

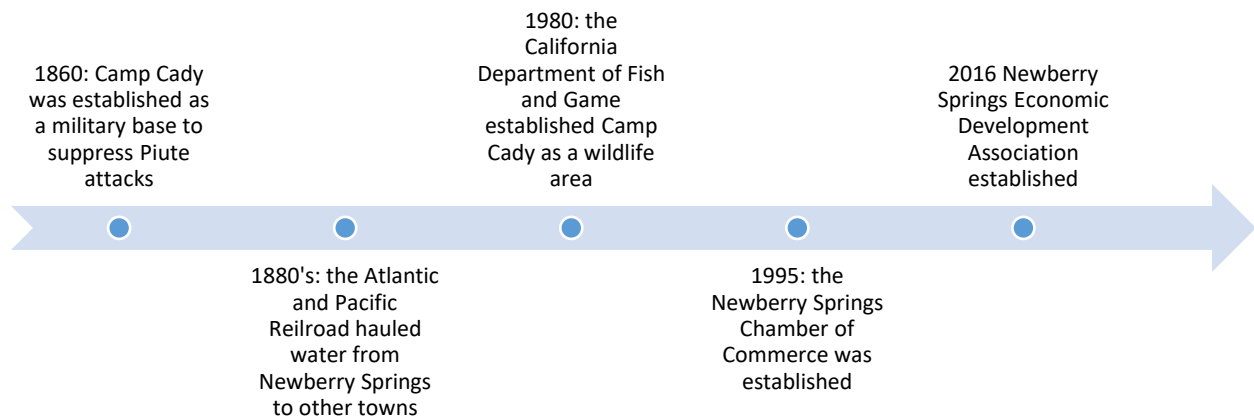
Newberry Springs, San Bernardino County

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 during the community meetings, will highlight essential facets and “tell the story” of the Newberry Springs Community.

History



The Newberry Springs community was originally referred to as “Water.” The community lies above the Mojave Aquifer and has supplied water to the surrounding arid region since the early settlements. North of Newberry Springs, Camp Cady was established in 1860 as a military base camp to suppress Piute attacks on wagon trains traveling through the area. During the 1880’s, the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad hauled tank cars of water from Newberry Springs to other stations and towns in the region. In 1980, the California Department of Fish and Game designated Camp Cady as a wildlife area. The Camp Cady Wildlife Area contains 1,900 acres of desert riparian habitat along the Mojave River and the ruins of the original Camp Cady. Agriculture remains a key component of the local economy, with key crops including pistachios and alfalfa. Additionally, Newberry Springs is the home of several championship water ski lakes.

Source(s): *theroadwanderer.net; wildlife.ca.gov*

Location & Geography

Newberry Springs is located in central San Bernardino County. It is a flat area situated amongst some smaller mountain features. The community is east of Barstow and adjacent to the Mojave River.

Source(s): *Google Maps, ESRI*

Figure 1: Newberry Springs Area Map

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



Key Census Data

Category	Newberry Springs		San Bernardino County		California		United States	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Population								
Total Population	2,166		2,078,586		38,066,920		314,107,084	
2020 Population Forecast	2,125		2,227,066 (+7.1%)		40,619,346 (+6.7%)		334,503,000 (+6.5%)	
Total Households	817		607,604		12,617,280		116,211,092	
Average Household Size	2.6		3.3		2.9		2.6	
Median Age	46.7		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	27.9%
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	1,217	n/a	703,737	n/a	13,781,929	n/a	132,741,033	n/a
Homeowner Occupied Units	538	44.2%	370,032	52.6%	6,908,925	50.1%	74,787,460	56.3%
Renter Occupied Units	278	22.8%	237,572	33.8%	5,708,355	41.4%	41,423,632	32.2%
Vacancy*	400	32.9%	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	\$37,186	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)

The Newberry Springs community is zoned for Rural Living and consists primarily of single-family residential dwellings on large lots with a minimum size of 2.5 acres, though more are 5-10 acres. Newberry Springs also has agricultural and commercial zoning to support the rural residential uses. The major roadways in the community are Interstate-40 (I-40) and National Trails Highway. The WalkScore (walkscore.com) for the community indicates that most errands need to be completed by car.

Source(s): Google Earth, County of San Bernardino Zoning Map, walkscore.com

Community Amenities

Recreation

- Community Park with two ball fields, picnic areas, playground.

Schools

- Newberry Springs Elementary School

Fire Protection

- Fire protection is provided by Newberry Springs Volunteer Fire Department (Stations 391 and 392)

Police

- San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department – Barstow Sheriff's Station

Source(s): Google Maps; San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department; San Bernardino County Fire Department;

Quality of Life Concerns

Common issues noted within the community include:

- Vacant structures (businesses and single-family residential)
- Junk/Trash
- Inoperable vehicles

Source(s): San Bernardino County Code Enforcement

Retail Services

The community includes a variety of business types. The most common are construction, retail trade, and services.

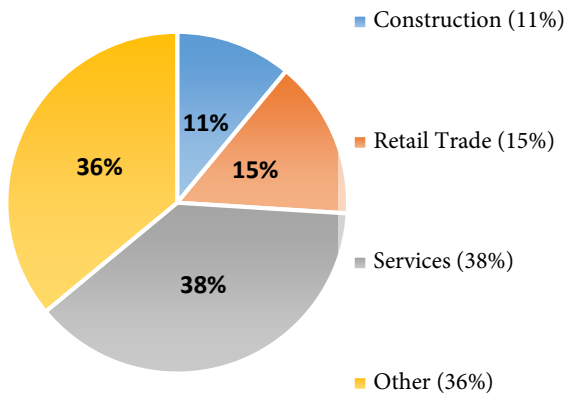


Figure 2: Business Types in Newberry Springs

Source: ESRI Community Analyst

Community Organizations

- Newberry Springs Community Service District (CSD)
- Newberry Springs Volunteer Fire Department
- Newberry Springs Service Association Inc.(Family Center)
- Newberry Springs Economic Development Association (NSEDA)
- Newberry Springs Chamber of Commerce
- Newberry Springs Property Owners Association
- Newberry Springs American Legion

Community Events

- **Fair and Fireworks at the Park.** July 3rd
- **Fourth of July Parade.** Held on July 4th from the Barn to the Legion
- **Pistachio Festival.** First Saturday in November held at the park.
- **Community Clean up.** Spring Event
- **CSD Meeting.** 4th Tuesday at 6:00, Community Building
- **NSEDA meeting:** 4th Monday of the Month at 5:30 at the Family Center
- **Regular Board Meeting.** Held on the 2nd Friday of the month at 6pm at Newberry Springs Chamber of Commerce
- **Food Commodities Food Distribution.** 2nd Friday of the month at 9am at Newberry Community Center
- **Bingo.** 3rd Saturday of the month at 6pm at Newberry Community Center
- **Desert Gardeners** 4th Saturday of the Month at the Community Building.
- **Special Holiday Events are held at the Family Center**
- **Community Newsletter Focus** published biannually in the spring and fall and distributed to all residents.

Source(s): Newberry Springs Chamber of Commerce; mojavevalley.com (community calendar)

Public Health

Chronic Disease: There is a lack of information regarding hospitalization and emergency rates for chronic diseases in Newberry Springs. Newberry Springs has a higher rate of emergency room visits due to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) than San Bernardino County.

Source(s): Healthy San Bernardino

Air Quality: Table 2 below shows the air quality near Newberry Springs, measured at the Barstow monitoring site, in terms of the number of days that area exceeded the federal standards for pollutants (exceedance days). The table shows that the monitoring site near Newberry Springs had fewer exceedance days for each pollutant than that of the overall Mojave Air Basin, in which Newberry Springs is located.

Air pollution is one of the contributing factors linked to the development of chronic diseases such as stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, and respiratory diseases. By reducing levels of ambient pollution (outdoor air pollution), communities can lessen the impact that it has on resident’s health.

	Barstow Monitoring Site			Mojave Air Basin		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Ozone Federal 8-hour standard	15	10	17	81	66	86
Course Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀) Federal 24-hour standard	0	0	1	1	1	1
Fine Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5}) Federal 24-hour standard	*	*	*	2	6	2

Table 2: Air Quality Exceedance Days

Source: California Air Resources Board

** Indicates insufficient data*

Modified Food Index: The Modified Food Index maps the availability of healthy food in a census tract. The lower the score, the less available healthy options are in the area.

The entire community area of Newberry Springs ranks within the second lowest category for food access, meaning that there is access to between 5 and 15 healthy food outlets within that area. Lower scores indicate that these areas contain many convenience stores and fast food restaurants compared to the number of healthy food markets.

Source(s): Modified Retail Food Environment Index Score Map

Community Gardens: There are no community gardens within 25 miles of Newberry Springs; however, one is under construction

Source(s): Healthy San Bernardino County, California Air Resources Board, CA Department of Health

Community Engagement Summary

As a part of the Community Plans Continuum process, community members from Newberry Springs were invited to participate in two community workshops. The first workshop, titled “What We Value”, took place on November 30th, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:30pm at the Newberry Community Services District. This workshop was attended by 27 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 25th, 2017 from 6:00 – 8:30pm at the Newberry Community Services District. This workshop was attended by 25 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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are a gateway community to the newly designated Mojave trails monument • Expansive natural beauty • Cal Poly students/Cal Poly Pomona Study • Good elementary school/schools • Newberry mountain wilderness is in our backyard • Rural lifestyle • We have great frontage road along Route 66 with an on and off freeway access • Lakeside living • Relaxing community collectiveness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost anything grows • Stars at night • Quiet • Independent lifestyle • Farming • Clean air • Bagdad Café brings visitors • Water ski • Hunting • Off road riding • Mojave desert • Agriculture • Cost of living |
|--|---|

- Freedom

Weaknesses

- Minimum public services
- Homeless inhabitation of vacant dwellings
- Communication
- Lack of high speed internet
- Loneliness
- Wind
- Distances between homes, shops, etc.
- Distance between law enforcement
- County fees and regulations stifle growth and local beauty
- Vacant homes subject to vandalism
- CSD – weak and argumentative
- Lack of opportunities
- Lack of services
- Lack of recreational facilities

Weaknesses (continued)

- Community division
- Roads/dirt roads unmaintained
- Lack of infrastructure
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Land clearing
- Marijuana farms bring criminal cartels
- Water supply
- Blight
- Shifting job status, fewer full time jobs and more part time jobs
- Residents not involved
- Lack of volunteering
- Lack of parks within walking distance

Opportunities

- Unlimited opportunities if we have water and money
- Provided we are not governed as if we were a city. The county is too big, one set of rules does not fit all.
- Cottage industry
- Great for Airbnb sites
- Tourism along Route 66
- Ecotourism

- Business growth, shopping, restaurants
- Education/partnering with community leaders to work toward planning measurable programs
- Adjust County development and standards to match rural resources
- Water quality
- Improve emergency services and ISO ratings
- None
- Youth/after school programs–summer programs
- Economy

Threats

- Water usage upstream on Mojave river is hurting all forms of our lives and any growth
- Aquifer supply
- Water rights
- Rail road crossing are currently closer together than 1.5 miles long trains, thus potential for part of Newberry being isolated from first responders
- No access from rail road crossing
- Crime
- Wild dogs
- Invasion of large solar and wind projects
- Restrictions unreasonable taxes for small scale commercial businesses
- Aging population
- Losing young families
- Drug busts
- Cooperation from county agencies
- Sewage sludge – related health issues
- Dune buggies and motorcycles tearing up roads
- Lack of funding
- Education for community development
- Soil and sand erosion in the river
- Fees for growth
- Rail road crossing
- No health care facilities
- Lack of water
- Pot farms