

# Engaging Communities

## The Community Perspective



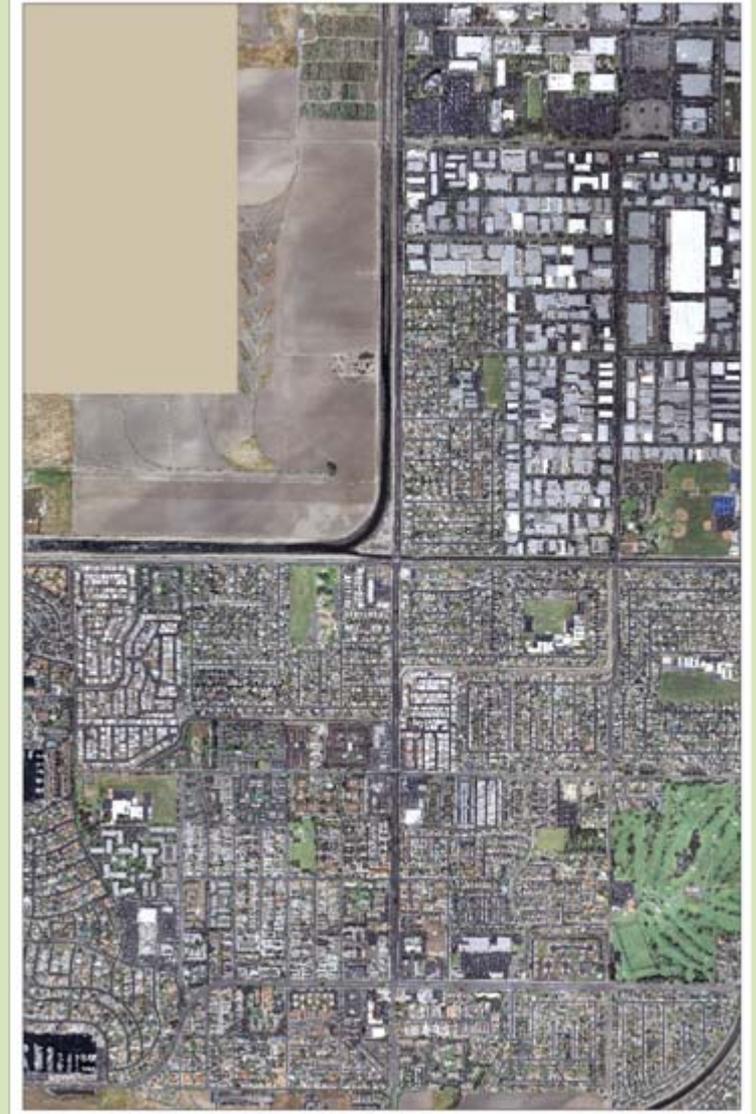
Connie Boardman

Huntington Beach City Council Member

- Huntington Beach
  - 200,000 residents, 31.5 square miles
  - Largest municipal park in county - 350 acres
  - Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve @ 1,700 acres
  - Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station 5,200 acres
    - Wildlife refuge 920 acre saltwater wetland



Huntington Beach Central Park



Edge of Seal Beach Naval Weapons Sta.

# Biggest conflict with wildlife is with coyotes



Typically low level complaints.

Residents see coyote and call police or animal control

# Problem escalates in one neighborhood in 2010

- School locked down when coyote came onto playground during the day
- Coyote in back yard of home day care
- Coyote attacks dog while being walked on a leash



# Community Perspectives?

All coyotes should be shot when seen

to

Coyote in your backyard? Then don't go in your backyard.



# Should Huntington Beach kill coyotes?

By JAIMEE LYNN FLETCHER THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Feb. 18, 2010

- "If the city does not take action, it will be a willful disregard of public safety,"
- "Coyotes are not the problem, it's the people. residents are drawing coyotes to the area, and neighbors should be more aware of their actions."
- Councilman Joe Carchio said, "It's a problem," he said. "You're damned if you do, damned if you don't."

# Editorial: No, really, don't feed them

Huntington Beach Independent **February 25, 2010**

...We encourage residents to heed officials' advice and do what they can to keep coyotes out of their yards in the first place — whether by keeping pets locked inside, trimming shrubbery or not leaving out pet food where hungry coyotes are likely to find it.

...Coyotes, like them or not, are a part of the ecosystem, and our neighborhoods were built on their natural terrain. ...If the choice comes down, though, to euthanizing a carnivorous animal or losing a toddler, we will regrettably opt for the former. And with a little prudent help from residents, we can hopefully reach a point where neither option is necessary.

# What did the city do?

- **City Council held a study session with DFG to discuss the situation, and receive input from community**

**Hired a trapper to remove aggressive animals from a specific neighborhood. Two male coyotes trapped and euthanized, additional animal hit by a car in same area**

**City police and DFG volunteers handed out educational flyers in affected neighborhoods**

**DFG and HB police hosted a community meeting [?](#)**

# City's Perspective- Thank you DFG

- Complaints about coyotes now back to low level complaints
- DFG is a great resource for staff, council members, and public and was very helpful with this situation
- Special Thanks to Kent Smirl and everyone at Cal DFG from HB police and council.

Now, about the rattlesnake problem....



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