V. Summary the Set of 24 Baseline Indicators

Early baseline trends Away (←) or Toward (→) Sustainability, or Indeterminate Trend (⊙)

Oxnard's Development Issues

Population Density: Number of People per Household 1994-2000 →

(The 2.2 % increase in Oxnard's population density can mean more people using living space more efficiently, or it can of course signal unhealthy crowding, depending on the kind of housing.)

Multifamily Housing Units 1998-1999 ⊙

(While Oxnard's 600% increase in new multifamily housing permits signals more efficiency in future housing stock, the actual number of such new units is quite small.)

Subsidized Housing: Section 8 Applicants1998-2000 ←

(The astronomical 270% increase in Section 8 applicants for federally–subsidized housing, despite a slight decrease in 2000, signals increasing demand for low –cost housing and a potential decrease in social equity.)

Housing: Average Square Footage per Residence 1997-1998 ⊙

(The 21% increase in the average square footage of houses in Oxnard, an increase in housing's "ecological footprint," increases housing resource needs, fostering sprawl and "mansionization. The one-year trend period is too short to be significant.)

Redevelopment: Number of Mixed Use Communities 2000 ⊙

(Oxnard has no mixed-use zoning for redevelopment communities, which can increase favorable kinds of density and cut pollution and energy use through the development of "walkable" neighborhoods.)

High Density Zone Changes and Permits 1998-2000 ⊙

(Requests for higher density housing since SOAR are very few in Oxnard, which may signal increased sprawl. in the future.)

Ease of Traffic Flow at Major Intersections1991-2000 →

(Levels of Service at 24 major intersections in Oxnard have remained nearly steady for ten years, despite significant increases in population.)

Parks and Open Space Acreage per Population 2000 ←

(At 2.65 acres of parkland per 1000 residents, Oxnard is well below a national standard of 39.6 acres/1000 residents, limiting civic engagement, increasing youth unrest, and degrading the urban environment.)

Water Usage: Gallons per Day per Person 1980-2000 →

(Conservation over the last twenty years has reduced Oxnard's per capita water use, but more reductions will be needed to meet anticipated population growth since Oxnard's water base cannot itself meet those demands.)

Ratio of Total Farmland Acreage to Population 1992-1999 [Ventura Co.] ←

(In 1992 there were 5.27 persons per acre of farmland and 6.045 in 1999, an increase of 11.4%, potentially undermining the County's ag-based economy and changing its urban/rural character.)

Ratio of Total Farmland Acreage to Urbanized Land 1992-1998 [Ventura Co.] ←

(In 1992 the County had 125,298 acres of farmland and 89,118 acres of urbanized land, a ratio of 1.42 farmland acres to urbanized acres. In 1998 it was 123,235 acres of farmland to 95,522 acres of urbanized land, or a ratio of 1.29 farmland acres of to urbanized acres, a drop of 10%.)

Oxnard's Civic Engagement

Total Persons per Year Responding to EIRS for Development Projects 1998-2000 ←

(Charting SOAR-related EIR comments by the public reveals SOAR's effect on civic participation in planning decisions. SOAR-related comments about building projects in Oxnard dropped from 6 in 1998 to 0 in 2000.)

Public Comments about SOAR Issues at City Council Meetings 1998- 2000 →

(The ratio of SOAR-related public comments to the total number of all public comments at Oxnard City Council meetings rose slightly in 2000, indicating increasing civic engagement in the city's planning process.)

Ventura County's and Oxnard's Environmental & Community Health

Pesticide Use in Pounds per Year 1991-1999 [Ventura Co.] ←

(Pesticide applications in Ventura County increased 27% to 6.5 million pounds in 1999, making it the 10th highest user of pesticides. This can degrade community health and lead to toxic contamination.)

Air Pollution: Days Over Ozone Standard per Year 1987-1997 [Oxnard] →

(Ozone pollution in Oxnard decreased from 33 days in 1987 to 2 days in 1997 --1650%-- perhaps through a combination of favorable weather and smog–reduction measures.)

Beach Closures: Number of Days 1999-2000 [Oxnard.] ←

(The number of beach closure days due to coliform bacteria in the ocean off Oxnard rose from 25 to 50 from 1999-2000, a rise of 200%.)

Number of Endangered or Rare Species 1987 [Ventura Co.] ⊙

(The survival rate of the 34 endangered or rare species in Ventura County will reflect both environmental health and community growth and design, since habitat destruction through development usually causes losses. There are 8 extinct species listed for Ventura County in the CA Natural Diversity DataBase.)

Cardiovascular Disease: Heart Attack Deaths per 100,000 1993-1998 [Ventura Co.] →

(Ventura County's favorable 11% reduction in heart attack deaths {still the number one cause of death} can be improved by developing pedestrian-oriented communities with bicycle paths and parks.)

Community Hygiene: Shigellosis Incidence per Year 1990-2000 [Ventura Co.] →

(The total number of cases of shigellosis intestinal disease, from contact with human fecal matter, declined 57%.)

Diabetes Deaths per Year 1998 [Ventura Co.] ⊙

(The total of 168 diabetes deaths in the County can serve as a baseline measure of a community's physical activity level, since it is primarily a disease of lifestyle and community design can reduce the disease.)

Social Health: Hate Crimes per Year 1996-1998 [Oxnard] ⊙

(Oxnard's low number of hate crimes-- four-- can be kept low by community development that minimizes inequities.)

Social Health: Alcohol Vehicular Deaths per Year 1994-1998 [Ventura Co.] ⊙

(The 27% drop from 26 to 19 drunk driving deaths in the County suggests improved social health and education about alcohol's effects.]

Social Health: Juvenile Felony Arrests per Year 1988-1998 [Ventura Co.] ⊙

(While this indicator has risen almost steadily, a recent 17% drop may follow improved economic conditions.)

Health: Pedestrian Deaths per Year 1998-1999 [Ventura Co.] ←

(The County's high and rising pedestrian fatalities, from 10 to 13, an increase of 33%. place it in the top ten of CA counties with pedestrian deaths. Appropriate community design can lower this.)

Preliminary Totals

8 trending away from healthy, sustainable levels
7 trending toward healthy, sustainable levels
9 indeterminate trends

Potential Indicators for Future Inclusion in the Set

Population Density Trends of Each of Oxnard's 30 Neighborhoods 2000

(Comparative changes in the population density in Oxnard's 30 neighborhoods can reveal over time relative levels of social equity, by noting where densities increase through "smart growth" strategies.)

Miles of Newly Paved Road per Person 1998-2000

(Oxnard increased newly paved roads at a rate of 2.7 miles per year -- over a short term. Newly paved roads foster more growth, particularly when they are residential streets; they can also impede rainwater absorption.)

Peak Streamflow: Cubic Feet / Second of Santa Clara River [Ventura Co.]

(No data. Increased flows can reveal the negative effects of up-stream development that is not environmentally sensitive.)

Childhood Obesity: Proportion of Over-weight Children 1997-1998 [Ventura Co.]

(The less than 1% reduction of overweight children in Ventura County is not much of a trend; the overall rate is about 12%. Communities designed with accessible physical activity in mind can reduce this.)

Total Miles of Bike Paths per Person [Ventura Co.]

(The miles of community bike paths per person over time, with 41.8 miles currently in the county, can be a good measure of community health as it relates to community design and development.)

Average Miles Traveled to Medical Services 2000 [Ventura Co.]

(At present 82% of County residents travel 6.4 miles to major medical facilities. Location of medical services close to residences and adequate transit services promotes health and social equity and reduces pollution.]

Economic Diversity

(Comparative ratios over time of the total kinds of businesses to the total number of businesses to would show how diverse the economy was trending, with higher diversity likely signaling a more sustainable economy)