# COUNTY OF ORANGE Adopted Budget 2011-2012



Compiled under the supervision of David E. Sundstrom, CPA Auditor-Controller

# Sunset Beach Park

This year's cover depicts Sunset Beach Park, a 45 acre beach property that draws thousands of visitors each year. Sunset Beach has had a varied and interesting history. This beach side colony began developing around the early 1900's. The Pacific Electric Railway ran through the center of what is now the head parking facility. This railway played an important role in county development, linking the beach cities to major population centers. Weekend cottages and local businesses soon sprang up, paralleling the Pacific Electric tracks. As more houses were constructed this area became known as Sunset Beach. Directly adjacent was the residential colony of Surfside.

In the mid 1960's Sunset Beach received much public attention. High tides and heavy seas threatened to erode most of the beach and ocean front homes away. Quick action by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with financial assistance from the County and State, stockpiled 4,000,000 cubic yards of sands. This massive effort temporarily prevented extensive erosion damage. In 1970, to meet increasing recreational needs the County purchased the old Electric Pacific Railway to develop a public parking lot for beach users.

### **Activities and Amenities:**

Sunset Beach provides ample space for traditional water related activities such as surfing and swimming. Other amenities the park provides are: basketball courts, bike trails, family picnic areas, fishing, playgrounds, restrooms, and volleyball courts.

A "black ball" flag system is used to protect swimmers and surfers, while controlling the separate surfing zone. This separate surf zone and lifeguard service is provided by U.S. Ocean Safety provides assurance to beach goers as they use the beach.

## Location:

Sunset Beach Park is located in Northwest Orange County adjacent to the residential community of Sunset Beach. Sunset Beach is bordered by Seal Beach to the north and Bolsa Chica State Beach to the south. Parking is located on Pacific Coast Highway between Warner Avenue and 5th Street. The beach is open daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

For more information about Sunset Beach Park, please visit www.ocparks.com/sunsetbeach/ or call (949) 923-2290 or (949) 923-2295.

# **Acknowledgements:**

Information & Photos Courtesy of OC Parks

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Auditor-Controller County of Orange 12 Civic Center Plaza Santa Ana, CA 92702 www.ac.ocgov.com