172	62%
Single-family attached	2,121	15%	2,121	15%	0	0%
Multi-family 2-4 units	1,169	8%	1,160	8%	(9)	-3%
Multi-family 5+ units	6,275	44%	6,390	44%	115	41%
Mobile homes	163	1%	164	1%	1	0%
Total units	14,267	100%	14,546	100%	279	100%
<b>Orange County</b>						
Single-family detached	489,657	51%	521,768	50%	32,111	45%
Single-family attached	124,702	13%	130,118	13%	5,416	8%
Multi-family 2-4 units	88,804	9%	91,400	9%	2,596	4%
Multi-family 5+ units	233,871	24%	265,146	25%	31,275	44%
Mobile homes	32,450	3%	32,112	3%	-338	0%
Total units	969,484	100%	1,040,544	100%	71,060	100%

Source: Cal. Dept. of Finance, Table E-5, 2011

## 2. Housing Age and Conditions

Housing age is often an important indicator of housing condition. Housing units built prior to 1978 before stringent limits on the amount of lead in paint were imposed may have interior or exterior building components coated with lead-based paint. Housing units built before 1970 are the most likely to need rehabilitation and to have lead-based paint in deteriorated condition. Lead-based paint becomes hazardous to children under age six and to pregnant women when it peels off walls or is pulverized by windows and doors opening and closing.

Table II-12 shows the age distribution of the housing stock in Seal Beach compared to Orange County as a whole.

This table shows that about three-quarters of all housing units in Seal Beach were constructed prior to 1970. Even though the majority of homes are more than 40 years old, housing conditions are generally good to excellent, and very few homes are in need of any significant repair. The City's Code Enforcement activities focus on maintaining a high quality of life for residents and visitors. Most enforcement activities are complaint-driven, although ongoing monitoring occurs in the Seal Beach Shores Trailer Park. It is estimated that approximately 10 mobile homes in the park are in need of some form of rehabilitation. Programs 2d and 4a in the Housing Action Plan are intended to address these needs.

**Table II-12**  
**Age of Housing Stock by Tenure –**  
**Seal Beach vs. Orange County**

Year Built	Seal Beach		Orange County	
	Units	%	Units	%
2005 or later	62	0.4%	15,683	1.5%
2000-04	152	1.1%	61,917	6.0%
1990-99	316	2.2%	120,826	11.7%
1980-89	775	5.4%	165,806	16.1%
1970-79	2,072	14.5%	260,882	25.4%
1960-69	7,329	51.3%	216,048	21.0%
1950-59	2,308	16.2%	135,124	13.1%
1940-49	972	6.8%	26,544	2.6%
1939 or earlier	302	2.1%	25,660	2.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 ACS

### 3. Vacancy Rates

According to the U.S. Census Bureau<sup>3</sup>, the vacancy rate in Seal Beach during the 2006-2010 period averaged 1.4% for owner-occupied units and 6.7% for rental units. A rental vacancy rate of 5% is considered typical for a healthy housing market. Since many rental units in beach communities are used for short-term vacation use, a higher than normal vacancy rate is not considered unusual.

### 4. Housing Cost

#### a. Housing Affordability Criteria

State law establishes five income categories for purposes of housing programs based on the area (i.e., county) median income ("AMI"): extremely-low (30% or less of AMI), very-low (31-50% of AMI), low (51-80% of AMI), moderate (81-120% of AMI) and above moderate (over 120% of AMI). Housing affordability is based on the relationship between household income and housing expenses. Each year the California Department of Housing and Community Development publishes income guidelines for these income categories. Housing is generally considered "affordable" if the monthly payment is no more than 30% of a household's gross income. In some areas (such as Orange County), these income limits may be increased to adjust for high housing costs.

Table II-13 shows affordable rent levels and estimated affordable purchase prices for housing in Orange County for 2012 by income category. Based on state-adopted standards, the maximum affordable monthly rent (including utilities) for extremely-low-income households is \$723, while the maximum affordable rent for very-low-income households is \$1,204. The maximum affordable rent for low-income households is \$1,926, while the maximum for moderate-income households is \$2,559. All figures are based on a family of four, and affordable housing costs are adjusted for smaller or larger households.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 ACS, Table DP-4



Affordable purchase prices are more difficult to determine due to variations in mortgage interest rates and qualifying procedures, down payments, special tax assessments, homeowner association fees, property insurance rates, etc. With this caveat, the affordable home purchase prices by income category shown in Table II-13 have been estimated based on typical conditions. Affordable purchase prices for the lowest income categories have not been estimated due to the high housing costs in beach communities.

**Table II-13**  
**Income Categories and Affordable Housing Costs, 2012 –**  
**Orange County**

2012 County Median Income = \$85,300	Income Limits	Affordable Rent	Affordable Price (est.)
Extremely Low (<30%)	\$28,900	\$723	--
Very Low (31-50%)	\$48,150	\$1,204	--
Low (51-80%)	\$77,050	\$1,926	\$300,000
Moderate (81-120%)	\$102,350	\$2,559	\$400,000
Above moderate (120%+)	>\$102,350	>\$2,559	>\$400,000

Assumptions:

-Based on a family of 4

-30% of gross income for rent or Principal/Interest/Taxes/Insurance

-10% down payment, 4.5% interest, 1.25% taxes & insurance, \$200 HOA dues

Source: Cal. HCD, 2012; J.H. Douglas & Associates

## **b. For-Sale Housing**

Existing housing resale price statistics for the third quarter of 2012 reported a median single-family detached price of \$700,000 and a median condo price of \$215,000. Based on the estimated affordable purchase prices shown in Table II-14, these statistics confirm that the typical single-family detached house in Seal Beach is not affordable to low- or moderate-income households. However, with interest rates at historic lows, many resale condos may be within the moderate- or even the low-income range. This is likely attributable to the large number of modestly-sized condos located in the Leisure World retirement community.

## **c. Rental Housing**

A recent survey of rental housing in Seal Beach found listings offered from \$795 to over \$4,000 per month, with most units in the \$1,200 to \$2,500 range. When market rents are compared to the amounts low-income households can afford to pay (Table II-14), it is clear that lower-income households have a difficult time finding suitable housing without overpaying. However, at the moderate-income levels, households are much more likely to find affordable rentals.

## **F. Special Needs**

Certain groups have greater difficulty in finding decent, affordable housing due to special circumstances. Such circumstances may be related to one's employment and income, family characteristics, disability, or other conditions. As a result, some Seal Beach residents may experience a higher prevalence of overpayment, overcrowding, or other housing problems.

State Housing Element law defines "special needs" groups to include persons with disabilities (including developmental disabilities), the elderly, large households, female-headed households with children, homeless people, and farm workers. Many households within these special needs groups also fall within the extremely-low-income category. This section contains a discussion of the housing needs facing each of these groups.

### **1. Persons with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a disabled person as having a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Disabled persons may have special housing needs as a result of their disability. Problems may include low income, high health care costs, dependency on supportive services, or a need for special building accommodations such as access ramps or elevators.

Table II-17 shows disability data for Seal Beach residents in 2000<sup>4</sup>. As would be expected, the highest rates of disabilities were reported by those aged 65 and over. Housing opportunities for those with disabilities can be improved through housing assistance programs and universal design features such as widened doorways, ramps, lowered countertops, single-level units and ground floor units.

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<sup>4</sup> The Census Bureau has not published detailed data regarding disabilities since the 2000 Census.

**Table II-14**  
**Persons with Disabilities by Age Group**

Disability by Age	Disabilities	%
Age 5 to 15 - total persons <sup>1</sup>	2,125	
With a sensory disability	37	2%
With a physical disability	15	1%
With a mental disability	62	3%
With a self-care disability	24	1%
Age 16 to 64 - total persons <sup>1</sup>	12,278	
With a sensory disability	190	2%
With a physical disability.	507	4%
With a mental disability	260	2%
With a self-care disability	64	1%
With a go-outside-the-home disability	315	3%
With an employment disability	890	7%
Age 65 and over - total persons <sup>1</sup>	3,873	
With a sensory disability	1,373	35%
With a physical disability.	2,115	55%
With a mental disability	787	20%
With a self-care disability	596	15%
With a go-outside-the-home disability	1,324	34%

Source: 2000 Census, SF3 Tables P8 and P41

Note: Numbers in shaded rows represent persons, not disabilities. Persons may report more than one disability

### Developmentally Disabled

As defined by federal law, "developmental disability" means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that:

- Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
- Is manifested before the individual attains age 22;
- Is likely to continue indefinitely;
- Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: a) self-care; b) receptive and expressive language; c) learning; d) mobility; e) self-direction; f) capacity for independent living; or g) economic self-sufficiency;
- Reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

The Census does not record developmental disabilities. According to the U.S. Administration on Developmental Disabilities, an accepted estimate of the percentage of the population that can be defined as developmentally disabled is 1.5 percent. Many

developmentally disabled persons can live and work independently within a conventional housing environment. More severely disabled individuals require a group living environment where supervision is provided. The most severely affected individuals may require an institutional environment where medical attention and physical therapy are provided. Because developmental disabilities exist before adulthood, the first issue in supportive housing for the developmentally disabled is the transition from the person's living situation as a child to an appropriate level of independence as an adult.

The State Department of Developmental Services (DDS) currently provides community-based services to approximately 243,000 persons with developmental disabilities and their families through a statewide system of 21 regional centers, four developmental centers, and two community-based facilities. The Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC) is one of 21 regional centers in the State of California that provides point of entry to services for people with developmental disabilities. The RCOC is a private, non-profit community agency that contracts with local businesses to offer a wide range of services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Any resident of Orange County who has a developmental disability that originated before age 18 is eligible for services. Services are offered to people with developmental disabilities based on Individual Program Plans and may include: Adult day programs; advocacy; assessment/consultation; behavior management programs; diagnosis and evaluation; independent living services; infant development programs; information and referrals; mobility training; prenatal diagnosis; residential care; respite care; physical and occupational therapy; transportation; consumer, family vendor training; and vocational training. RCOC also coordinates the state-mandated Early Start program, which provides services for children under age three who have or are at substantial risk of having a developmental disability. According to the RCOC February 2010 Facts and Statistics data, the RCOC served more than 16,700 individuals. Of those individuals, a total of 61 individuals resided in Seal Beach in 2012.<sup>5</sup>

The mission of the Dayle McIntosh Center is to advance the empowerment, equality, integration and full participation of people with disabilities in the community. The Center is not a residential program, but instead promotes the full integration of disabled persons into the community. Dayle McIntosh Center is a consumer-driven organization serving all disabilities. Its staff and board are composed of over 50% of people with disabilities. Its two offices service over 500,000 people in Orange County and surrounding areas with disabilities. The main office in Garden Grove is located in close proximity to Seal Beach.

In addition, City housing programs that respond to the needs of this population include 1d (Emergency Shelters and Transitional/Supportive Housing) and 3a (Section 8 Rental Assistance).

## **2. Elderly**

The ACS reported 65% owner-occupied households but only 18% of renter-occupied households in Seal Beach where the householder was 65 or older (Table II-15 ). The unusually high number of senior households in Seal Beach is in large part attributable to

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<sup>5</sup> Personal communication with Jack Stanton, RCOC Chief Counselor, 2012

the presence of the Leisure World community. Many elderly persons are dependent on fixed incomes and/or have a disability. Elderly homeowners may be physically unable to maintain their homes or cope with living alone. The housing needs of this group can be addressed through smaller units, second units on lots with existing homes, shared living arrangements, congregate housing and housing assistance programs.

The following programs described in the Housing Action Plan (Chapter V) help to address the housing needs of the elderly: 1a (Provision of Adequate Sites), 1c (Second Units), 2b (Affordable Housing Resources), 2d (Preserve the Existing Affordable Housing Stock), 3a (Section 8 Rental Assistance), 3c (Affordability Covenants on City or Redevelopment Agency-Assisted Housing), 3d (SRO Housing), 4a (Owner-Occupied Home Improvements), 5b (Removal of Architectural Barriers), and 5c (Housing Information and Referral).

**Table II-15**  
**Elderly Households by Tenure**

Householder Age	Owners		Renters	
	Households	%	Households	%
Under 65 years	3,444	35%	2,422	81%
65 to 74 years	2,007	20%	188	6%
75 to 84 years	2,834	29%	214	7%
85 and over	1,554	16%	160	5%
Total households	9,839	100%	2,984	100%

Source: 2006-2010 ACS Table B25007

### 3. Large Households

Household size is an indicator of need for large units. Large households are defined as those with five or more members. Census data showed that nearly half of all owner-occupied households in Seal Beach were comprised of a single person, while only 3% of owner households had five or more persons. About 4% of renter households had five or more members (Table II-16 ). This distribution indicates that the need for large units with three or more bedrooms is significantly less than for smaller units.

**Table II-16**  
**Household Size by Tenure –**  
**Seal Beach vs. Orange County**

Household Size	Owners		Renters	
	Households	%	Households	%
1 person	4,886	49.7%	1,345	45.1%
2 persons	3,329	33.8%	1,036	34.7%
3 persons	683	6.9%	291	9.8%
4 persons	658	6.7%	196	6.6%
5 persons	234	2.4%	81	2.7%
6 persons	39	0.4%	35	1.2%
7+ persons	10	0.1%	0	0.0%
Total households	9,839	100%	2,984	100%

Source: 2000 Census, SF3 Table H17

While large households are far less prevalent in Seal Beach than in some other cities, the following programs described in the Housing Action Plan (Chapter V) help to address these needs: 1a (Provision of Adequate Sites), 2b (Affordable Housing Resources), 2d (Preserve the Existing Affordable Housing Stock), 3a (Section 8 Rental Assistance), and 5c (Housing Information and Referral).

#### 4. Female-Headed Households

Recent Census Bureau estimates reported that more than half of both renter and owner households were “non-families” (i.e., single persons living alone or unrelated persons). About 4% of owner households and 8% of renter households were families headed by a female (Table II-17).

**Table II-17**  
**Household Type by Tenure**

Household Type	Owners		Renters	
	Households	%	Households	%
Married couple family	4,099	41.7%	909	30.5%
Male householder, no wife present	114	1.2%	144	4.8%
<b>Female householder, no husband present</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>5.0%</b>
Non-family households	5,249	53.3%	1,781	59.7%
Total households	9,839	100.0%	2,984	100.0%

Source: 2006-2010 ACS Table B11012

The following programs described in the Housing Action Plan (Chapter V) help to address the housing needs of female-headed households: 1a (Provision of Adequate Sites), 1c (Second Units), 2b (Affordable Housing Resources), 2d (Preserve the Existing Affordable Housing Stock), 3a (Section 8 Rental Assistance), and 5c (Housing Information and Referral).

## **5. Farm Workers**

Farm workers are traditionally defined as persons whose primary income is from seasonal agricultural work. Historically, Orange County's economy was linked to agriculture. While there are still active farming areas on the Irvine Ranch and in some other cities, shifts in the local economy to production and service-oriented sectors have significantly curtailed agricultural production within the county. Today, Orange County is a mostly developed urban/suburban region with a strong local economy. Although the county is increasingly capturing major employers in Southern California, this growth is not tied to an agricultural base.

Recent Census estimates reported about 4,900 persons employed in agricultural occupations in Orange County. Only 16 Seal Beach residents reported Farming, Fishing and Forestry as their occupation. As a result, there is not a significant need for farmworker housing in Seal Beach.

## **6. Homeless Persons**

Throughout the country, homelessness has become an increasing problem. Factors contributing to the rise in homelessness include: the general lack of housing affordable to low and moderate income persons; increases in the number of persons whose incomes fall below the poverty level; reductions in public subsidy to the poor; and the de-institutionalization of the mentally ill.

The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42, U.S.C. 1130, et seq. 1994) defines a "homeless" person as an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, or an individual whose primary nighttime residence is:

- a. A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations;
- b. An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized;
- c. A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.

The McKinney-Vento Act (§725(2); 42 U.S.C. 11435(2)) defines a person "at-risk" of becoming homeless as an individual who faces imminent eviction (within a week) from a private dwelling or institution and who has no subsequent residence or resources to obtain housing. People are also at risk of homelessness when they experience a sudden drop in income, a rise in housing costs, and/or they do not have the skills necessary to manage their limited resources. According to the National Coalition for the Homelessness (NCH), most individuals at risk of homelessness are on a fixed income or are marginally employed and have few ties to family and friends.

The County of Orange Housing and Community Services Department undertakes an annual estimate of the County's homeless population as part of its application for homeless assistance grant funds to HUD. The most recent Point-in-Time survey, conducted in January 2011, estimated that there were approximately 6,939 homeless persons at the

time of the survey, of which 2,667 were sheltered and 4,272 were unsheltered<sup>6</sup>. While the 2011 survey did not estimate the total homeless population by jurisdiction, the survey did ask respondents where they lived just prior to becoming homeless. Of the 610 survey respondents, 2 persons (0.3%) reported Seal Beach as their last city of residence.

The Seal Beach Police Department indicated that the long-term homeless population within Seal Beach on any given night is believed to be approximately 10 individuals<sup>7</sup>. The 2010 Census reported no homeless persons in Seal Beach.

One emergency and transitional housing facility, Interval House, is located in Seal Beach. Interval House operates three stages of housing for victims of domestic violence. The first stage emergency shelter offers up to 45 days for 32 persons. The second stage program has a capacity of 19 beds for up to 18 months of stay. The third stage transitional housing has a capacity of 5 beds for up to 24 months of stay.

In addition, the City complies with the requirements of Senate Bill 2, which requires that a zone be designated where emergency shelters may be established “by-right” and that transitional and supportive housing be permitted subject only to the same regulations as other residential uses of the same type in the same zone (see Program 1d).

## **G. Assisted Housing at Risk of Conversion**

In 2000 the Seal Beach Redevelopment Agency helped to secure financing to allow conversion of the Seal Beach Shores Trailer Park to affordable tenant ownership. The Agency secured a \$6.75 million low-interest loan and a \$985,000 bridge loan for the project. The park includes 100 units (25 very-low and 75 low). None of these units are at risk during the current period.

One other affordable housing project – Country Villa Seal Beach – is located in the city. According to the California Housing Partnership, this 90-unit project is assisted through Sections 232 and 223(f). Covenants are not scheduled to expire until 2035 and therefore the project is not at risk during this planning period. Country Villa is a group quarters living arrangement.

## **H. Housing Constructed, Demolished or Converted within the Coastal Zone**

California *Government Code* §65588(d) requires that the Housing Element update take into account any low- or moderate-income housing provided or required in the Coastal Zone pursuant to Section 65590 (the Mello Act<sup>8</sup>). State law requires that jurisdictions monitor the following:

- The number of new housing units approved for construction within the Coastal Zone (after January 1, 1982);

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<sup>6</sup> 2011 Orange County Homeless Census and Survey Comprehensive Report, Applied Survey Research, 2011

<sup>7</sup> Personal communication with Sgt. Ron LaVelle (7/21/2011)

<sup>8</sup> The Mello Act in part requires replacement of affordable units demolished or converted within the coastal zone.



- The number of low- or moderate-income units required to be provided in new developments either within the Coastal Zone or within three miles of the Coastal Zone;
- The number of existing housing units in properties with three or more units occupied by low- or moderate-income households that have been authorized for demolition or conversion since January 1, 1982; and
- The number of low- or moderate-income replacement units required within the Coastal Zone or within three miles of the Coastal Zone.

Table II-18 provides these statistics for the Coastal Zone through 2012.

**Table II-18**  
**Coastal Zone Housing Units**  
**Seal Beach**

Category	Units
Number of new units approved for construction in the Coastal Zone 1982 - 2012:	99
Number of new units for low- and moderate-income households required to be provided either within the coastal zone or within three miles of it:	0
Number of units occupied by low- and moderate-income households and authorized to be demolished or converted:	13
Number of units for low- and moderate-income households required either within the coastal zone or within three miles of it in order to replace those demolished or converted:	7

Source: City of Seal Beach, 2013

In order to receive a demolition or a conversion permit, the request must comply with the Mello Act. The City examines any Coastal Zone development that entails the demolition or conversion of residential units that are not categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A property that is determined to be a public nuisance or is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, is not examined in accordance with the Mello Act. All other types of projects are evaluated. Program 4c in the Housing Action Plan (Chapter V) responds to the requirements of state law on this issue.

## **I. Future Housing Needs**

### **1. Overview of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment**

The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) is a key tool for local governments to plan for anticipated growth. The RHNA quantifies the anticipated need for housing within each jurisdiction for the projection period from January 2014 to October 2021. Communities then determine how they will address this need through the process of updating the Housing Elements of their General Plans.

The current RHNA was adopted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in October 2012. The future need for housing is determined primarily by the forecasted growth in households in a community. Each new household, created by a child moving out of a parent's home, by a family moving to a community for employment, and so forth, creates the need for a housing unit. The housing need for new households is then adjusted to maintain a desirable level of vacancy to promote housing choice and mobility. An adjustment is also made to account for units expected to be lost due to demolition, natural disaster, or conversion to non-housing uses. The sum of these factors – household growth, vacancy need, and replacement need – determines the construction need for a community. Total housing need is then distributed among four income categories on the basis of the county's income distribution, with adjustments to avoid an over-concentration of lower-income households in any community.

## 2. 2014-2021 Seal Beach Growth Needs

The total housing growth need for the City of Seal Beach during the 2014-2021 planning period is 2 units. This total is distributed by income category as shown in Table II-23. While not explicitly addressed in the RHNA, state law<sup>9</sup> now requires the Housing Element to estimate the future needs of extremely-low-income households. As provided by state law, the extremely-low-income need is estimated to be 50% of the very-low category, or 1 unit during this planning period.

**Table II-19**  
**Regional Housing Growth Needs 2006-2014**

Very Low*	Low	Moderate	Above Mod	Total
1	1	0	0	2
50%	50%	--	--	--

Source: SCAG 2012

\*Includes extremely-low households, estimated to be one-half the very-low need. Since the very-low need is one unit, this unit is assigned to the extremely-low category.

A discussion of the City's resources for accommodating its housing growth need is provided in the Chapter III.

<sup>9</sup> California Government Code Sec. 65583(a)(1)

### III. RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

A variety of resources are available for the development, rehabilitation, and preservation of housing in Seal Beach. This chapter provides an overview of the land resources and adequate sites to address the City's regional housing need allocation, and describes the financial and administrative resources available to support the provision of affordable housing. Additionally, the chapter discusses opportunities for energy conservation which can lower utility costs and increase housing affordability.

#### A. Land Resources

Section 65583(a)(3) of the *Government Code* requires Housing Elements to contain an "inventory of land suitable for residential development, including vacant sites and sites having potential for redevelopment, and an analysis of the relationship of zoning and public facilities and services to these sites." The analysis of potential development sites is contained in Appendix B. The analysis demonstrates that there are adequate sites with appropriate zoning to accommodate the City's RHNA allocation of 1 very-low-income unit and 1 low-income unit for the current planning period.

#### B. Financial and Administrative Resources

##### 1. State and Federal Resources

**Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)** - Federal funding for housing programs is provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The CDBG program is flexible in that funds can be used for a wide range of activities including acquisition and or disposition of real estate, public facilities and improvements, relocation, rehabilitation and construction of housing, home ownership assistance, and clearing activities. The CDBG program provides formula funding to larger cities and counties, while smaller jurisdictions with less than 50,000 population generally compete for funding under the Urban County Consolidated Plan administered by the County of Orange. In FY 2010-11 the City received a \$200,000 grant from the County, which was used for restroom accessibility improvements in the Leisure World community.

**Section 8 Rental Assistance** - The City of Seal Beach works cooperatively with the Orange County Housing Authority (OCHA), which administers the Section 8 Voucher Program. The Housing Assistance Payments Program assists low income, elderly and disabled households by paying the difference between 30% of an eligible household's income and the actual cost of renting a unit. The City facilitates use of the Section 8 program within its jurisdiction by encouraging apartment owners to list available rental units with the County Housing Authority for potential occupancy by tenants receiving Section 8 certificates. The most recent information from OCHA indicated that there were 10 Seal Beach residents using Section 8 vouchers.

**Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program** - The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program was created by the Tax Reform Act of 1986 to provide an alternate method of funding low-and moderate-income housing. Each state receives a tax credit, based upon

population, toward funding housing that meets program guidelines. The tax credits are then used to leverage private capital into new construction or acquisition and rehabilitation of affordable housing. Limitations on projects funded under the Tax Credit programs include minimum requirements that a certain percentage of units remain rent-restricted, based upon median income, for a term of 15 years.

## 2. Local Resources

On February 1, 2012 the Seal Beach Redevelopment Agency was dissolved as a result of the state legislature's approval of AB 26 and the California Supreme Court's action upholding that law. On February 1, 2012 the City became the Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency. The Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule includes funding to continue rent subsidies for the Seal Beach Trailer Park.

## C. Energy Conservation Opportunities

State of California Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings were established in 1978 in response to a legislative mandate to reduce California's energy consumption. The standards are codified in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations and are updated periodically to allow consideration and possible incorporation of new energy efficiency technologies and methods.

Title 24 sets forth mandatory energy standards and requires the adoption of an "energy budget" for all new residential buildings and additions to residential buildings. Separate requirements are adopted for "low-rise" residential construction (i.e., no more than 3 stories) and non-residential buildings, which includes hotels, motels, and multi-family residential buildings with four or more habitable stories. The standards specify energy saving design for lighting, walls, ceilings and floor installations, as well as heating and cooling equipment and systems, gas cooling devices, conservation standards and the use of non-depleting energy sources, such as solar energy or wind power. The home building industry must comply with these standards while localities are responsible for enforcing the energy conservation regulations through the plan check and building inspection processes.

Examples of techniques for reducing residential energy use include the following:

- **Glazing** – Glazing on south facing exterior walls allows for winter sunrays to warm the structure. Reducing glazing and regulating sunlight penetration on the west side of the unit prevents afternoon sunrays from overheating the unit.
- **Landscaping** – Strategically placed vegetation reduces the amount of direct sunlight on the windows. The incorporation of deciduous trees in the landscaping plans along the southern exposure of units reduces summer sunrays, while allowing penetration of winter sunrays to warm the units.
- **Building Design** – The implementation of roof overhangs above southerly facing windows shield the structure from solar rays during the summer months.

- **Cooling/Heating Systems** – The use of attic ventilation systems reduces attic temperatures during the summer months. Solar heating systems for swimming pool facilities saves on energy costs. Natural gas is conserved with the use of flow restrictors on all hot water faucets and showerheads.
- **Weatherizing Techniques** – Weatherization techniques such as insulation, caulking, and weather stripping can reduce energy use for air-conditioning up to 55% and for heating as much as 40%. Weatherization measures seal a dwelling unit to guard against heat gain in the summer and prevent heat loss in the winter.
- **Efficient Use of Appliances** – Appliances can be used in ways that increase their energy efficiency. Unnecessary appliances can be eliminated. Proper maintenance and use of stove, oven, clothes dryer, washer, dishwasher, and refrigerator can also reduce energy consumption. New appliance purchases can be made on the basis of efficiency ratings.
- **Solar Installations** – On July 13, 2009, the City Council adopted a comprehensive fee schedule (Resolution 5898). The resolution waived all fees for standard residential solar installations.

In addition to these techniques for reducing energy use in dwellings, the City supports broader “smart growth” efforts to encourage compact development and public transportation. For example, Program 1a in the Housing Action Plan (Chapter V) includes a commitment to process a zoning amendment to facilitate new high-density multi-family residential development on underutilized land in proximity to commercial and employment opportunities and bus transit. Such development contributes to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through lower energy use and vehicle trips (see also Programs 6a and 6b).

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## IV. CONSTRAINTS

### A. Governmental Constraints

#### 1. Land Use Plans and Regulations

##### a. General Plan

Each city and county in California must prepare a comprehensive, long-term General Plan to guide its future. The land use element of the General Plan establishes the basic land uses and density of development within the various areas of the city. Under state law, the General Plan elements must be internally consistent and the city's zoning must be consistent with the General Plan. Thus, the land use plan must provide suitable locations and densities to implement the policies of the Housing Element.

The Land Use Element of the Seal Beach General Plan sets forth the City's policies for guiding local development. These policies, together with the zoning regulations, establish the amount and distribution of land to be allocated for different uses within the city. The Land Use Element provides three different densities of residential land uses displayed in Table IV-1. The Land Use Element identifies 1,471 acres for residential uses representing 20 percent of the total acreage in the city and nearly 64 percent of the acreage designated for non-military uses.

**Table IV-1  
Residential Land Use Categories –  
Seal Beach General Plan**

Designation	Maximum Density*	Total Acreage
Low Density Residential (LR)	9	353.7
Medium Density Residential (MR)	17.0	505.4
High Density Residential (HR)		166.4
Planning Area 1	20.0	150.7
Planning Area 2-3	32.2	0
Planning Area 4	45.3	15.7

Source: City of Seal Beach General Plan, 2003

\*Density expressed in dwelling units per net acre.

In addition to these residential land use designations, the Limited Commercial area along Seal Beach Boulevard between Landing Avenue and Electric Avenue contains a mixture of high-density residential, low-intensity office, and small commercial uses. Both mixed-use and exclusive residential development is also allowed in this area.

### b. Zoning Designations and Development Standards

The Seal Beach Zoning Code was comprehensively updated in 2010. The Zoning Code provides three residential zones: Residential Low Density (RLD), Residential Medium Density (RMD) and Residential High Density (RHD). The Limited Commercial/Residential Medium Density district also allows exclusive residential or mixed-use development. The relationship between General Plan land use categories and zoning districts is shown in Table IV-2.

**Table IV-2  
Residential Zoning Districts**

Map Symbol	Zoning District	General Plan Category	Intended Uses
RLD-9	Residential Low Density - 9	Low Density Residential	Single-unit and small, zero-lot line neighborhoods at a base density of up to 15 dwelling units per net acre.
RLD-15	Residential Low Density - 15		
RMD-18	Residential Medium Density - 18	Medium Density Residential	Duplexes, townhouse projects, apartments, and small-lot, single-unit residential uses, at a density of 15 to 18 dwelling units per net acre. Additional density may be achieved through density bonuses.
RHD-20	Residential High Density - 20	High Density Residential	Multi-unit residential developments at a base density of 20 to 46 dwelling units per net acre. Additional density may be achieved through density bonuses.
RHD-33	Residential High Density - 33		
RHD-46	Residential High Density - 46		
L-C/RMD	Limited Commercial/Residential Medium Density	Mixed Use	Limited commercial and office uses in conjunction with residential uses.

Source: City of Seal Beach Zoning Ordinance, 2010

### Allowable Residential Uses

There are seven base zoning districts in the city that permit residential use, ranging in allowable density from 9 units/acre in the RLD-9 district to 46 units/acre in the RHD-46 district (Table IV-2). Allowable uses include single-family detached houses in the RLD-9 and RLD-15 districts, to multi-family residential condominiums and apartments with base densities from 20 to 46 units/acre in the RHD-20, RHD-33 and RHD-46 districts. As shown in Table IV-3, most residential uses are permitted by-right, without discretionary review or design review. Exceptions include large group homes, and some types of residential care facilities, which require approval of a use permit by the Planning Commission. The Limited Commercial/Residential Medium Density (L-C/RMD) district allows commercial use, exclusive residential use, or commercial/residential mixed use.



**Table IV-3  
Permitted Residential Uses by Zoning District**

Housing Type	RLD	RMD	RHD	L-C/RMD	PO	SC	GC
Single-Unit Residential	P	P	P	P	-	-	-
Duplex	-	P	P	P	-	-	-
Multi-Unit Residential	-	P	P	P	-	-	-
Manufactured Housing <sup>1</sup>	P	P	P	-	-	-	-
Second Units <sup>1</sup>	P	P	P	-	-	-	-
Group Homes <sup>2</sup>	-	-	M	-	-	-	-
Residential Care-General <sup>3</sup>	-	-	C	-	C	C	C
Residential Care-Limited <sup>3</sup>	P	P	P	P	C	C	C
Residential Care-Senior <sup>3</sup>	-	-	C	-	C	C	C
Transitional & Supportive Housing	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

Source: Seal Beach Municipal Code, 2013

Notes:

RLD=Residential Low Density

RMD=Residential Medium Density

RHD=Residential High Density

L-C/RMD=Limited Commercial/Residential Medium Density

PO=Professional Office

SC=Service Commercial

GC=General Commercial

P=permitted as of right

M=minor use permit

C=conditional use permit

1. A manufactured home on a permanent foundation is considered a single-family dwelling

2. Shared living quarters without separate kitchen or bathroom facilities for each room or unit. Includes rooming houses and dormitories but excludes residential care facilities

3. See discussion under Special Needs Housing

4. Permitted subject to the same regulations as for other residential uses of the same type in the same zone

## Development Standards

Development standards vary by zone and are described below. During the Zoning Code update process, development standards were reviewed to ensure that they do not prevent projects from achieving densities at the upper end of the allowable density range.

**Residential Districts.** The zoning district suffix indicates the allowable base density. One house per lot, plus a second unit, is permitted in the RLD district. In the RMD and RHD districts, multi-family housing is allowed with density determined by the parcel size and the required square footage of lot area per unit. For example, in the RHD-20 district, the allowable base density is 20 units/acre, which requires at least 2,178 square feet of lot area per unit<sup>10</sup>. Additional density is possible through density bonus provisions (Chapter 11.4.55 of the Municipal Code).

Other development standards regulate building height, lot size, unit sizes, setbacks, off-street parking, lot coverage, building separation and landscaping (Table IV-4).

<sup>10</sup> One acre contains 43,560 square feet of land. At a ratio of 2,178 square feet of lot area per unit, 20 units per acre would be permitted (2,178 x 20 = 43,560).

Limited Commercial/Residential Medium Density (L-C/RMD) District. The allowable base density for exclusively residential projects in the L-C/RMD district is one unit per 2,500 square feet of lot area (17.4 units/acre) and projects must comply with the development standards of the RHD-20 district. Mixed-use projects allow second floor residential use with a base density of one unit per 2,000 square feet of lot area (21.8 units/acre). For narrow lots (<37.5 feet) there is a 30-foot height limit, while wider lots are allowed a height of 25 feet/2 stories on the front half of the lot and 35 feet/3 stories on the rear half of the lot. Additional height may be allowed at specific locations designated in design guidelines, planned unit developments, or specific plans, or pursuant to density bonus regulations. Development standards for the L-C/RMD district are shown in Table IV-5.

Two additional types of zoning districts, the Planned Development (PD) Overlay District and Specific Plans, allow residential development through discretionary actions.

**Table IV-4  
Development Standards for Residential Zoning Districts**

<b>TABLE 11.2.05.015 DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS</b>							
	<i>RLD-9</i>	<i>RLD-15</i>	<i>RMD-18</i>	<i>RHD-20</i>	<i>RHD-33</i>	<i>RHD-46</i>	<i>Supplemental Regulations</i>
<b>Density/Intensity of Use – Lot Dimensions</b>							
<b>Maximum Density</b>	One unit per 5,000 sq. ft. of lot area, plus a "Second Unit"	One unit per 3,000 sq. ft. of lot area, plus a "Second Unit"	One unit per 2,500 sq. ft. of lot area	One unit per 2,178 sq. ft. of lot area	One unit per 1,350 sq. ft. of lot area	One unit per 960 sq. ft. of lot area	See Section 11.4.05.115 for Second Dwelling Unit standards. See Subsection A for Surfside Standards
<i>Maximum Density with State Affordable Housing Bonus (du/ac)</i>							See Chapter 11.4.55: Affordable Housing Bonus
<b>Minimum Lot Area (sq. ft.)</b>							
<i>Interior Lots</i>	5,000	3,000	5,000	2,500	5,000	5,000	
<i>Corner Lots</i>	5,500	3,000	5,500	2,500	5,500	5,500	
<i>Nonresidential Uses</i>	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
<b>Minimum Lot Size (ft.)</b>							
<i>Interior Lots</i>	50 x 100	30 x 80	50 x 100	25 x 100	50 x 100	50 x 100	
<i>Corner Lots</i>	55 x 100	35 x 80	50 x 100	25 x 100	55 x 100	55 x 100	
<b>Minimum Floor Area (sq. ft.)</b>							
<i>Primary Dwelling Unit</i>	1,200	1,200 (E)	950	950	950	950	L-1
<i>Efficiency Second Unit</i>	150	150	150	150	150	150	L-1
<i>1-Bedroom Second Unit</i>	400	400	400	400	400	400	L-1

TABLE 11.2.05.015 DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS							
	<i>RLD-9</i>	<i>RLD-15</i>	<i>RMD-18</i>	<i>RHD-20</i>	<i>RHD-33</i>	<i>RHD-46</i>	<i>Supplemental Regulations</i>
<b>Density/Intensity of Use – Lot Dimensions (continued)</b>							
Maximum Floor Area for Second Units							
<i>2+-Bedroom Second Unit</i>	600	600	600	--	--	--	
Maximum Floor Area for Second Units							
<i>Detached Second Unit</i>	800 sq. ft	800 sq. ft	800 sq. ft	--	--	--	
<i>Attached Second Unit</i>	30% of primary unit	30% of primary unit	30% of primary unit	--	--	--	
Maximum Lot Coverage (%)	(B)	67	50	75 (B)	60	80	(B)
Substandard Lot Standards	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	(C)
<b>Building Form and Location</b>							
Minimum Yards (ft.)							
<i>Front – Minimum</i>	(D)	(E)	Average 12; Minimum 6	Average 12; Minimum 6	18	18	(D)(E); L-3
<i>Interior Side – Minimum</i>	(D)	(E)	10% of lot width; 3 ft. minimum; 10 ft. maximum	10% of lot width; 3 ft. minimum; 10 ft. maximum	10% of lot width; 5 ft. minimum; 10 ft. maximum	10% of lot width; 5 ft. minimum; 10 ft. maximum	(D)(E)
<i>Corner Side – Minimum</i>	15% of lot width; 10 ft. maximum	(E)	15% of lot width; 10 ft. maximum	15% of lot width; 10 ft. maximum	15% of lot width; 10 ft. maximum	15% of lot width; 10 ft. maximum	(E)
<i>Rear</i>	10	(E)	5 ft.; but when abutting an alley 24 ft. minus width of the alley.	24 ft. minus width of the alley.	24 ft. minus width of the alley.	18	(E)
<b>Main Building Envelope</b>							
Flood Zone Heights	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	(F)
Maximum Height (ft.)	25 (G)	25 (E)	(G)	25	35	35	(G) (E)
Maximum Height of Downslope Skirt Walls (ft.)	6	6	6	6	6	6	(H)
Projections	Yes	Yes (E)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	(I) (E)

TABLE 11.2.05.015 DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS							
	<i>RLD-9</i>	<i>RLD-15</i>	<i>RMD-18</i>	<i>RHD-20</i>	<i>RHD-33</i>	<i>RHD-46</i>	<i>Supplemental Regulations</i>
<b>Main Building Envelope</b>							
Minimum Distance Between Buildings on the Same Lot (ft.)	6	6	6	6	6	10-20	(J)
Minimum Court Dimensions (ft.)	--	--	--	--	15	15	
<b>Building Design</b>							
Exterior Stairways Prohibited	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	L-2
Porches	Yes	--	--	Yes	--	--	(K)
<b>Vehicle Accommodation</b>							
Off-Street Parking and Loading	See Chapter 11.4.20: <i>Off-Street Parking and Loading</i>						
Maximum Number of Curb Cuts for Driveway	1 (L)	1	1	1	1	1	(L)
Maximum Width of Driveway (ft.)	18	--	--	--	--	--	(M)
Limitations on Parking and Garage Frontage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	(N)
<b>Landscaping and Open Space</b>							
Minimum Permeable Surface/Maximum Paving in Street – Facing Yards (%)	60/50	60/50	60/50	60/50	60/50	60/50	(O)
Minimum Site Area Devoted to Landscaping (%)	25	15 (E)	15	Yes	15	15	(E), (P); See also Section 11.4.30.015
Planting Required on Downslope Lots	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	(Q)
Pedestrian Walkways	--	--	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	(R)
<b>Other Development Standards</b>							
Accessory Structures	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	See Section 11.4.05.100
2-Story Cabanas/ Manufactured Homes	--	--	--	--	Yes	--	(S)
Roof Decks	Yes	--	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	(T)
Solar Access	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	See Section 11.4.10.045

TABLE 11.2.05.015 DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS							
	<i>RLD-9</i>	<i>RLD-15</i>	<i>RMD-18</i>	<i>RHD-20</i>	<i>RHD-33</i>	<i>RHD-46</i>	<i>Supplemental Regulations</i>
Other Development Standards (continued)							
Walls and Fences	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	See Chapter 11.4.15
General Site Standards	See Chapter 11.4.10: General Site Standards						
Landscaping and Buffer Yards	See Chapter 11.4.30: Landscaping and Buffer Yards						
Signs	See Chapter 11.4.25: Sign Regulations						
Non conforming Structures	See Chapter 11.4.40: Nonconforming Uses, Structures, and Lots						
Coastal Development Permit	See Chapter 11.4.35: Coastal Development Permit						
Reasonable Accommodations	See Chapter 11.5.30: Reasonable Accommodations						
L-1: Second Units are not allowed in the RHD-20 District located in Old Town.							
L-2: Exterior stairways providing access from the ground level and/or the first floor to the second floor or above are prohibited when such stairways are not specifically required by the California Building Code. Exterior stairways may be permitted through the building permit process in the RLD-9 district on properties with a second story kitchen existing as of March 9, 1998. In such a case, a covenant shall be recorded on the title of the property stipulating the property is to be used only as a Single-Unit dwelling. <u>Exception:</u> Exterior stairways may be permitted on Single-Unit dwellings located within identified flood zones upon approval of a Minor Use Permit pursuant to Chapter 11.5.20: Development Permits.							
L-3: Refer to Appendix A – City Council Approved Blanket Setback Variances							

**Table IV-5**  
**Residential Development Standards for Commercial/Mixed-Use Zoning Districts**

DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS – COMMERCIAL AND MIXED-USE DISTRICTS						
	LC/RMD	PO	MSSP	SC	GC	Additional Regulations
Lot Size and Density						
Minimum Lot Size (sq. ft.)	2,500	7,000	2,750	7,000	10,000	
Maximum Floor Area Ratio	0.90	--	--	--	--	
Maximum Residential Density – lot area per unit (sq. ft.)						
Base Density	2,500	--	--	--	--	(A)
Density for Mixed Use Development	2,000	--	--	--	--	(A)
Density – Affordable Housing Bonus	See Additional Regulations	--	--	--	--	See Chapter 11.4.55: Affordable Housing Bonus
Building Form and Location						
Maximum Building Height (ft.)	35	35	30	35	35	(B)
Building Setback on Street Frontages	varies	varies	varies	varies	varies	(C)
Minimum Yard Requirements						
Interior Side	varies	varies	varies	varies	varies	(C)
Rear	varies	varies	varies	varies	varies	(C)
Building Transition Zone Adjacent to R Districts	Yes					(D)
Landscaping and Open Space						
Public Open Space	Yes					(E)
Minimum lot area to be landscaped	5%	10%	0%	10%	10%	See Chapter 11.4.30: Landscaping and Buffer Yards
Minimum required front yard area to be landscaped	60%	--	--	--	--	

	LC/RMD	PO	MSSP	SC	GC	Additional Regulations
Circulation and Parking						
Limitations – Location of Parking	Yes			(F)		
Limitations on Curb Cuts	Yes			(G)		
Limitations – Location of Truck Docks; Loading and Service Areas	Yes			(H)		
Off-Street Parking and Loading	Yes			See Chapter 11.4.20: <i>Off-Street Parking and Loading</i>		
Reduced Parking Requirements	Yes			See Chapter 11.4.20: <i>Off-Street Parking and Loading</i>		
Building Design						
Building Orientation	Yes					(I)
Design Provisions	--	--	Yes	--	--	(J)
Special Requirements for Residential Development						
Open Space (sq. ft. per unit)	100	--	--	--	--	(K)
Side and Rear Yard Setbacks	Yes	--	--	--	--	(L)
Other Applicable Development Standards						
Consistency with Council Adopted Design Guidelines, Area Plans, or Specific Plans	(M)					
Pedestrian Access to Buildings Setback from the Street	(N)					
Projections in to Required Yards	(O)					
General Site Standards	See Chapter 11.4.10: <i>General Site Standards</i>					
Fencing	See Chapter 11.4.15: <i>Fences, Hedges, and Walls</i>					
Parking and Loading	See Chapter 11.4.20: <i>Off-Street Parking and Loading</i>					
Signs	See Chapter 11.4.25: <i>Sign Regulations</i>					
Landscaping and Buffer Yards	See Chapter 11.4.30: <i>Landscaping and Buffer Yards</i>					
Coastal Development Permit	See Chapter 11.4.35: <i>Coastal Development Permit</i>					
Non-conforming Structures and Lots	See Chapter 11.4.40: <i>Non-conforming Uses, Structures, and Lots</i>					



### **Planned Development (PD) Overlay District**

The purpose of the Planned Development Overlay District (–PD) is to provide for detailed review of development that warrants special review and deviations from underlying development standards. This overlay district is also intended to provide opportunities for creative development approaches that will achieve superior design solutions to that which would be possible if the project were built in full compliance with the required standards of the base district, and will not cause a significant adverse impact on residences to the side, rear, or directly across a street with respect to solar access, privacy and compatibility. Currently there is only one area of the city within a PD overlay – Leisure World.

The land use and density requirements within a –PD Planned Development Overlay District shall be those of the underlying base district. An application for a Planned Development and any amendment to the Plan shall be processed in accordance with the procedure for conditional use permits.

The City Council may approve a Planned Development Plan that deviates from the minimum lot area, yard requirements, building heights, and other physical development standards defined in the base district, while ensuring compliance with the land use and density requirements of the base district. Physical development standards may be modified if the Planned Development Plan includes examples of superior community design, environmental preservation and/or public benefit amenities.

Prior to submitting an application for a Planned Development Plan an applicant proposing a project over one acre in gross area or that includes publicly-owned land is required to schedule a pre-application study session with the Planning Commission to discuss the general acceptability of the project proposal, issues that need to be addressed, and the need, if any, for any interagency coordination. This preliminary consultation helps to streamline the development review process by identifying issues early in the planning process.

Findings for Approval. The City shall approve a PD Overlay District Zoning Map Amendment and Planned Development Plan only if all of the following findings are made:

- A. The project meets all of the findings required for a conditional use permit pursuant to Section 11.5.20.020: *Required Findings* and the finding that the approved plan is consistent with the purposes of the district where it is located and conforms in all significant respects with the General Plan and any specific plan.
- B. Development within the PD Overlay District is demonstratively superior to the development that could occur under the standards applicable to the underlying base district and will achieve superior community design, environmental preservation, and/or substantial public benefit. In making this determination, the following factors shall be considered:
  - 1. Appropriateness of the use(s) at the proposed location.
  - 2. The mix of uses, housing types, and housing price levels.

3. Provision of units affordable to persons and families of low and moderate income or to lower income households.
4. Provision of infrastructure improvements.
5. Provision of open space.
6. Compatibility of uses within the development area.
7. Quality of design, and adequacy of light and air to the interior spaces of the buildings.
8. Overall contribution to the enhancement of neighborhood character and the environment of Seal Beach in the long term.
9. Creativity in design and use of land.

Because the PD overlay district creates additional options for projects within the overlay, it does not pose a constraint to residential development.

### **Specific Plans**

Chapter 11.3.25 of the Zoning Code allows the adoption of specific plans pursuant to state law. Only the Hellman Ranch specific plan allows residential use, and is fully developed.

### **Effects of Zoning Regulations on the Provision of Low- and Moderate Income Housing**

Zoning regulations have a considerable effect on the development of low- and moderate-income housing. In urban areas, and particularly coastal jurisdictions, high land costs can make affordable housing infeasible without large public subsidies.

In 2004 state law was amended (AB 2348) to identify “default densities” that are considered suitable for lower-income housing. For small metropolitan jurisdictions with less than 25,000 population such as Seal Beach, the default density is 20 units/acre. All of the Residential High Density (RHD) zoning districts allow densities of 20 units/acre or more.

Development standards in the RHD districts allow projects to be built at or near the maximum densities. Height limits are 25 feet in the RHD-20 district and 35 feet in the RHD-33 and RHD-46 districts, which allow 2- and 3-story structures, respectively. Other development standards such as setbacks and lot coverage are typical for the allowable densities. These regulations help to facilitate the production of low- and moderate-income housing.

During the 2010 comprehensive Development Code update process architects and builders indicated that development standards do not pose any significant constraints to achieving maximum allowable densities. However, nearly all residentially-zoned land is developed, and there is limited capacity for additional housing on these properties. As discussed in Chapter III, the greatest potential for additional residential development is within underutilized commercial areas.

### **Local Coastal Program**

Seal Beach does not currently have an approved Local Coastal Program (LCP). As a result, all projects located within the portion of the city that is within the Coastal Zone are subject to review by the California Coastal Commission. This additional requirement represents an impediment to housing development within the Coastal Zone. To address this issue, the City is currently working on the preparation of an LCP. An Ad Hoc General Plan/LCP Committee has been established to provide guidance to staff in this effort. Program 3e in Chapter V describes the City's efforts toward the completion of the LCP during the current planning period.

### **c. Special Needs Housing**

Persons with special needs include those in residential care facilities, persons with disabilities, the elderly, persons needing emergency shelter, transitional or supportive living arrangements, and single room occupancy units. The City's provisions for these housing types are discussed below. Many of these households also fall into the extremely-low-income category.

### **Definition of "Family"**

The Municipal Code defines "family" as *"1 or more persons living together as a single nonprofit housekeeping unit and sharing common living, sleeping, cooking and eating facilities. Members of a "family" need not be related by blood but are distinguished from a group occupying a hotel, club, fraternity or sorority house."* This definition is consistent with current law.

### **Group Homes**

The Municipal Code defines Group Home as:

*"A dwelling unit licensed or supervised by any Federal, State, or local health/welfare agency which provides 24-hour non-medical care of unrelated persons who are in need of personal services, supervision, or assistance essential for sustaining the activities of daily living or for the protection of the individual in a family-like environment. Includes: children's homes; orphanages; rehabilitation centers; self-help group homes. Convalescent homes, nursing homes and similar facilities providing medical care are included under the definition of Medical Services - Extended Care."*

Group homes are permitted in the RHD district subject to approval of a Minor Use Permit by the Planning Commission. There are no separation requirements for group homes.

### **Residential Care Facilities**

The Municipal Code allows facilities that are licensed by the State of California to provide permanent living accommodations and 24-hour primarily non-medical care and supervision for persons in need of personal services, supervision, protection, or assistance for sustaining the activities of daily living. Living accommodations are shared living

quarters with or without separate kitchen or bathroom facilities for each room or unit. This classification includes facilities that are operated for profit as well as those operated by public or not-for-profit institutions, including hospices, nursing homes, convalescent facilities, and group homes for minors, persons with disabilities, and people in recovery from alcohol or drug additions. This category excludes transitional housing and community social service facilities. (§ 11.4.85.020.N)

Three types of residential care facilities are recognized in the Code:

1. Residential Care, General. A residential care facility providing 24-hour non-medical care for more than 6 persons in a single unit in need of personal services, supervision, protection, or assistance essential for sustaining the activities of daily living. This classification includes only those facilities licensed for residential care by the State of California.

These facilities are conditionally permitted in the PO, (Professional Office), SC (Service Commercial) and GC (General Commercial) districts.

2. Residential Care, Limited. A residential care facility providing 24-hour non-medical care for 6 or fewer persons in a single unit, in need of personal services, supervision, protection, or assistance essential for sustaining the activities of daily living. This classification includes only those facilities licensed for residential care by the State of California. Under state law, a state-licensed residential care facility with 6 or fewer persons is considered a residential use and is permitted subject to the same regulations as other residential uses of the same type in the same zone. This classification includes residential care facilities restricted to persons 60 years of age or older if there are 6 or fewer residents. Six or fewer persons does not include the licensee or members of the licensee's family or persons employed as facility staff.

Under the current Municipal Code, these facilities are permitted by-right in all zones where single-family uses are permitted, in conformance with state law, and are conditionally permitted in the PO, SC and GC districts..

3. Residential Care, Senior. A housing arrangement chosen voluntarily by the resident, the resident's guardian, conservator or other responsible person; where residents are 60 years of age or older and where varying levels of care and supervision are provided as agreed to at the time of admission or as determined necessary at subsequent times of reappraisal. Any younger residents must have needs compatible with other residents, as provided in Health & Safety Code §1569.316 or a successor statute. This classification includes continuing care retirement communities and lifecare communities licensed for residential care by the State of California. These facilities are conditionally permitted in the PO, SC and GC districts.

The Special Use provisions of the Municipal Code recognize the following specific types of Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) projects:

☐ Assisted Living Facility: a residential building or buildings that also provide housing, personal and health care, as permitted by the Department of

Social Services, designed to respond to the daily, individual needs of the residents. Assisted Living Facilities may include kitchenettes (small refrigerator, sink, microwave oven) within individual rooms. Assisted Living Facilities are required to be licensed by the California Department of Social Services, and do not include skilled nursing services.

☐ **Life Care Facility:** sometimes called "Continuing Care Retirement Communities", or "Senior Continuum of Care Complex", these facilities provide a wide range of care and supervision, and also provide health care (skilled nursing) so that residents can receive medical care without leaving the facility. Residents can expect to remain, even if they become physically incapacitated later in life. Life Care Facilities require multiple licensing from the State Department of Social Services, the State Department of Health Services, and the State Department of Insurance.

#### Development Standards for Residential Care Facilities

Residential care facilities in a residential district must maintain a minimum distance of 300 feet from another such facility. Facilities in all districts must comply with development standards for landscaping, walls, traffic level of service, passenger loading, and delivery hours. (§11.4.05.105) These regulations are consistent with state law and do not pose a significant constraint to their development.

#### **Reasonable Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities**

State law requires that local housing elements *"shall remove constraints to, and provide reasonable accommodations for housing designed for, intended for occupancy by, or with supportive services for, persons with disabilities."* (Government Code §65583(c)(3)).

Chapter 11.5.30 of the Seal Beach Municipal Code (Reasonable Accommodations) provides standards and procedures for ensuring compliance with state law. The ordinance includes the following provisions:

- Application procedures, including the accommodation requested and the basis for the request.
- No fee is charged for a Reasonable Accommodation application.
- Concurrent processing may be requested by an applicant when another discretionary permit is also required.
- Decision by the Planning Commission subject to the notice, review, approval, and appeal procedures prescribed for a conditional use permit.
- Required findings for approval as follows:
  1. The requested accommodation is requested by or on the behalf of one or more individuals with a disability protected under the fair housing laws.
  2. The requested accommodation is necessary to provide one or more individuals with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling.

3. The requested accommodation will not impose an undue financial or administrative burden on the City as “undue financial or administrative burden” is defined in fair housing laws and interpretive case law.
4. The requested accommodation will not result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the City’s zoning program, as “fundamental alteration” is defined in fair housing laws and interpretive case law.
5. The requested accommodation will not, under the specific facts of the case, result in a direct threat to the health or safety of other individuals or substantial physical damage to the property of others.

These provisions are consistent with federal and state law and do not pose a constraint to reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.

### **Emergency Shelters**

California *Health and Safety Code* (§50801) defines an emergency shelter as “housing with minimal supportive services for homeless persons that is limited to occupancy of six months or less by a homeless person. No individual or household may be denied emergency shelter because of an inability to pay.”

In 2013, the Boeing Specific Plan was amended to permit emergency shelters by-right subject to the following development standards:

- Maximum of 25 beds
- Minimum separation of 300 feet between emergency shelters

Sites within this specific plan are located within walking distance of services and employment centers and are served by public transportation. This specific plan encompasses approximately 107 acres of land, which includes two underutilized parking lots in two parcels of approximately 16 and 12 acres that are suitable for shelters. These emergency shelter regulations are consistent with SB 2 and do not pose a constraint to the establishment of such facilities.

### **Transitional and Supportive Housing**

Transitional/supportive housing is normally temporary housing (generally six months to two years) for an individual or family who is transitioning to permanent housing. This type of housing can take several forms, including group housing or multi-family units, and often includes a supportive services component to allow individuals to gain necessary life skills in support of independent living.

In 2013 the Municipal Code was amended to clarify that transitional/supportive housing is a residential use subject to the same standards and requirements as other residential uses of the same type in the same zone, in conformance with SB 2.

### Single Room Occupancy

Single-room-occupancy (SRO) facilities are small studio-type units intended for one or two persons. SROs can provide an affordable housing option for small households with very low or extremely low incomes. In 2013 the Zoning Ordinance was amended to allow SROs subject to a conditional use permit in the RHD zone.

#### d. Off-Street Parking Requirements

Regulations for Off-Street Parking and Loading are provided in Chapter 11.4.20 of the Municipal Code. The City's parking requirements for residential uses vary by residential type. Single-family dwellings require two garage parking spaces per unit with up to 5 bedrooms, three spaces for homes with 6 bedrooms, plus one additional space for each bedroom over 6. In Surfside and in the RLD-9 and RHD-20 districts, the required number of spaces may be reduced by one space if suitable driveway parking is available. Multi-family dwellings require two covered parking spaces plus one uncovered guest spaces for each seven units. A reduction in required parking can be approved through the CUP process (Section 11.4.20.020.B). The parking requirements are summarized in Table IV-6.

In order to enhance the development feasibility of small apartments, the Municipal Code was amended in 2013 to reduce the required off-street parking for studio and one-bedroom apartments to one space when the units are reserved for low- or moderate-income households.

**Table IV-6**  
**Residential Parking Requirements**

Type of Unit	Minimum Parking Space Required
Attached or Detached Single-Family Dwellings	<p>2 spaces per dwelling unit for each unit with up to 5 bedrooms.</p> <p>3 spaces per dwelling for each unit of 6 bedrooms or more plus 1 additional space for each bedroom above 6 total bedrooms in the dwelling unit</p> <p>All required spaces must be located in a garage except that parking for single-unit dwellings with 6+ bedrooms in Surfside and in the RLD-9 and RHD-20 districts may be reduced by one space if driveway parking is available.</p>
Multi-Family Units	<p>2 spaces per dwelling unit plus</p> <p>1 guest space for every 7 units</p> <p>(1 space for studio and 1-bedroom units when restricted to low/moderate-income tenants)</p> <p>All spaces except guest spaces must be located in a garage or carport.</p>
Second units	<p>1 space for an Efficiency Second Unit and 1 space per bedroom for non-Efficiency Second Units. At least one space must be covered.</p>

Source: Seal Beach Zoning Ordinance, Table 11.4.20.015.A.1

### e. Second Units

Second units are regulated by §11.4.05.115 of the Municipal Code, which is intended to comply with state law governing second units (Government Code §65852.150 and §65852.2) or any successor statutes. Second units that comply with applicable standards are approved ministerially without discretionary review or public hearing.

Second Dwelling Units may be established on any lot in the RLD-9, RLD-15 district, and in the RMD and RHD zones, excluding Old Town, where a primary single-unit dwelling has been previously established or is proposed to be established in conjunction with construction of a second unit. Only one Second Dwelling Unit is permitted per primary single-unit dwelling on the same lot. A legal single-unit dwelling (the "Primary Dwelling Unit") must exist on the lot or must be constructed on the lot in conjunction with the construction of the Second Dwelling Unit. A Second Dwelling Unit shall provide independent living facilities for one or more persons and include permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation.

The maximum and minimum floor areas of a Second Dwelling Unit are set forth in Table IV-7 and range from a minimum of 150 square feet to a maximum of 800 square feet or 30% of the primary unit. Program 1c in the Housing Action Plan addresses the issue of second units in conformance with state law.

**Table IV-7**  
**Second Dwelling Unit Floor Area**

Type of Second Unit	Area (Square Feet)
<b>Maximum Floor Area</b>	
Detached	800
Attached	30% of primary unit
<b>Minimum Floor Area</b>	
Efficiency	150
1-bedroom	400
2-bedroom	600

Source: Seal Beach Zoning Ordinance, Table 11.4.05.115.E

Second Dwelling Units must comply with the same height, setback, lot size, lot coverage, and other applicable zoning requirements as apply to the Primary Dwelling Unit. A Second Dwelling Unit must have an outdoor entrance separate from the primary dwelling. In order to maintain the single-unit residential character of the street, the entrance to the Second Dwelling Unit must be located so that it is not visible from the public right-of-way. A minimum of one covered parking space is required for each Second Dwelling Unit. No Second Dwelling Unit is allowed unless the primary dwelling is also in compliance with all applicable parking requirements of this Zoning Code. Either the primary unit or the Second Dwelling Unit must be occupied by the property owner, and the Second Dwelling Unit may not be sold separately from the Primary Dwelling Unit.

Second Dwelling Units serve to augment resources for senior housing, or other low- and moderate-income segments of the population. The City's regulations are consistent with



state law and serve to facilitate this type of housing. No Second Dwelling Unit permits have been requested in recent years.

**f. Density Bonus**

Under current State density bonus law (SB 1818 of 2004), cities and counties must provide a density increase up to 35% over the otherwise maximum allowable residential density under the Municipal Code and the Land Use Element of the General Plan (or bonuses of equivalent financial value) when builders agree to construct housing developments with units affordable to low- or moderate-income households. Chapter 11.4.55 of the Municipal Code ("Affordable Housing Bonus") sets forth regulations and procedures for providing density bonus or other incentives in compliance with state law (Government Code §65915 et seq.). Where conflict occurs between the provisions of Municipal Code and State law, the State law provisions shall govern. No requests for density bonus have been sought in recent years. Program 2a in the Housing Action Plan addresses the issue of density bonus in conformance with state law.

**g. Mobile Homes/Manufactured Housing**

The manufacturing of homes in a factory is typically less costly than the construction of individual homes on site thereby lowering overall housing costs. State law precludes local governments from prohibiting the installation of mobile homes on permanent foundations on single-family lots. It also declares a mobile home park to be a permitted land use on any land planned and zoned for residential use, and prohibits requiring the average density in a new mobile home park to be less than that permitted by the Municipal Code. A city or county may, however, require use permits for mobile home parks.

Regulations governing manufactured housing are provided in §11.4.05.075 of the Municipal Code and in state regulations (Title 25, California Code of Regulations). A manufactured home shall constitute a permitted use in all residential districts, provided that any such manufactured home is certified under the standards set forth in the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1976 (42 USC 5401 et. seq.), as amended at the time of any application for placement of such manufactured home. The City's development standards for mobile homes do not present an unreasonable constraint to this type of development.

Mobile home parks are regulated under the Residential High Density (RHD) provisions of the Code. There is one mobile home park in Seal Beach (Seal Beach Shores Trailer Park). In 2000 the Redevelopment Agency issued bonds to allow for LINC Housing, a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency to acquire and manage the park. In 2009 the ownership of the park was transferred to Seal Beach Shores, Inc, a resident-owned 501(c)(3) non-profit entity.

The City recognizes this mobile home park for its contribution to affordable housing. As noted in Chapter III, the Redevelopment Agency has provided rental assistance and rehabilitation loans and grants to residents of the Seal Beach Shores Trailer Park in order to maintain this important supply of affordable housing in the city. Programs 2d, 3c and 4a support continued affordability and rehabilitation activities in this park.

#### **h. Condominium Conversions**

The conversion of apartments to condominiums is regulated by Chapter 11.4.80 of the Municipal Code for all areas of Seal Beach except Leisure World. Key requirements that must be satisfied are summarized as follows:

- Approval of a Conditional Use Permit and a subdivision map.
- Each building as of the date of conversion shall comply with all applicable requirements of the Municipal Code, and the goals and policies of the General Plan, except where the building is nonconforming in compliance with Chapter 11.4.40: Nonconforming Uses, Structures, and Lots.
- Condominium conversions shall observe the following standards for density.
  - RMD-18 District: 2,500 sq. ft. of land per dwelling unit.
  - RHD-20 District: 2,178 sq. ft. of land per dwelling unit.
  - RHD-33 District: 1,350 sq. ft. of land per dwelling unit.
  - RHD-46 District: 960 sq. ft. of land per dwelling unit.
- Separate space heating, water heating, and metering/shutoff valves for water, gas, and electricity for each unit.
- All common attic areas over individual dwelling units shall be separated by sound-rated assemblies and access to each attic space shall be provided in compliance with the California Building Code.
- Tenant's Right to Purchase. As provided in Government Code 66427.1.D., any present tenant of any unit shall be given a nontransferable right of first refusal to purchase the unit occupied at a price no greater than the price offered to the general public. The right of first refusal shall extend for at least 90 days from the date of issuance of the subdivision public report or commencement of sales, whichever date is later.
- Each non-purchasing tenant not in default under the obligations of the rental agreement or lease under which he occupies his unit shall have not less than 180 days from the date of receipt of notification from the owner of his intent to convert, or from the filing date of the final subdivision map, whichever date is later, to find substitute housing and to relocate. Once notice of intent to convert is served to a tenant, any existing long-term lease agreement may be rescinded by the tenant without penalty. Notification of such termination shall be submitted in writing to the landlord 30 days prior to the termination of the lease.
- From the date of approval of the Tentative Map until the date of conversion, no tenant's rent shall be increased more frequently than once every 6 months, and at a rate not greater than 50% of the rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index (all items, Los Angeles-Long Beach), on an annualized basis, for the same period. This limitation shall not apply if rent increases are provided for in leases or contracts in existence prior to the filing date of the Tentative Map.

- The subdivider shall provide moving expenses of 2.0 times the monthly rent, but in no case less than \$3,000.00, to any tenant who relocates from the building to be converted after approval of the condominium conversion by the City, except when the tenant has given notice of his intent to move prior to receipt of notification from the subdivider of his intent to convert.

When a condo conversion is permitted, the increase in the supply of less expensive for-sale units helps to compensate for the loss of rental units. No requests for condo conversions have been filed in recent years. Program 4b calls for the continuation of the City's condo conversion ordinance.

### i. Building Codes and Enforcement

State law prohibits the imposition of building standards that are not necessitated by local geographic, climatic or topographic conditions and requires that local governments making changes or modifications in building standards must report such changes to the Department of Housing and Community Development and file an expressed finding that the change is needed.

The City's building codes are based upon the 2010 California Building, Plumbing, Mechanical, Electrical and Fire Codes. Local amendments to the state code have been adopted to require fire sprinklers for some residential construction.

## 2. Development Processing Procedures

### a. Residential Permit Processing

State Planning and Zoning Law provides permit processing requirements for residential development. Within the framework of state requirements, the City has structured its development review process to minimize the time required to obtain permits while ensuring that projects receive an appropriate level of review.

Table 11.5.05.025, *Review Authority*, identifies the City official or body responsible for reviewing and making decisions on each type of application, land use permit, and other entitlements required by the Zoning Code. Three levels of review are identified: the Community Development Director, Planning Commission and City Council. The typical planning approvals and their respective level of review are as shown in Table IV-8.

**Table IV-8**  
**Residential Permit Review Authority**

Permit Type	Director	Planning Commission	City Council
Development Permit	Decision	Appeal	Appeal
Minor Use Permit		Decision	Appeal
Conditional Use Permit		Decision	Appeal
Subdivision maps		Recommendation	Decision

Source: Seal Beach Zoning Ordinance, Table 11.5.05.025

As described previously in Table IV-3, all conventional residential uses, including multi-family apartments, are permitted by-right with no discretionary review. These uses only require review of project plans by the Community Development Director to ensure conformance with applicable regulations and development standards. No public hearing is required. The typical time required to process these approvals is 30 days.

Required findings for a Director's development permit approval are as follows:

1. The proposed use and structure conform with the provisions of the Zoning Code;
2. The proposed use and structure are compatible with uses and structures in the immediate neighborhood;
3. The plans provide protection to adjacent structures from noise, vibration and other undesirable environmental factors;
4. Proposed lighting is directed inward and downward to reflect light away from adjoining properties;
5. The following are designed to avoid traffic congestion, protect pedestrian and vehicular safety and welfare and eliminate any adverse effect on surrounding property:
  - a. Structures and improvements;
  - b. Vehicular ingress and egress and internal circulation;
  - c. Setbacks;
  - d. Height of buildings;
  - e. Walls; and
  - f. Landscaping.

A Minor Use Permit (MUP) is required for Group Housing in the RHD district. A MUP is reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission. The typical time required to process a Minor Use Permit is 45 days.

A Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is required for Senior Citizen Housing in the RHD district. A CUP is reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission. The typical time required to process a CUP is 45 days.

A MUP or CUP shall only be granted if the reviewing body finds, based upon evidence presented at the hearing, that the proposal conforms to all of the following criteria as well as to any other special findings required for approval of use permits in specific zoning districts:

1. The proposal is consistent with the General Plan and with any other applicable plan adopted by the City Council;
2. The proposed use is allowed within the applicable zoning district with use permit approval and complies with all other applicable provisions of the Municipal Code;
3. The site is physically adequate for the type, density and intensity of use being proposed, including provision of services, and the absence of physical constraints;

4. The location, size, design, and operating characteristics of the proposed use will be compatible with and will not adversely affect uses and properties in the surrounding neighborhood; and
5. The establishment, maintenance, or operation of the proposed use at the location proposed will not be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of persons residing or working in the vicinity of the proposed use.

There are no design review requirements in the city.

#### **b. Environmental Review**

Environmental review is required for all developments meeting the definition of “projects” under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Seal Beach has a number of environmental and development constraints due to its sensitive environmental resources and coastal location. Because of these environmental constraints, larger residential projects have typically required the preparation of Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs).

Under state law, an EIR is required for any development that has the potential of creating significant impacts that cannot be mitigated, which is typical of large projects. Some residential projects are either Categorically Exempt or require only an Initial Study and Negative Declaration. A Negative Declaration typically takes four to six weeks to prepare, depending on complexity of the project and required technical studies, followed by a state-mandated public review period. Categorically Exempt developments require a minimal amount of time. As a result, environmental review does not pose a significant constraint to housing development in the city.

### **3. Development Fees and Improvement Requirements**

State law limits fees charged for development permit processing to the reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged. Various fees and assessments are charged by the City and other public agencies to cover the costs of processing permit applications and providing services and facilities such as schools, parks and infrastructure. Almost all of these fees are assessed through a pro rata share system, based on the magnitude of the project's impact or on the extent of the benefit that will be derived. Development fees will vary from project to project depending on the specific characteristics. Table IV-9 summarizes the development fees for typical single-family and multi-family projects.

**Table IV-9  
Planning and Development Fees**

Fee Category	Fee or Deposit Amount
<b>Planning and Application Fees<sup>1</sup></b>	
Pre-Application Conference	\$200
Parcel Map	\$1,250
Tentative Tract Map	\$2,000
Concept Approval (coastal)	\$150
Major Site Plan Review	\$1,000
Minor Use Permit	\$500
Conditional Use Permit	\$1,250
Planned Unit Development	\$2,750
Specific Plan	\$10,000
<b>Environmental Review<sup>1</sup></b>	
Categorical Exemption	\$50
Initial Study (review and preparation)	\$500 deposit
Negative Declaration	\$1,800 deposit
Environmental Impact Report (review) <sup>2</sup>	\$20,000 deposit
<b>Regional Development Impact Fees<sup>3</sup></b>	
Water connection fees <sup>4</sup>	\$3,873
Sewer connection fees	\$1,835
Road fees (per unit)	\$783 (condo) \$953 (apartment) \$1,452 (single-family house)
Est. total fee % of total development cost <sup>5</sup>	SF – 3% MF – 5%

Source: City of Seal Beach Development Services Department, 2013

Notes:

1. Items with deposits are based on actual processing costs which may exceed initial deposit amount.
2. Applicant is required to reimburse City for consultant costs.
3. Impact Fees are imposed by regional agencies and vary by location
4. Assuming 1" water service line
5. Assumes development cost of \$600,000 for SF and \$300,000 for MF

The City periodically evaluates the actual cost of processing the development permits when revising its fee schedule. The current fee schedule is based on a fee study completed in 2012.

After the passage of Proposition 13 and its limitation on local governments' property tax revenues, cities and counties have faced increasing difficulty in providing public services and facilities to serve their residents. One of the main consequences of Proposition 13 has been the shift in funding of new infrastructure from general tax revenues to development impact fees and improvement requirements on land developers. The City requires developers to provide on-site and off-site improvements necessary to serve their projects. Such improvements may include water, sewer and other utility extensions, street construction and traffic control device installation that are reasonably related to the project. Dedication of land or in-lieu fees may also be required of a project for rights-of-

way, transit facilities, recreational facilities and school sites, consistent with the Subdivision Map Act.

A typical local street requires a 60-foot right-of-way, with two 12-foot travel lanes. The City's road standards are typical for cities in Orange County and do not act as a constraint to housing development. Table IV-10 illustrates the City's road improvement standards.

**Table IV-10**  
**Road Improvement Standards**

Roadway Designation	Number of Lanes	Right-of-Way Width	Curb-to-Curb Width
Principal Arterial	8	140'	120'
Major Arterial	6	120'	102'
Primary Arterial	4	100'	84'
Secondary Arterial	4	80'	64'
Local Street	2	60'	36'

Source: City of Seal Beach Public Works Department

The City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) contains a schedule of public improvements including streets and other public works projects to facilitate the continued build-out of the City's General Plan. The CIP helps to ensure that construction of public improvements is coordinated with private development.

Although development fees and improvement requirements increase the cost of housing, cities have little choice in establishing such requirements due to the limitations on property taxes and other revenue sources needed to fund public improvements.

## **B. Non-Governmental Constraints**

### **1. Environmental Constraints**

Environmental constraints include physical features such as steep slopes, fault zones, floodplains, sensitive biological habitat, and agricultural lands. In many cases, development of these areas is constrained by state and federal laws (e.g., FEMA floodplain regulations, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, and the state Fish and Game Code and Alquist-Priolo Act).

The most noteworthy environmental constraints in Seal Beach are seismicity and soil stability related to a shallow groundwater. The Newport-Inglewood fault runs through the city. Since the city's topography is relatively gentle, steep slopes and landslides are not a major concern.

The City's land use plans have been designed to protect sensitive areas from development, and also to protect public safety by avoiding development in hazardous areas. While these policies constrain residential development to some extent, they are necessary to support other public policies. In Southern California, nearly all development

projects face potential community-wide environmental constraints such as traffic, noise and air quality impacts, in addition to site-specific constraints. None of the sites identified in the land inventory (Appendix B) have site-specific environmental constraints that would preclude the assumed level of development.

## **2. Infrastructure Constraints**

Seal Beach is almost completely “built out” and necessary infrastructure such as water, wastewater and drainage systems are in place. The amount of new development projected to occur during the planning period is relatively small, and there are no known limitations that would preclude the anticipated level of development.

The City’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) contains a schedule of public improvements including streets and other public works projects to facilitate the continued build-out of the City’s General Plan. The CIP helps to ensure that construction of public improvements is coordinated with development.

## **3. Land Costs**

Land represents one of the most significant components of the cost of new housing. Land values fluctuate with market conditions, and the recent downturn in the housing market has affected land values. Changes in land prices reflect the cyclical nature of the residential real estate market. The high price of land throughout Orange County poses a significant challenge to the development of lower-income housing, although it is unclear to what extent the current downturn will affect long-term land prices. Density affects development feasibility by determining the land cost per unit. As discussed in the Governmental Constraints section of this chapter, allowable multi-family residential densities in Seal Beach are sufficient to facilitate development of affordable housing.

## **4. Construction Costs**

Construction cost is affected by the price of materials, labor, development standards and general market conditions. The City has no influence over materials and labor costs, and the building codes and development standards in Seal Beach are not substantially different than most other cities in Orange County. In recent years, construction costs for materials and labor have increased at a slightly higher pace than the general rate of inflation according to the Construction Industry Research Board.

## **5. Cost and Availability of Financing**

The crisis in the mortgage industry during the past few years will affect the availability and cost of real estate loans, although the long-term effects are unpredictable. It is clear that one of the primary factors contributing to real estate recession was the lending policies of “sub-prime” mortgage brokers who approved loans for borrowers without sufficient equity and ability to repay the loans. As a result of these practices, there has been a significant rise in foreclosure rates, and changes in mortgage underwriting standards is



likely to have greater impacts on low-income families than other segments of the community.

### **C. Fair Housing**

Under state law, it is illegal for real estate lending institutions to discriminate against entire neighborhoods in lending practices because of the physical or economic conditions in the area ("redlining"). In monitoring new construction sales, re-sales of existing homes, and permits for remodeling, it would not appear that redlining is practiced in any area of the city.

State law also prohibits discrimination in the development process or in real property transactions, and it is the City's policy to uphold the law in this regard. The City also provides financial support to the Orange County Fair Housing Council through its CDBG program and is an active participant in fair housing activities (see Program 5a in Chapter V – Housing Action Plan).

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## V. HOUSING ACTION PLAN

This chapter of the Housing Element sets forth the City's goals, policies and programs to address the previously identified existing, future and special housing needs of Seal Beach residents. Quantified housing objectives that the City anticipates achieving over the next five years are also included. This Housing Strategy represents a continuing evolving effort on the part of the City to facilitate the provision of housing for all economic segments of the population, to improve the quality of existing housing, and to maintain the condition and affordability of the existing housing stock. Table V-1 identifies the City's quantified housing objectives over the 2013-2021 period while Table V-2 provides a summary of the housing programs specifying the objectives, time frame for implementation, source of funding, and responsible agencies.

### A. Housing Goals, Policies and Programs

A sound basis for any plan of action is a set of well-defined goals and policies to express the desires and aspirations of the community. The City has established the following housing goals:

- Facilitate the development of a variety of housing types for all income levels to meet the existing and future needs of residents.
- Assist in the development of adequate housing to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income households.
- Address, and where appropriate and legally possible, remove governmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement and development of housing.
- Maintain and enhance the quality of existing residential neighborhoods.
- Promote equal housing opportunities for all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, marital status, or familial status.
- Encourage more efficient energy use in residential developments.

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<b>Goal 1:</b>	<b>Facilitate the development of a variety of housing types for all income levels to meet the existing and future needs of residents</b>
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**Policy 1a:** Provide adequate sites for a variety of housing types through the Land Use Element of the General Plan and the Zoning Ordinance, while ensuring that environmental and infrastructure constraints are addressed.

**Policy 1b:** Where appropriate, encourage the redesignation of vacant and underutilized non-residential land to residential uses with appropriate densities to facilitate the development of a variety of housing types to address the housing needs of all economic segments of the population.

**Policy 1c:** Encourage the infilling of vacant residential land.

**Policy 1d:** Encourage the recycling of underutilized residential land, where such recycling is consistent with established land use plans.

**Policy 1e:** Provide compatibility of residential uses with surrounding uses through the separation of incompatible uses, construction of adequate buffers, and other land use controls.

**Policy 1f:** Improve all residential environments through the provision of adequate public facilities and services, including streets and parks, as well as water, sewer, and drainage systems.

**Policy 1g:** Provide for adequate, freely accessible open space within reasonable distances of all community residents.

**Program 1a: Provision of Adequate Sites for New Construction through the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance**

The Land Use Element of the Seal Beach General Plan designates land within the city for a variety of residential types and densities ranging from 9 to 46 units per acre. The land use designations are implemented through the Zoning Ordinance. While the City is a fully urbanized community with little vacant land remaining, adequate sites are available to accommodate the City's assigned fair share of future residential growth of 2 housing units during the planning period.

**2013-2021 Objectives:**

1. In order to enhance the feasibility of affordable housing development, the City will offer incentives and concessions such as expedited processing, administrative assistance with applications for funding assistance, and modified development standards.

2. The City will report its progress in implementing this program to HCD on an annual basis, pursuant to *Government Code* §65400.

3. The City shall comply with the "no net loss" provisions of *Government Code* §65863 through the implementation of an ongoing project-by-project evaluation process to ensure that adequate sites are available to accommodate the City's RHNA share throughout the planning period. The City shall not reduce the allowable density of any site in its residential land inventory, nor approve a development project at a lower density than assumed in the land inventory, unless both of the following findings are made:

a) The reduction is consistent with the adopted General Plan, including the Housing Element; and

- b) The remaining sites identified in the Housing Element are adequate to accommodate the City's share of regional housing need pursuant to *Government Code* §65584.

If a reduction in residential density for any parcel would result in the remaining sites in the Housing Element land inventory not being adequate to accommodate the City's share of the regional housing need pursuant to Sec. 65584, the City may reduce the density on that parcel if it identifies sufficient additional, adequate and available sites with an equal or greater residential density so that there is no net loss of residential unit capacity.

#### **Program 1b: Land Use Compatibility**

A goal of the City is to create and maintain desirable living areas for residents by physically separating or otherwise protecting residential neighborhoods from incompatible uses. This program will be implemented through the review of proposed amendments to the General Plan and zoning regulations, and through the review of discretionary permit applications.

##### ***2013-2021 Objectives:***

- Continue to use zoning and other land use controls to ensure the compatibility of residential areas with surrounding uses.

#### **Program 1c: Second Units**

The City permits the construction of second units on existing residential lots consistent with state law. Second units provide for alternative housing arrangements for single, elderly, and other households, many of which may have very-low or extremely-low incomes.

##### ***2013-2021 Objectives:***

- Continue to allow for the development of second units consistent with state law and the Municipal Code.

#### **Program 1d: Emergency Shelters and Transitional/Supportive Housing**

Senate Bill 2 of 2007 strengthened planning requirements for emergency shelters and transitional/supportive housing. The Municipal Code is in compliance with SB 2, including specific regulations and development standards that apply to emergency shelters, and clarification that transitional/supportive housing is a residential use subject to the same standards as other residential uses of the same type in the same zone. The City will continue to implement the requirements of state law by facilitating the provision of emergency shelters and transitional/supportive housing.

**2013-2021 Objectives:**

- Continue to facilitate the provision of emergency shelters and transitional/supportive housing consistent with state law.

**Program 1e: Innovative Land Use and Construction Techniques**

Construction and land costs represent the most important factors in determining the cost of housing in a community. Innovative land use techniques such as small lot, planned unit developments and mixed use, as well as innovative construction techniques including manufactured or factory built housing can help reduce the cost of housing.

**2013-2021 Objectives:**

- Continue to encourage the use of innovative land use techniques and construction methods to minimize housing costs provided that basic health, safety, and aesthetic considerations are not compromised. Encourage the use of planned unit developments, mixed use, and alternative construction methods. The City will provide flexibility in development standards and siting requirements to minimize development costs.

**Program 1f: Provision of Adequate Public Facilities and Services**

New residential developments bring new residents to the City, placing an increased demand on public facilities and services. To adequately serve its existing and future residents, the City must ensure that new residential developments are provided with adequate public facilities and services.

**2013-2021 Objectives:**

- Continue to utilize environmental and other development review procedures to ensure that all new residential developments are provided with adequate public facilities and services.

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<b>Goal 2:</b>	<b>Assist in the development of adequate housing to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income households</b>
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<b>Policy 2a:</b>	Expand housing opportunities for households with special needs, such as the elderly, disabled, large households, female-headed households, and the homeless.
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- Policy 2b:** Provide incentives for and otherwise encourage the development of new affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households, including extremely-low-income persons.
- Policy 2c:** Investigate and pursue programs and funding sources designed to expand housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income households, including the elderly and disabled.
- Policy 2d:** Direct the construction of low- and moderate-income housing to sites that are:
- located with convenient access to schools, parks, public transportation, shopping facilities, and employment opportunities;
  - adequately served by public utilities;
  - adequately served by police and fire protection;
  - compatible with surrounding existing and planned land uses;
  - minimally impacted by noise, flooding, or other environmental constraints; and
  - outside of areas of concentrated lower-income households.

**Program 2a: Density Bonus**

The Seal Beach Zoning Ordinance contains density bonus policies that are consistent with State density bonus law. Density bonuses and other incentives can help to facilitate the production of low- and moderate-income housing by providing incentives that reduce development costs.

***2013-2021 Objectives:***

- Continue to promote the use of density bonuses among potential residential developers

**Program 2b: Affordable Housing Resources**

The City will facilitate the development of quality affordable housing through a variety of actions, including pursuing additional funding sources and partnering with private and non-profit housing developers.

***2013-2021 Objectives:***

- Maintain a list of non-profit housing developers active in Orange County.

- Contact qualified non-profit housing developers to explore opportunities for affordable housing development annually, or whenever development opportunities arise.
- Explore a variety of funding resources, such as Multi-Family Housing Program (MHP) funds and Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC). Periodically consult with the State Department of Housing and Community Development HCD for current and new funding availability.
- Provide interested developers with an inventory of residential sites available for development.
- Prioritize assistance for extremely-low-income (ELI) units and projects such as single room occupancy (SRO) and supportive housing commensurate with the City's regional housing need of 1 ELI unit during the current planning period.

#### **Program 2c: Land Write Downs and Assistance with Off-Site Improvements**

Land costs and requirements for off-site improvements are important factors in determining the cost of housing. To facilitate development of housing affordable to low- and moderate-income households the City may subsidize the cost of land and off-site improvements when feasible. This program will be implemented through discussions with project proponents during the development review process.

##### ***2013-2021 Objectives:***

- Consider subsidizing the cost of land and off-site improvements for affordable housing development on a project-specific basis when feasible.

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<b>Goal 3:</b>	<b>Address, and where appropriate and legally possible, remove governmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement, and development of housing.</b>
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**Policy 3a:** Assist City residents in securing decent safe and affordable housing.

**Policy 3b:** Conserve the affordability of housing units assisted with public funds through affordability covenants or resale controls.

**Policy 3c:** Investigate and pursue programs and funding sources designed to maintain and/or improve the affordability of existing housing units to low- and moderate-income households.

#### **Program 3a: Section 8 Rental Assistance**



The Section 8 rental assistance program extends rental subsidies to very-low-income (50% MFI) families and elderly who spend more than 50% of their income on rent, live in substandard housing, or have been displaced. The subsidy represents the difference between 30% of the monthly income and the allowable rent determined by the Section 8 program. Most Section 8 subsidies are issued in the form of vouchers which permit tenants to locate their own housing and rent units beyond the housing payment standards in an area provided the tenants pay the extra rent increment. Seal Beach participates in the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program through the Housing Authority of Orange County.

***2013-2021 Objectives:***

- Continue to cooperate with the Orange County Housing Authority in providing Section 8 rental assistance to very-low-income households
- Assist the County Housing Authority in promoting the Section 8 program to both property owners and eligible renters by publicizing the program on the City's website, the City newsletter, local libraries, and within Leisure World.

**Program 3b: Mortgage Credit Certificates**

The Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) program is a federal program that allows qualified first-time homebuyers to take an annual credit against federal income taxes of up to 15 percent of the annual interest paid on the applicant's mortgage. This enables homebuyers to have more income available to qualify for a mortgage loan and make the monthly mortgage payments. The value of the MCC must be taken into consideration by the mortgage lender in underwriting the loan and may be used to adjust the borrower's federal income tax withholding. The MCC program has covenant restrictions to ensure the affordability of the participating homes for a period of 15 years.

The MCC program is administered through the County of Orange. Each participating city pays a small fee to help offset the cost of administration. MCCs are awarded on a first-come/first-served basis.

***2013-2021 Objectives:***

- Continue participation in the MCC program and contact the County annually to determine current program status. Distribute program information at City libraries and on the City website. The number of households assisted with this program will depend on market conditions and program availability.

**Program 3c: Maintenance of Affordability Covenants on City or Agency-Assisted Housing**

The City and Redevelopment Agency previously used CDBG and redevelopment set-aside funds to assist in the development and preservation of affordable housing. To ensure the long-term preservation of Seal Beach Shores Trailer Park as an important affordable housing resource, the City worked with LINC Housing, a non-profit housing organization, to pursue tenant ownership of the park. The City was awarded a \$20,000 Technical Assistance Grant by the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to facilitate conversion of the park to tenant ownership. Through the issuance of a revenue bond by the Redevelopment Agency and subsequent loan to LINC Housing, conversion of the park to tenant ownership was completed in 2000, and affordability covenants were recorded on these units. The Agency has been providing ongoing rental assistance to offset the monthly rent increase necessary to repay the bond. The Successor Agency to the Seal Beach Redevelopment Agency has listed such rental assistance to qualified residents of the Seal Beach Shores Trailer Park as one of its enforceable obligations with the intention of continuing that assistance.

***2013-2021 Objectives:***

- Continue to monitor the affordability of any very-low, low-, and moderate-income housing units assisted with public funds.

**Program 3d: Local Coastal Program**

The City does not currently have a certified LCP. As a result, all developments within the Coastal Zone are subject to review by the California Coastal Commission, in addition to the required City approvals. The City Council has appointed an Ad Hoc General Plan/LCP Committee to provide direction in the preparation of an LCP. During 2013/2014 City staff will work with the Ad Hoc Committee to prepare and submit a draft LCP to the California Coastal Commission for review and certification.

***2013-2021 Objectives:***

- Prepare and obtain Coastal Commission certification of a Local Coastal Program.

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<b>Goal 4:</b>	<b>Maintain and enhance the existing quality of residential neighborhoods in Seal Beach.</b>
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<b>Policy 4a:</b>	Encourage the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing owner-occupied and rental housing where feasible.
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- Policy 4b:** Promote the removal and replacement of those substandard units that cannot be rehabilitated.
- Policy 4c:** Investigate and pursue programs and funding sources available to assist in the improvement of residential property.
- Policy 4d:** Encourage the continued affordability of housing units rehabilitated with public funds.
- Policy 4e:** Discourage the conversion of existing apartment units to condominiums where such conversion will diminish the supply of housing affordable to low- and moderate-income households.
- Policy 4f:** Promote the conservation and rehabilitation of older neighborhoods, preventing the encroachment of incompatible commercial or industrial uses into established neighborhoods.
- Policy 4g:** Assist all residents, wherever possible, in securing decent safe and adequate housing.
- Policy 4h:** Promote a safe, healthful, aesthetically pleasing environment that strengthens individual and family life.
- Policy 4i:** Preserve and enhance viable residential neighborhoods and strengthen neighborhood identity.
- Policy 4j:** Upgrade and improve community facilities and municipal services in keeping with community needs.
- Policy 4k:** Encourage the use of innovative land use techniques and construction methods to minimize housing costs without compromising basic health, safety, and aesthetic conditions.
- Policy 4l:** Periodically reexamine local building and zoning codes for possible amendments to reduce construction costs without sacrificing basic health and safety considerations.

**Program 4a: Condominium Conversion**

As a means to preserve the affordable housing stock the Condominium Conversion Ordinance regulates the procedures for the conversion of existing apartment complexes to condominium ownerships.

***2013-2021 Objectives:***

- Continue to enforce the Condominium Conversion Ordinance

**Program 4b: Replacement Housing in Local Coastal Zone**

The Coastal and Surfside Planning Areas of the city are located within the Coastal Zone. State law requires that affordable low- and moderate-income housing units demolished within the coastal zone be replaced, if feasible.

***2013-2021 Objectives:***

- Continue to review development projects on a case-by-case basis to ensure that replacement low- and moderate-income housing is provided if feasible.

**Program 4c: Housing Conditions Monitoring**

Overall, the housing stock in Seal Beach is well-maintained. However, the beach area contains scattered housing units with deferred maintenance issues. The City has targeted the beach area for housing condition monitoring. Periodically, the City's code enforcement and building officials survey the area to identify properties requiring maintenance and upkeep. If significant problems are found to exist, the City will seek funding assistance for rehabilitation grants or loans to property owners from the County of Orange CDBG Small City Urban County program.

***2013-2021 Objectives:***

- Continue to conduct annual surveys of the targeted beach area to identify housing units with deferred maintenance issues and mail brochures about the City's rehabilitation programs to owners of the identified units. Apply for funding assistance annually from the Urban County program if rehabilitation needs are identified.

**Program 4d: Zoning and Building Codes Enforcement**

Enforcement of building and zoning codes is important to maintaining and improving the quality of housing and neighborhoods in a community. The City contracts for code compliance services 20 hours per week.

***2013-2021 Objectives:***

- Continue to enforce the City's zoning and building codes through contract code compliance services.
- Provide information about assistance programs to property owners with violations.

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**Goal 5: Promote equal housing opportunities for all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, marital status, or familial status.**

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**Policy 5a:** Promote fair housing practices throughout the community.

**Policy 5b:** Encourage the development of housing that meets the special needs of disabled and elderly households.

**Policy 5c:** Promote the provision of housing to meet the needs of families and households of all sizes.

**Program 5a: Fair Housing Services**

The City enforces the Fair Housing Act within its jurisdiction. To achieve fair housing goals, the City participates in Orange County's contract with the Fair Housing Council of Orange County (FHCOC) to provide fair housing and tenant landlord counseling services. FHCOC is contracted to perform fair housing audits and to investigate fair housing complaints.

**2013-2021 Objectives:**

- Continue to provide fair housing and tenant landlord counseling services through the Fair Housing Council of Orange County. The Community Development Director will serve as the primary point of contact for fair housing issues and will refer inquiries to the FHCOC.

**Program 5b: Removal of Architectural Barriers**

The City's Home Improvement Program includes removal of architectural barriers or installation of accessibility features as eligible improvements. CDBG funds are utilized to remove architectural barriers, such as restroom facilities in Leisure World.

**2013-2021 Objectives:**

- Continue to utilize the Home Improvement Program to remove architectural barriers and encourage participation by elderly and disabled residents.

**Program 5c: Housing Information and Referral Services**

The Housing Authority of Orange County provides housing information and referral services for persons seeking affordable rental and homeownership opportunities.

**2013-2021 Objectives:**

- Continue to support the housing and referral services provided by the Housing Authority of Orange County by posting contact information on the City website and at public buildings.

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**Goal 6: Encourage more efficient energy use in residential developments.**


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**Policy 6a:** Promote energy conservation through “green building” techniques that reduce water consumption, improve energy efficiency and lessen a building’s overall environmental impact.

**Policy 6b:** Promote “smart growth” principles by encouraging compact development in locations that provide opportunities for reduced vehicle trips.

**Program 6a: Green Building Techniques**

“Green buildings” are structures that are designed, renovated, re-used or operated in a manner that enhances resource efficiency and sustainability. These structures reduce water consumption, improve energy efficiency and lessen a building’s overall environmental impact. The City’s Development Services Department will distribute a Green Building Tips handout for both homeowners and builders, and the City will offer a fee reduction program for remodels that include energy conservation features.

***2013-2021 Objectives:***

- Distribute a Green Building Tips handout at City Hall and on the City website.
- Continue to offer reduced fees for residential remodeling projects that include energy conservation features.

**Program 6b: Promote Smart Growth**

The City will continue to promote “smart growth” principles by encouraging compact development commensurate with the City’s regional housing need in locations that provide opportunities for reduced vehicle trips (see also Program 1a).

***2013-2021 Objectives:***

- Seek to incorporate smart growth principles in future land use and zoning amendments.

## B. Quantified Objectives

The City's quantified objectives for new construction, rehabilitation and conservation are presented in Table V-1.

**Table V-1**  
**Quantified Objectives 2013-2021**

Program Category	Income Category					Totals
	Extremely Low	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Above Moderate	
New Construction <sup>1</sup>	1	-	3	4	72-	80
Rehabilitation	-			-	-	-
Conservation <sup>2</sup>	25			75		100

1. Quantified objective for new construction is for the period 2014-2021

2. Preservation of units in Seal Beach Shores Trailer Park

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## **Appendix A – Evaluation of the Prior Housing Element**

Section 65588(a) of the *Government Code* requires that jurisdictions evaluate the effectiveness of the existing Housing Element, the appropriateness of goals, objectives and policies, and the progress in implementing programs for the previous planning period. This appendix contains a review of the housing goals, policies, and programs of the previous housing element, and evaluates the degree to which these programs have been implemented during the previous planning period. This analysis also includes an assessment of the appropriateness of goals, objectives and policies. The findings from this evaluation have been instrumental in determining the City's 2013-2021 housing programs.

Table A-1 summarizes the programs contained in the previous Housing Element along with the source of funding, program objectives, accomplishments, and implications for future policies and actions.

Table A-2 summarizes the goals and policies contained in the previous Housing Element along with an assessment of their appropriateness for the new planning period.

Table A-3 presents the City's progress in meeting the quantified objectives from the previous Housing Element.

**Table A-1**  
**Housing Element Program Evaluation – 2008-2013**  
**City of Seal Beach**

Goal/Program	Objectives	Time Frame	Responsible Agency	Accomplishments	Future Policies and Actions
<b>Goal 1: Facilitate the development of a variety of housing types for all income levels to meet the existing and future needs of residents.</b>					
Program 1a: Provision of Adequate Sites for New Construction through General Plan and Zoning Ordinance	<p>1. By June 2012 the City will initiate General Plan and zoning amendments and related environmental analysis for a parcel or parcels totaling between 0.58 and 0.95 developable acres for multi-family development at a density of 20 to 33 units/acre to accommodate the shortfall of 19 lower-income housing units during the planning period. The parcel(s) to be rezoned will be selected from the list of potential sites identified in Table B-3.</p> <p>2. By January 2013, following completion of the site evaluation and environmental analysis, General Plan and zoning amendments will be adopted to allow development of at least 19 multi-family units during this planning period. The rezoned site(s) will permit a minimum density of 20 units/acre, will accommodate at least 16 units per site, and will include development standards that encourage and facilitate multi-family development by-right (i.e., without a conditional use permit, planned development permit, or other discretionary action). At least 50% of the lower-income need (i.e., 10 units) will be accommodated on sites designated exclusively for residential use. The rezoned site(s) will be located in proximity to employment opportunities and transit if feasible.</p> <p>3. In order to enhance the feasibility of affordable housing development, the City will offer incentives and concessions such as expedited processing, administrative assistance with applications for funding</p>	2012-2013	Community Development Dept.	<p>1. The City Council initiated General Plan and zoning amendments for the Accurate Storage property in 2012 and the amendments were adopted in 2013. The amendments allow multi-family residential development by-right at a density of 20 units/acre. This site has a capacity for more than 80 lower-income units, which significantly exceeds the City's RHNA obligation of 19 units. No development application has been submitted for this site to date.</p> <p>The City's progress toward Housing Element implementation was reported to HCD in April 2013 as required by state law.</p> <p>Since no application has been submitted, the no net loss provisions of this program are not applicable.</p>	This program should be revised to reflect the City's land inventory and new RHNA allocations for the 2014-2021 period.

Goal/Program	Objectives	Time Frame	Responsible Agency	Accomplishments	Future Policies and Actions
	<p>assistance, and modified development standards.</p> <p>4. The City will report its progress in implementing this program to HCD on an annual basis, pursuant to <i>Government Code</i> §65400.</p> <p>5. The City shall comply with the “no net loss” provisions of <i>Government Code</i> §65863 through the implementation of an ongoing project-by-project evaluation process to ensure that adequate sites are available to accommodate the City’s RHNA share throughout the remainder of the planning period. The City shall not reduce the allowable density of any site in its residential land inventory, nor approve a development project at a lower density than assumed in the land inventory, unless both of the following findings are made:</p> <p>a) The reduction is consistent with the adopted General Plan, including the Housing Element; and</p> <p>b) The remaining sites identified in the Housing Element are adequate to accommodate the City’s share of regional housing need pursuant to <i>Government Code</i> §65584.</p> <p>If a reduction in residential density for any parcel would result in the remaining sites in the Housing Element land inventory not being adequate to accommodate the City’s share of the regional housing need pursuant to Sec. 65584, the City may reduce the density on that parcel if it identifies sufficient additional, adequate and available sites with an equal or greater residential density so that there is no net loss of residential unit capacity.</p>				
Program 1b: Land Use Compatibility	Continue to use zoning and other land use controls to ensure the compatibility of residential areas with surrounding uses	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	The City continually reviews its development standards to ensure that compatibility with adjoining uses. In	This program should be continued.

Goal/Program	Objectives	Time Frame	Responsible Agency	Accomplishments	Future Policies and Actions
				2010 a comprehensive revision to the City's Zoning Code was completed.	
Program 1c: Second Units	Continue to allow for the development of second units or granny flats.	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	The Zoning Code allows for second-units as a permitted use subject to specific development standards. No second unit applications were received in the previous planning period (2008-2012).	Continue to encourage second units.
Program 1d: Emergency Shelters and Transitional/Supportive Housing	Amend the Development Code in conformance with SB 2 to establish development standards for emergency shelters and transitional/ supportive housing.	Within one year of Housing Element adoption	Community Development Dept.	The Municipal Code and the Boeing Specific Plan were amended in 2013 to allow emergency shelters by-right, and allow transitional & supportive housing subject to the same regulations as other residential uses of the same type in the same zone.	This program has been completed and is no longer necessary.
1e: Innovative Land Use and Construction Techniques	Continue to encourage the use of innovative land use techniques and construction methods to minimize housing costs	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	The City continues to encourage the use of innovative land use techniques and construction methods to minimize housing costs. The City continuously updates the Building and other construction codes of the City in accordance with the requirements of the California Building Standards Commission.	This program should be continued.
1f: Provision of Adequate Public Facilities and Services	Continue to utilize environmental and other development review procedures to ensure that all new residential developments are provided with adequate public facilities and services	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	The City continues to utilize the CEQA review process to ensure that all new residential developments are provided with adequate public facilities and services.	This program should be continued.
<b>Goal 2: Facilitate the development of housing affordable to low- and moderate-income households.</b>					
Program 2a: Density Bonus	Continue to promote the use of density bonuses among potential residential developers.	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	A comprehensive revision to the Zoning Code was adopted in 2010, which incorporated current state requirements for density bonus (Chapter 11.4.55, Affordable Housing Bonus). Due to the extremely limited amount of development opportunities in the city, no density bonus projects were proposed during the 2008-2012 period.	This program should be continued.

Goal/Program	Objectives	Time Frame	Responsible Agency	Accomplishments	Future Policies and Actions
Program 2b: Affordable Housing Resources	Maintain a list of nonprofit housing developers active in Orange County	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	A list of non-profit housing developers has been included in the 2008-2014 Housing Element (Appendix C-Public Participation Summary).	This activity should be continued.
	Contact qualified nonprofit housing developers to explore opportunities for affordable housing development annually, or whenever development opportunities arise.	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	City staff contacted affordable housing developers regarding new development opportunities.	This activity should be continued.
	Explore a variety of funding resources, such as MHP funds and Low Income Housing Tax Credits. Periodically consult with the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for current and new funding availability	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	The City considered filing applications for funding for several multi-family residential rehabilitation programs during the planning period although none was determined to be feasible.	This activity should be continued.
	Provide interested developers with an inventory of residential sites available for development	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	A list of residential sites is available in the Housing Element, which is posted on the City website.	This activity should be continued.
	Prioritize assistance for extremely-low-income (ELI) units and projects such as single room occupancy (SRO) and supportive housing commensurate with the City's regional housing need of 6 ELI units during the current planning period.	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	No suitable ELI projects were proposed during the 2008-2012 period.	This activity should be continued.
Program 2c: Land Write-Downs and Off-Site Improvements	Consider subsidizing the cost of land and off-site improvements for affordable housing development on a project-specific basis when feasible.	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	Prior to the statewide dissolution of redevelopment agencies, RDA set-aside funds were used to assist affordable housing; however, these funds are no longer available.	With the dissolution of the RDA this program is no longer feasible and has been discontinued.
Program 2d: Preserve the Existing Affordable Housing Stock	Continue to monitor the terms of the tenant ownership agreement for the Seal Beach Trailer park	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	The Redevelopment Agency issued bonds in 2000 to allow for the acquisition of the Seal Beach Shores Trailer park by LINC Housing, a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency to own and manage the Seal Beach Shores Trailer Park. In 2009 the ownership of the park was transferred to Seal Beach Shores, Inc, a resident-owned 501(c)(3) non-profit entity. The City continues to monitor the terms of the agreement.	This program should be merged with Program 3c.

Goal/Program	Objectives	Time Frame	Responsible Agency	Accomplishments	Future Policies and Actions
<b>Goal 3: Conserve the affordability of the existing housing stock and to expand affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate income households.</b>					
Program 3a: Section 8 Rental Assistance	Continue to provide Section 8 rental assistance to very low income households.  Assist the County Housing Authority in promoting the Section 8 program to property owners and eligible renters by publicizing the program in the City's website, the City newsletter, local libraries, and within Leisure World.	Ongoing	Housing Authority of the County of Orange and the Seal Beach Community Development Dept.	The City continues to contract with the County of Orange Housing Authority for participation in the Section 8 rental assistance program and has promoted the availability of the Section 8 program in the City newsletter, through the local newspaper, and at local libraries.	This program should be continued.
Program 3b: Mortgage Credit Certificates	Continue participation in the MCC program and contact the County annually to determine current program status. Distribute program information at City libraries and on the City website. The number of households assisted with this program will depend on market conditions and program availability.	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	The City currently participates in this program offered by the County of Orange. It is unknown how many units have actually received funding by this program.	The City should continue to publicize this program, if available.
Program 3c: Maintenance of Affordability Covenants on City and Agency Assisted Housing	Maintain the affordability of any very low, low, and moderate income housing units assisted with public funds.	Ongoing	Redevelopment Agency and Community Development Dept.	All units assisted with public funds were located in the Seal Beach Shores Trailer Park. The Redevelopment Agency has provided approximately \$120,000 per year in funding to the tenants of the Seal Beach Shores Trailer Park to off-set increased costs in the 2000 acquisition of the Park by LINC Housing.	This program should be continued. The successor agency has listed its rental assistance to qualified residents of the Seal Beach Shores Trailer Park as one of its enforceable obligations with the intention of continuing that assistance.
Program 3d: Single Room Occupancy Housing	Process a Zoning Code amendment to establish regulations for SRO facilities.	Process a zoning amendment in 2012	Community Development Dept.	An SRO zoning amendment was adopted in 2013.	This program has been completed and is no longer necessary.
Program 3e: Local Coastal Program	Prepare and obtain Coastal Commission certification of a Local Coastal Program.	Prepare an LCP during 2012-2014	Community Development Dept.	Work was initiated on the LCP and an Ad Hoc Citizens Advisory Committee was convened to provide recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council.	This program is underway and should be continued.
Program 3f: Off-Street Parking	Process a Zoning Code amendment to reduce off-street parking requirements for small apartment units.	Process a zoning amendment in 2012	Community Development Dept.	A zoning amendment was adopted in 2013.	This program has been completed and is no longer necessary.

Goal/Program	Objectives	Time Frame	Responsible Agency	Accomplishments	Future Policies and Actions
<b>Goal 4: Maintain and enhance the existing quality of residential neighborhoods in Seal Beach.</b>					
Program 4a: Home Improvement Program – Owner-Occupied Housing	Pursue grants and other sources of funding to continue this program.	Ongoing	Redevelopment Agency	This program has been discontinued due to the dissolution of the Redevelopment Agency.	This program has been discontinued due to the dissolution of the Redevelopment Agency.
Program 4b: Condominium Conversion	Continue to enforce the Condominium Conversion Ordinance	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	The City continues to enforce the Condominium Conversion Ordinance. No applications for a conversion were submitted to the City during the period of this report.	This program should be continued.
Program 4c: Replacement Housing in the Coastal Zone	Continue to review development projects on a case-by-case basis to ensure that replacement low- and moderate-income housing is provided if feasible.	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	The City has imposed inclusionary housing fees on developments within the Coastal Zone on a case-by-case basis.	This program should be modified to comply with the requirements of state law.
Program 4d: Housing Conditions Monitoring	Continue to conduct annual surveys of the targeted beach area to identify housing units with deferred maintenance issues and mail brochures about the City's rehabilitation programs to owners of the identified units.	Annually	Community Development Dept.	CivicStone conducted a survey and targeted its initial public outreach program to properties needing repairs. Several of the identified properties participated in rehabilitation loan and grant programs offered by the City.	This program should be continued.
Program 4f: Zoning and Building Codes Enforcement	Continue to enforce the City's zoning and building codes through contract code compliance services.  Provide information about assistance programs to property owners with violations.	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	The City continues to enforce the zoning and building codes. The City maintains the service of a Code Compliance Officer on a contractual basis at a staffing level of 20 hours per week.	This program should be continued.
<b>Goal 5: Promote equal housing opportunities for all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, marital status, or familial status.</b>					
Program 5a: Fair Housing Services	Continue to provide fair housing and tenant landlord counseling services through the Fair Housing Council of Orange County. The Community Development Director will serve as the primary point of contact for fair housing issues and will refer inquiries to the FHCOC.	Ongoing	Fair Housing Council of Orange County	The City continues to refer interested parties to the Fair Housing Council to provide fair housing and tenant/landlord counseling services.	This program should be continued.
Program 5b: Removal of Architectural Barriers	Continue to utilize the Home Improvement Program to remove architectural barriers and encourage participation by elderly and disabled residents.	Ongoing	Redevelopment Agency	The City has been successful in restructuring its program in providing this type of assistance. Since 2005 the City has assisted over 430 households in Leisure World with Orange County Community Development Block Grant	This program should be continued under the Community Development Department's oversight.

Goal/Program	Objectives	Time Frame	Responsible Agency	Accomplishments	Future Policies and Actions
				funds to remove architectural barriers in restroom areas particularly.	
Program 5c: Housing Information and Referral Services	Continue to support the housing and referral services provided by the Housing Authority of Orange County by posting contact information on the City website and at public buildings.	Ongoing	Housing Authority of the County of Orange	The City continues to refer interested parties to the Orange County Housing Authority regarding affordable rental and home ownership opportunities.	This program should be continued.
Program 5d: Residential Care Facilities	Process a Code amendment to clarify the zoning regulations for small residential care facilities.	2012	Community Development Dept.	A Code amendment was adopted in 2013	This program has been completed and is no longer necessary.
Program 5e: Senior Apartments and Independent Living Facilities	Process a Code amendment to allow senior apartments and independent living facilities subject to the same standards and procedures as non-age-restricted residential uses.	2012	Community Development Dept.	A Code amendment was adopted in 2013	This program has been completed and is no longer necessary.
<b>Goal 6: Encourage more efficient energy use in residential developments.</b>					
Program 6a: Green Building Techniques	Distribute a Green Building Tips handout at City Hall and on the City website.  Continue to offer reduced fees for residential remodeling projects that include energy conservation features.	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	Green Building handouts have been made available at the public counter and on the City website.	This program should be continued.
Program 6b: Promote Smart Growth	Seek to incorporate smart growth principles in future land use and zoning amendments.	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.	Since the city is nearly built-out, few opportunities for land use amendments arise; the City will continue to seek opportunities to implement smart growth principles.	This program should be continued.



**Table A-2**  
**Appropriateness of Housing Element Goals and Policies**  
**City of Seal Beach**  
**2008 – 2013**

Goal	Policy	Appropriateness
<b>Goal 1 – Facilitate the development of a variety of housing types for all income levels to meet the existing and future needs of residents.</b>		
	<b>Policy 1a:</b> Provide adequate sites for a variety of housing types through the Land Use Element of the General Plan and the Zoning Ordinance while ensuring that environmental and infrastructure constraints are addressed.	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 1b:</b> Where appropriate encourage the redesignation of vacant and underutilized nonresidential land to residential uses with appropriate densities to facilitate the development of a variety of housing types to address the housing needs of all economic segments of the population.	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 1c:</b> Encourage the infilling of vacant residential land.	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 1d:</b> Encourage the recycling of underutilized residential land where such recycling is consistent with established land use plans.	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 1e:</b> Provide compatibility of residential uses with surrounding uses through the separation of incompatible uses, construction of adequate buffers, and other land use controls.	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 1f:</b> Improve all residential environments through the provision of adequate public facilities and services including streets and parks as well as water, sewer, and drainage systems.	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 1g:</b> Provide for adequate, freely accessible open space within reasonable distances of all community residents.	Appropriate - retain
<b>Goal 2 – Assist in the development of adequate housing to meet the needs of low and moderate income households.</b>		
	<b>Policy 2a:</b> Expand housing opportunities for households with special needs such as the elderly, disabled, large households, female headed households, and the homeless.	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 2b:</b> Provide incentives for and otherwise encourage the development of new affordable housing for low and moderate income households.	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 2c:</b> Investigate and pursue programs and funding sources designed to expand housing opportunities for low and moderate income households including the elderly and disabled.	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 2d:</b> Direct the construction of low and moderate income housing to sites that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• located with convenient access to schools, parks, public transportation, shopping facilities, and employment opportunities;</li> <li>• adequately served by public utilities;</li> <li>• adequately provided with police and fire protection services;</li> <li>• compatible with surrounding existing and planned land uses;</li> <li>• minimally impacted by noise, flooding, or other environmental constraints; and</li> <li>• outside of areas of concentrated lower income households.</li> </ul>	Appropriate - retain
<b>Goal 3 – Address and where appropriate and legally possible remove governmental constraints to the maintenance improvement and development of housing.</b>		
	<b>Policy 3a:</b> Assist City residents in securing decent, safe, and affordable housing.	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 3b:</b> Conserve the affordability of housing units assisted with public funds through affordability covenants or resale controls.	Appropriate - retain

Goal	Policy	Appropriateness
	<b>Policy 3c:</b> Investigate and pursue programs and funding sources designed to maintain and/or improve the affordability of existing housing units to low and moderate income households	Appropriate - retain
<b>Goal 4 – Maintain and enhance the existing quality of residential neighborhoods in Seal Beach.</b>		
	<b>Policy 4a:</b> Encourage the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing owner occupied and rental housing where feasible.	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 4b:</b> Promote the removal and replacement of those substandard units that cannot be rehabilitated	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 4c:</b> Investigate and pursue programs and funding sources available to assist in the improvement of residential property.	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 4d:</b> Encourage the continued affordability of housing units rehabilitated with public funds	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 4e:</b> Discourage the conversion of existing apartment units to condominiums where such conversion will diminish the supply of housing affordable to low and moderate income households	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 4f:</b> Promote the conservation and rehabilitation of older neighborhoods, preventing the encroachment of incompatible commercial or industrial uses into established neighborhoods	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 4g:</b> Assist all residents wherever possible in securing decent, safe, and adequate housing	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 4h:</b> Promote a safe, healthful, aesthetically pleasing environment that strengthens individual and family life	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 4i:</b> Preserve and enhance viable residential neighborhoods and strengthen neighborhood identity	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 4j:</b> Upgrade and improve community facilities and municipal services in keeping with community needs	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 4k:</b> Encourage the use of innovative land use techniques and construction methods to minimize housing costs without compromising basic health, safety, and aesthetic conditions	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 4l:</b> Periodically reexamine local building and zoning codes for possible amendments to reduce construction costs without sacrificing basic health and safety considerations	Appropriate - retain
<b>Goal 5 – Promote equal housing opportunities for all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, marital status, or familial status.</b>		
	<b>Policy 5a:</b> Promote fair housing practices throughout the community.	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 5b:</b> Encourage the development of housing that meets the special needs of disabled and elderly households	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 5c:</b> Promote the provision of housing to meet the needs of families and households of all sizes.	Appropriate - retain
<b>Goal 6 – Encourage more efficient energy use in residential developments.</b>		
	<b>Policy 6a:</b> Promote energy conservation through “green building” techniques that reduce water consumption, improve energy efficiency and lessen a building’s overall environmental impact.	Appropriate - retain
	<b>Policy 6b:</b> Promote “smart growth” principles by encouraging compact development in locations that provide opportunities for reduced vehicle trips.	Appropriate - retain

**Table A-3**  
**Progress in Achieving Quantified Objectives 2008-2013**  
**City of Seal Beach**

Program Category	Quantified Objective	Progress
<b>New Construction*</b>		
Extremely Low	6	-
Very Low	5	-
Low	10	2
Moderate	12	-
Above Moderate	24	48
Total	57	50
<b>Rehabilitation**</b>		
Very Low	-	23
Low	-	-
Moderate	-	-
Above Moderate	-	-
Total	-	23
<b>Conservation &amp; Assistance***</b>		
Very Low	25	25
Low		
Moderate	75	75
Above Moderate	-	-
Total	100	100

\*Quantified objectives for new construction are for 2006 -2014 RHNA period

\*\*Seal Beach Shores Trailer Park rehabilitation

\*\*\*Seal Beach Shores Trailer Park preservation

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## Appendix B

### Residential Land Inventory

This appendix provides additional detail regarding the land inventory analysis of potential affordable housing development during the current RHNA projection period (2014-2021).

#### ASSUMPTIONS REGARDING AFFORDABILITY

State law<sup>11</sup> establishes a “default density” of 20 units per acre that is suitable for lower-income housing in small metropolitan cities such as Seal Beach. The land inventory analysis is based on this affordability assumption.

#### POTENTIAL SITES FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Seal Beach is nearly built-out with only a few parcels of vacant developable land remaining. This section describes three sites with potential for residential development during the 2013-2021 planning period. These sites provide adequate capacity to accommodate the City’s RHNA allocation of 1 very-low-income unit and 1 low-income unit.

- 1011 Seal Beach Blvd. (Accurate Storage). This approximately 4-acre site (Figure B-1) is located immediately south of the Boeing Integrated Defense Systems property. It was formerly occupied by a metal fabricator and is currently used for vehicle and boat storage. The site is bordered by office, commercial and light industrial uses to the north and west, by the City Police Station across Adolfo Lopez Drive to the south, and by Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station across Seal Beach Boulevard to the east and has good access to employment and transit routes. Pursuant to the Program 1a in the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle Housing Element, in 2013 this property was rezoned to *Residential High Density-20*, and is suitable for lower-income multi-family development. There are no known environmental constraints on this property, and the site has good access to employment and transit routes.
- DWP Specific Plan. This 10-acre property (Figure B-2) was formerly developed with an electrical generating station, which was decommissioned in 1966. The site is currently vacant. In 2012 the land use designation for the property was amended to allow a 32-lot single-family subdivision on the northern portion of the site, and is assigned to the above-moderate income category. The project is currently under consideration by the California Coastal Commission.
- Seal Beach Blvd./Pacific Coast Highway. This 0.25-acre parcel is developed with an older commercial building currently occupied by a liquor/convenience store. It has a General Plan designation of Limited Commercial and is zoned Limited Commercial/Residential Medium Density. This zoning designation allows residential use at up to 20 units/acre, which is considered suitable for lower-income housing. Due to the age and marginal condition of the structure, it is assumed that the entire site would be redeveloped with a new residential or mixed-use project. Because of its small size, this parcel has been listed in the moderate income site inventory.

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<sup>11</sup> Government Code Sec. 65583.2(b)(3)

**Table B-1**  
**Residential Sites Inventory 2014-2021**

Site	General Plan/ Zoning	Parcel Acreage	Assumed Density (du/ac)	Potential Units	Income Level	Comments
1011 Seal Beach Blvd. (NW corner of Seal Beach Blvd & Adolfo Lopez Dr.)	High Density Res/ RHD-20	4	20	80	Lower	Site currently used as vehicle & boat storage. Zoning allows multi-family residential use by-right.
DWP property	High Density Res/ Specific Plan	4.5	7	32	Above- moderate	Vacant land. Zoning allows 32 single-family lots.
1780 Pacific Coast Hwy.	Limited Commercial/ Medium Density Res	0.25	21	5	Moderate	Older convenience store; zoning allows mixed-use

Figure B-1





Figure B-2  
DWP Property





## Appendix C

### Public Participation Summary

Section 65583(c)(5) of the *Government Code* states that "The local government shall make diligent effort to achieve public participation of all the economic segments of the community in the development of the housing element, and the program shall describe this effort." Public participation played an important role in the formulation and refinement of the City's housing goals and policies and in the development of a Land Use Plan which determines the extent and density of future residential development in the community.

City residents and other interested stakeholders had many opportunities to recommend strategies, review, and comment on the Housing Element update. Service providers and interested parties that were included in the distribution of public notices are shown in Table C-1. Table C-2 provides a summary of public comments along with responses that are reflected in this Housing Element.

The following is a list of opportunities for public involvement in the preparation of this Housing Element update.

Ad Hoc Committee meeting #1	January 8, 2013
Planning Commission/Ad Hoc Committee study session	April 3, 2013
City Council study session	April 22, 2013
Planning Commission hearing	September 18, 2013
City Council hearing	October 14, 2013

**Table C-1**  
**Public Notice Distribution List**  
**City of Seal Beach Housing Element Update**

County of Orange  
Director of Planning  
PO Box 4048  
Santa Ana, CA 92702

Kennedy Commission  
Linda Tang  
17701 Cowan Ave., Suite 200  
Irvine, CA 92614

Shelley Amendola  
OC Housing Providers  
25241 Paseo de Alicia, # 120  
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

Linda Lang  
OC Association of Realtors  
25552 La Paz Road  
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

Public Law Center  
Kenneth Babcock  
601 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Jamboree Housing Corp.  
Laura Archuleta  
17701 Cowan Ave. Suite 200  
Irvine, CA 92614

The Related Companies of California  
Frank Cardone  
18201 Von Karman Ave Ste 900  
Irvine, CA 92612

Community Housing Resources, Inc.  
Joseph Jimenez Singh  
17701 Cowan Avenue, Suite 200  
Irvine, CA 92614

Habitat for Humanity of OC  
2200 S. Ritchey St.  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Dayle McIntosh Center  
13272 Garden Grove Boulevard  
Garden Grove, CA 92843-2205

Max Gardner  
Interim CEO & President  
Orange County United Way  
18012 Mitchell Ave South  
Irvine, 92614

Neighborhood Housing Services of Orange  
County  
198 W. Lincoln Ave., 2nd Floor  
Anaheim, CA 92805

Kate Klimow  
VP Government Affairs  
OC Business Council  
2 Park Plaza, Suite 100  
Irvine, CA 92614

OC Housing Trust  
Glenn Hayes, Exec. Director  
198 W. Lincoln Ave., 2nd Floor  
Anaheim, CA 92805

Scott Hess  
Director of Planning & Building  
City of Huntington Beach  
PO Box 190  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Steve Mendoza  
Community Development Director  
City of Los Alamitos  
3191 Katella Ave.  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

Doug McIsaac  
Community Development Director  
City of Westminster  
8200 Westminster Blvd.  
Westminster, CA 92683

County of Orange  
Housing & Community Services  
1770 N. Broadway  
Santa Ana, CA 92706

Bryan Starr  
Executive Officer  
BIA Orange County Chapter  
17744 Sky Park Circle, Suite 170  
Irvine, CA 92614

Fair Housing Council  
201 South Broadway  
Santa Ana, CA 92701-5633

Legal Aid Society of Orange County  
2101 N. Tustin Ave  
Santa Ana, California 92705

The Olson Company  
3020 Old Ranch Pkwy., Suite 400  
Seal Beach, CA 90740

**Table C-2**  
**Summary of Public Comments**  
**City of Seal Beach Housing Element Update**

Comment	Response
What is the deadline for the new Housing Element?	The due date for Housing Element adoption is October 15, 2013 for all jurisdictions within the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region. Failure to adopt the Housing Element within 120 days of the due date would result in the City being subject to a 4-year update cycle rather than the standard 8 years.
Seal Beach has an exceptionally large percentage of senior citizens. The Needs Assessment should be revised to reflect the needs of this segment.	The 2010 Census reported that seniors (age 65+) in Seal Beach represented 38% of the City's population, compared to just 12% for the county as a whole. Table II-2 has been expanded to show the proportion of the county's population who reside in Seal Beach by age category. While Seal Beach represents less than 1% of the total county population, almost 15% of the county's senior population are Seal Beach residents.
If the City doesn't achieve its RHNA allocation for new housing units for the 2008-2014 period, does the allocation roll over into the new period?	The RHNA allocation does not require that new housing units are built, only that the City ensures that adequate sites with appropriate zoning are available to accommodate the level of development assigned in the RHNA. In the 2008-2014 planning period the City had a shortfall of 19 lower-income units, and the Housing Element included a program commitment to rezone sufficient land at a minimum density of 20 units/acre to accommodate the shortfall. Once the rezoning is completed, the City has satisfied its RHNA obligations for the previous period, and the new Housing Element must only demonstrate adequate capacity for the new RHNA.

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