

ORO GRANDE COMMUNITY ACTION GUIDE



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COUNTYWIDE PLAN
Oro Grande Community Action Guide

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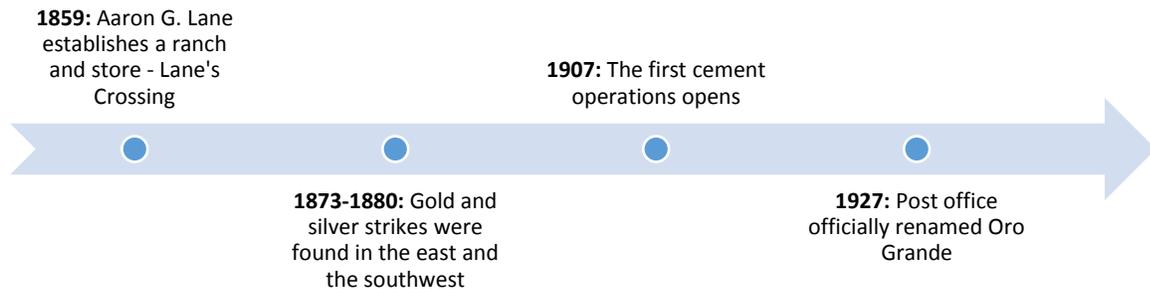
Oro Grande, San Bernardino County

Community Profile

Overview

The community profile is a summary of the social, cultural, economic, and historic dimensions of the community. It is a gathering of objective data collected through secondary sources meant to inform and help facilitate discussion during the community meetings. The profile, together with future studies and information gathered from residents through the community meetings, will highlight essential facets and “tell the story” of the Oro Grande Community.

History



The Oro Grande community was a part of several trade and transportation routes including the Mojave Trail and Old Spanish Trail. Old Spanish Trail was developed into a wagon road, and in 1859, Aaron G. Lane established a ranch and store where the trail crossed the Mojave River. The area around the store became known as Lane’s Crossing. In 1873, a gold and silver strike was found at Silver Mountain east of Lane’s ranch and led to the creation of the Silver Mountain Mining District. In the 1880’s, other strikes were found in the southwest and led to the organization of the Red Mountain Gold and Silver Mining District. Around this time, housing was developed in Oro Grande (“Big Gold”) and shortly after limestone quarries were opened. From 1907 to present, cement remained the main economic driver of the town. In 1926, Route 66 was constructed through Oro Grande. Many remainders of development along the route exist today, including Oro Grande’s Antique Station, the Iron Hog Saloon, and Mojave Joe’s Trading Post.

Source(s): *theroadwanderer.net, route66ca.org, Wikipedia.org*

Location & Geography

Oro Grande is located in the western portion of San Bernardino County directly next to the Mojave River. The community is east of Adelanto and northwest of Victorville.

Source(s): *ESRI, San Bernardino County LUS, Google Maps*

Figure 1: Area Map

Source(s): *ESRI, San Bernardino County LUS*





Key Census Data

Category	Oro Grande		San Bernardino County		California		United States	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Population								
Total Population	799		2,078,586		38,066,920		314,107,084	
2020 Population Forecast	849 (6.2%)		2,227,066 (+7.1%)		40,619,346 (+6.7%)		334,503,000 (+6.5%)	
Total Households	253		607,604		12,617,280		116,211,092	
Average Household Size	3.0		3.3		3.0		2.6	
Median Age	38.5		32.2		35.6		37.4	
Education								
High School Diploma	N/A	N/A	330,613	26.3%	5,153,257	20.7%	58,440,600	28.0%
Education Past High School	N/A	N/A	417,953	33.3%	7,400,714	29.8%	60,821,634	29.1%
Bachelor Degree or Higher	N/A	N/A	336,315	26.8%	7,708,909	31.0%	61,206,147	29.3%
Housing								
Total Dwelling Units	344	n/a	703,737	n/a	13,781,929	n/a	132,741,033	n/a
Homeowner Occupied Units	141	41.0%	370,032	52.6%	6,908,925	50.1%	74,787,460	56.3%
Renter Occupied Units	112	32.6%	237,572	33.8%	5,708,355	41.4%	41,423,632	32.2%
Vacancy*	91	26.5%	96,133	13.7%	1,164,649	8.5%	16,529,941	12.5%
Median Year Structure Built	N/A	n/a	1976	n/a	1974	n/a	1976	n/a
Income								
Median Household Income	\$31,979	n/a	\$54,100	n/a	\$61,489	n/a	\$53,482	n/a
Persons Below Poverty Level	N/A	N/A	199,451	12.7%	3,354,518	11.2%	26,235,361	10.6%
Employed	N/A	N/A	812,707	86.1%	16,890,442	89.0%	143,435,233	90.2%
Unemployed	N/A	N/A	131,293	13.9%	2,084,564	12.3%	14,504,781	9.2%
Note: N/A indicates that the data is not available; n/a indicates that the category is not applicable								
*This figure may include seasonal households								

Table 1: Key Census Data

Sources: 2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates and ESRI

Community Structure (Physical Characteristics)

Development in Oro Grande consists mainly of industrial and agricultural lands with one-story, single-family dwellings on large lots. Commercial buildings are mainly small one-story buildings, along the street with off-street parking. Industrial uses include large mines with tall industrial structures.

The main road in the community is National Trails Highway (Route 66), which runs parallel to a rail line. This highway generally has 7,278 average daily trips. There are no pedestrian facilities or bicycle facilities.

Sources: Google Earth, County of San Bernardino, Fehr & Peers.

Community Amenities

Community amenities in or near Oro Grande include the Mojave River, local schools, and police and fire stations that serve the needs of the community.

Recreation Areas

- Mojave River

Schools

- Oro Grande Elementary School
- Riverside Preparatory Middle School
- Mojave River Academy
- Riverside Preparatory High School

Fire Protection

- San Bernardino County Fire Station 311
(Response Time: 8 minutes)

Police

- San Bernardino County Sheriff's
Department

Source(s): Zillow.com, Google Maps, County of San Bernardino

Community Groups

Western Hound Association of Southern California

Source(s): guidestar.org

Quality of Life Concerns

Commonly submitted code enforcement requests include the following concerns:

- Demolition and Building Rehabilitation
- Junk and Trash

Source(s): San Bernardino County Code Enforcement

Public Health Indicators

Chronic Disease: For the community of Oro Grande, the leading cause of death in 2012 was chronic respiratory disease.

Source(s): Healthy San Bernardino

Air Quality: Oro Grande generally experiences improved air quality (as measured at the Victorville Monitoring Site) in comparison to the rest of the Mojave Air Basin.

Source(s): California Air Resources Board

Public Transportation: The community is served by Victor Valley Transit Authority Route 22, which provides service to Helendale, Northgate Village, Silver Lakes, and Victorville.

Source: Victor Valley Transit Authority

Retail Services

The 2016 ESRI Community Analyst Report showed that Oro Grande has approximately 31 businesses, in 9 categories. The majority of the businesses fall into services (35 percent), retail trade (16 percent), construction (16 percent), and other (32 percent).

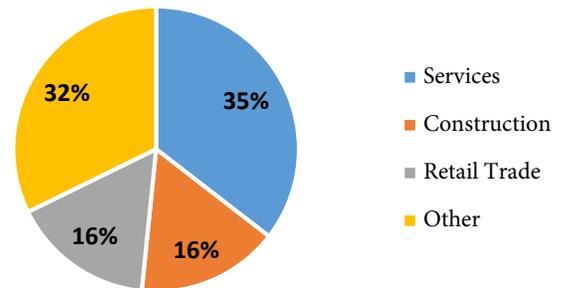


Figure 2: Retail Services in Oro Grande

Source(s): ESRI Community Analyst

Community Events

- **Arts Night:** April, 6pm to 8pm (Riverside Prep High School)
- **Riverside Prep Choir Spring Concert:** April, 5pm to 7pm (Riverside Prep High School)

Source(s): riversideprep.net, guidestar.org

Community Engagement Summary

As a part of the Community Plans Continuum process, community members from Oro Grande were invited to participate in two community workshops. The first workshop, titled “What We Value”, took place on November 29th, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:30pm at the Riverside Preparatory Elementary School - Cafeteria. This workshop was attended by 39 community members. Workshop participants performed a SWOT analysis to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats within the community. Following that exercise, participants used that information to share what they valued about the community (Values) and what they want to see the community become in the future (Aspirations). Lastly, workshop participants worked on forming the draft focus and action statements that form the backbone of the community plan.

The second workshop, titled “Our Roadmap to Making it Happen”, took place on January 24th, 2017 from 6:00 – 8:30pm at the Riverside Preparatory Elementary School - Cafeteria. This workshop was attended by 20 community members. The purpose of this workshop was to continue to develop the draft focus and action statements created in workshop #1. The project team provided word for word summaries of the SWOT and Values and Aspirations exercises to use during the goal setting process. The workshop was primarily used to help prioritize the focus statements developed in the previous workshop while also identifying possible champions for each effort.

Information was also made available on project websites made specifically for each community. This information included:

- Background materials on the project
- Materials developed for each workshop
- Summaries of the information collected from past workshops
- Surveys developed to follow the process of each meeting and allow for further input

Community Identified Issues

SWOT Analysis

This section contains the results of the SWOT analysis conducted during the first workshop. A SWOT exercise stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats and is used to help gain insight into the community through local knowledge. In the first part, participants identify their communities’ biggest strengths, such as community assets like a library or community center, along with their biggest weaknesses, which could be a lack of open space or high rates of internal crime. Next, workshop participants looked at opportunities that the community could take advantage of as part of the community plans process. This builds off of what was identified in the strengths and weaknesses portion. Lastly, participants identify external threats to the community. These are generally concerns that are outside of the control of community members, such as natural disasters or changes in economic conditions. This information was then compiled and used throughout the rest of the community plans process to inform the values and aspirations exercises conducted at workshop #1, as well as the focus and actions statements.

Strengths

- Quiet place to live
- Quiet place
- Quiet
- Historical significance
- Riverside Prep
- Local schools 1st through high school
- Cross-eyed Cow Pizza
- Antique shops
- Farms
- Location
- Gateway to Helendale
- Schools
- Community working together

Strengths (continued)

- Historic
- Route 66 Historical significance
- Heritage
- Historical sites: cemetery, schools
- Businesses
- Auto stores
- Pizza best in town
- Business are coming back
- The shops downtown
- Cement plant (providing jobs)
- Agriculture (alfalfa)
- Friendly folks
- Small town charm
- Post office
- Bus service
- Transportation
- We have a post office
- Two churches
- School for elementary, middle and high school
- We have a church, two.
- Roy Rogers Ranch
- EMU & Ostrich Farm
- Historical cemetery
- Ostrich Farm
- Historic Iron Hog Saloon
- Tourism
- Route 66
- Route 66
- Almost a park
- Uncle Paul's Apple Farm
- Mojave River
- Scout troops
- Neighborliness
- Churches
- School
- Post office

Weaknesses

- Need another park to replace Rainbow Park, which is now a school
- Needs more restaurants
- Need gas station

- Traffic flow in heart of Oro Grande
- Mill Street past Riverside Prep H.S. needs 35 mph speed limits
- Safety on 66
- Speed on 66
- Parking on 66
- Urgent – Need a traffic signal to get onto 66 safely
- Do not need greedy developers
- Access to shops for the community across tracks
- Now we like to change speed limit to 25 from bridge to bridge
- Parking for historical and shopping areas
- No sidewalks
- Slow law enforcement response
- No gas station
- Community center not active anymore
- No organized activities for the youth
- No fire department or fire department resources
- Lack of Sheriff presence
- Traffic moves too fast
- Lack of streetlights on north end of town
- Speed limit too high
- No welcome to Oro Grande sign
- Sweep south side of railroad
- Clean our town, we have trash all over
- Roads & alleys in need of repair
- Water not safe to drink
- Bad roads
- Infrastructure failing
- No fire station or police station
- Our park is incomplete, no restroom
- Price of water meter and sewer
- No fire department
- P.O. has no mailbox
- Have not spent grant money at park – cements security at community center
- Low budget CSA \$4,000
- No meeting place
- Two Bryman roads off Route 66 (Horseshoe Road)

Weaknesses (continued)

- Need streetlights in alleys
- No fire station
- Vandalizing the town
- No neighborhood watch
- No neighborhood watch
- Price of water
- Polluted water
- Lack of services for homeless
- Streets need to be fixed. There's lots of bumps and cracks.

Opportunities

- Bigger park
- Swimming pool public
- Community building back up and running
- Bingo, plays, etc. at community center for us old folks
- Branch banking
- Grocery store
- Crosswalk
- Caution light
- Slow down traffic
- Parking
- Community website
- Youth activities
- Own CSD
- Water contract needs renegotiation
- Make affordable for trash, water, sewer
- Make our streets safer and the Highway Route 66
- Attract new businesses
- Light up the baseball field – rent it out
- Tourist trade
- Cheap real estate
- Route 66
- More newspaper items on Oro Grande, more information on what's going on
- Internet access for all
- Need yard sales
- Stores
- Job's
- Make tourism work for the community
- Community center, fix up again

- Bridge to cross the train tracks
- More housing
- Lighting over bridge, improve bridge
- Need a bridge over the train tracks
- Make Oro Grande clean, streets clean
- More security police patrol
- Trash day for community pickup
- More streetlights
- Need streetlights community (park) center
- Recreation for children and senior citizens
- Counseling for the teenagers who are on drugs or having hard life
- Build a cafeteria for 3-5 grade so they can be inside while eating
- New toys and playground for kids

Threats

- Traffic on 66
- Safety concerns on 66
- Criminal activity
- Riff raff
- Need police patrols for gang prevention
- Threat of 4 lanes on Route 66
- Dust from the cement factory
- Fast traffic
- Drugs
- Tear down the building and the park, and replace with a new building
- Tearing down community center
- CSD
- Too much conservancy land
- Annexation
- Streets!! Fill in some holes
- Local thugs
- Cement factory (danger)
- Adelanto annexation
- Community watch
- Train crossing for kids crossing to go to school
- Trains all night
- Homeless, squatters
- Too much graffiti (park)