

A LOOK INTO A CRYSTAL BALL

Have you taken the time to drive around our community of Lakewood?

Have you taken the time to evaluate the facilities that are here?

Have you taken the interest to look at a map and see what the future holds for your children and mine? If you have done these things then you are a good Lakewoodite. Then you have evaluated the beautiful prospects for us all as citizens of a modern community.

If we were able to look into a crystal ball and see our community ten years from now I am sure a lot of people would not be so hasty in the decisions that they are making today on the future of our community. I would imagine it will look something like this: All the Parkways entering into Lakewood will have trees and shrubs lining the boulevards and the comment by the passerby will be "What a beautiful place." Our Parks will be well developed and every day we will see our children playing ball and other sports in these parks. Our business center will be the most outstanding example of modern thinking, with all the parking facilities that is so necessary to the modern generation when they go shopping. In every neighborhood there will be a local shopping district for the convenience of the housewives. We will not see these vacant corners around the community. Trees will line the streets of our community, giving the added touch of friendliness to our homes and neighborhoods. Yes, the future of Lakewood is beautiful if a person will take the time to evaluate it today. It will be a community without slums, without skid-rows, without the bar hangouts that create the crime problems of the other communities our size, our children will have the proper environment in which to become good American citizens. It can be said that Lakewood has the opportunity to have a Utopia of community living. Through a united people who are interested in the future of Lakewood, we can make this Utopia not just a possibility, but a reality. In our every day life we should point this out to our friends and neighbors. It is unfortunate that a few individuals have placed the welfare of our community in jeopardy by these divide and conquer moves. If the desire of the people are to be determined then the people of our community should have a voice in its future all at the same time. It seems that the proponents of annexation are not willing to do this or when they sent in their petitions they would have set up boundaries which included all of Lakewood not just a section. Lakewood is one of the most unique communities in the world. It is the finest planned residential community ever built. The best planning specialists in the country were employed to lay out the business, park, school and residential distribution for the best interest of the people of Lakewood. We must not let our future be darkened by unfounded rumors of those who are advocating annexation. Ask yourself what you as an individual can gain by annexation to Long Beach. We feel confident that if you analyze the picture of Lakewood, you will reach the same conclusion that we have. There is no need to make a decision that we cannot later rescind if it is not in the best interest of the community. Lakewood problems will never be solved by anyone outside of Lakewood. We must always solve our own and we can best do this by remaining a unified community. Let's all work to see that the principals of democracy are not neglected here. All of Lakewood is involved so let's dig in and stop this piecemeal annexation of our community. It requires a lot of work by all of us. Do you want to maintain the unity of your community? If so, contact

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FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ON ANNEXATION

Questions and Answers

Q. Who wants annexation? Why?

A. A few individuals of our community of 105,000 population, and some Long Beach City employees appear to be behind this movement. Approximately 275 Lakewood residents have asked for annexation by filing petitions with the Long Beach City Council. Annexation of Lakewood is an investment that would pay off for Long Beach in a few short years. Lakewood is a new community and would require a minimum of tax dollars for maintenance. According to the study made by John Budd Wentz, former assistant to Sam Vickers, Long Beach would get \$798,823.00 a year from Lakewood, based on \$1.00 per \$100 assessed valuation, and at the current Long Beach rate of \$1.10 about 10% more.

Q. Who opposes annexation?

A. Practically all civic organizations that were and are formed for the welfare of the people of Lakewood, such as: Chamber of Commerce, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Lakewood Taxpayers' Association. All people who believe in Lakewood and want to preserve the identity of the community. People who settled in Lakewood because it was a modern and young community untainted by the political ties and complacency of older cities. People who believe in the future of Lakewood and that Lakewood's problems can only be solved by Lakewood people and not by annexing to the City of Long Beach. The people opposing annexation are all volunteers most of them small property owners and your neighbors who are interested in preserving Lakewood as a community and have taken their own time to assimilate these facts.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS PERTINENT TO SCHOOLS, TAXES, PUBLIC UTILITIES, ETC.

1. Schools

Q. Are the schools, Long Beach City Schools? Who pays for them?

A. The schools are state governed, county administered and locally supervised under unified school districts. The districts are not confined to any city boundaries. The Long Beach Unified School District is made up of the City of Signal Hill, Avalon, Long Beach and Lakewood. The district is a separate governmental entity and is not controlled by the City of Long Beach. Everyone within the district pays the same tax rate for schools. This is paid on the county tax bill. Everyone within the district has an equal right to elect the administrators of the district. Any bonds issued for building schools in the district, must be against the entire district and we all must vote for them and pay them back. Annexation to Long Beach would not affect the school district in any way. The tax rate will be the same for the entire district. Annexation will not result in more schools for the district. If more schools are needed, all of us within the district will decide this.

2. Taxes.

Q. Would we save money on taxes by annexation to Long Beach?

- A. Regardless of what you have been told it will probably cost you more dollars in taxes if we are annexed to Long Beach. Long Beach assesses property 10% higher than the County as an average, add this to the fact that many of the special assessment districts will remain even if Lakewood were to annex, such as; County Flood Control, Southeast Mosquito Abatement, Lakewood Park, Recreation and Parkway District, and also Sewer and Lighting Districts if the whole area is not annexed. It is estimated that the average saving by not annexing and staying as Lakewood would vary from \$6.00 to \$30.00, depending upon the number of services being supplied in your area.

Take for example, the Tax Code Area 3131, Lakewood City, Tract 13000

	<u>Lakewood</u>	<u>Long Beach</u>
L.A. County General Fund	\$1.6306	\$1,6306
Unified School District	2.6996	2.6996
L.A. County Flood Control	.1893	.1893
County Sanitation	.1734	.1734
Southeast Mosquito Abatement	.0183	.0183
Road District	.0340	none
County Free Library	.0673	none
Consolidated Fire District	.5980	none
Mayfair Garbage Disposal	.1328	none
Lakewood Lighting District	.2114	.2114 (1)
Lakewood Sewer	.0141	.0141 (1)
Long Beach City Taxes	<u>none</u>	<u>1.0959</u>
Tax Rate	\$5.7688	\$6.0326
Lakewood Park, Rec. & Parkway District	<u>.5000</u> (3)	<u>.5000</u> (3)
	\$6.2688	\$6.5326

If we join the Metropolitan Water District you would add the following:

Metropolitan Water Operating Cost	.2500 (2)	.2500 (2)
Central Water Basin Back Taxes	<u>.2200</u> (2)	<u>none</u>
	\$6.7388	\$6.7826

- (1) Retained unless the entire district is annexed to Long Beach.
- (2) Estimated rates if Central Water Basin District joins Metropolitan Water District.
- (3) Estimated tax rate for entire Lakewood for 1953-54. Will remain.

Then consider that Long Beach assesses at least 10% higher than County, for City Taxes.

For example: Tract 14128. Los Altos, which is in the City of Long Beach, the County Assessor's average assessment on Real and Personal Property was \$2,246.00, the Long Beach average assessment was \$2,701.00

If these properties were in Lakewood based on the tax rate, the taxes would be as follows:

Lakewood	\$151.35	Long Beach	\$157.32
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Savings in Lakewood \$5.97

- (2) Insurance. The rates in Lakewood are slightly higher because of the past rating. This is being equalized as fast as possible. We have had 3 reductions of insurance rates in the past 6 years.

Present rates are:

Lakewood - \$5.00 per \$1,000 for 3 yrs. on a shingle roof, less for composition roof or \$45.00 for \$9,000 insurance for 3 yrs.

Long Beach - \$3.75 per \$1,000 for 3 yrs on a shingle roof, less for composition roof or \$33.75 for \$9,000 insurance for 3 yrs.

A total savings of \$3.41 per year. This would not be changed by annexation. The Board of Fire Underwriters are studying adjustment of our rates now.

- (3) Gas Rates. Based on consumption of 6,000 cubic ft. of gas per month as an average.

Lakewood - 6,000 cu. ft. @ \$4.61 equals \$55.32

Long Beach - 6,000 cu. ft. @ \$4.29 equals \$52.48

A difference of \$2.84 per year.

However, you get free customer service through Southern California Gas Company.

- (4) Water Rates. Cheaper by 25% approximately.

Lakewood - 1600 cu. ft. @ \$2.95 per month \$35.40 per year

Long Beach - 1600 cu. ft. @ \$3.96 per mo. \$47.52 per year

A savings of \$12.12 per year by staying Lakewood

By annexation to Long Beach it will mean that Long Beach will have to spread their share of Metropolitan Water over a greater area. They will not receive any more water than they are now entitled to. This is because of the membership fees paid. On our tax bills would appear a special assessment for the Metropolitan Water District of \$.28 per \$100 or \$5.60 per year average and we would pay an average of \$12.00 more per year for water.

If we do not annex and as members of the Central Basin Water District, when it becomes a member of the Metropolitan Water District we would be entitled to our share of the Metropolitan Water District supply based on the membership fees we pay. All told this membership, back taxes for membership, operating cost to us, paying off 1932 dollars with 1953 dollars, at \$.25 per \$100 assessed valuation or \$5.00 for operating cost plus \$.22 per \$100 assessed valuation for back taxes or \$4.40 per year equals \$9.40 more we will pay than what we pay now. However, we are paying \$12.12 less for our water so we still save \$2.72 per year with our present set-up. These assessments will appear on the County tax bill whether we are annexed or stay Lakewood.

- (5) Electricity. Southern California Edison Company has informed us that the average consumption for a single family dwelling is about 85 kilowatt hours per month and that Long Beach is in their D6 Schedule, while Lakewood is in their D3 schedule. This results in the following:

Long Beach

<u>KWH</u>	<u>Unit Price</u>	<u>Amount</u>
First 14		\$.85
Next 36	.035	1.26
Next <u>35</u>	.02	<u>.70</u>
85	Total	<u>\$2.81</u>

Lakewood

First 16		\$.90
Next 34	.043	1.46
Next <u>35</u>	.029	<u>1.02</u>
85	Total	<u>\$3.38</u>

Thus the difference is about 57 cents per month or about \$7.00 per year, as compared with the \$10.00 as shown above. Is annexation to Long Beach the only method to get equal rates? The answer is no. Here again the Public Utilities Commission has control over the rates of the Edison Company. The Edison Company is now in the course of a complete rate survey and they assure us they will give Lakewood their earnest consideration.

It is our belief that the new pattern for utility rates has been set, within the last year, by the General Telephone Company, the Southern California Gas Company, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company and others who now give the same rate for the densely populated areas adjacent to the cities as the rates in effect within the City. Ask yourself this question, "Does it cost the Edison Company more to serve us now than it would if we annexed?" The obvious answer is NO. We therefore feel confident that both the Edison Company and the Public Utilities Commission will take this into account when their rate increase application is filed later this year.

SUMMARY ON UTILITIES

<u>Savings</u>	<u>Lakewood as we are</u>	<u>Long Beach</u>
Water	\$12.12 per year	
Insurance	No change	
Gas		\$2.84
Electricity	Possible	<u>6.84</u>
	<u>\$12.12</u>	<u>\$9.68</u>

It is as stated no savings on electric rates are expected by annexation. The cost of supplying the electricity will not change. Savings as we are equals \$2.44 per year.

(6) Public Services.

(a) Fire Protection.

We have here now one of the finest fire departments in the country. It is second in size only to Chicago. We have 89 fire companies and 3 ladder companies - 105 pieces of equipment. On every call of fire to the Lakewood station, 3 fire companies answer the call. If it is a 2-alarm fire, 6 other fire companies roll on the fire. We have one of the most efficient fire departments in the country. There has never been a serious fire in the history of Lakewood.

(b) Police Protection.

Present - 5 - 2 man Patrol cars on Swing Shift
3 - 2 man Patrol cars on Graveyard Shift
4 - 1 man Patrol on Day Shift plus 1 Motorcycle Patrol.
Extra patrolmen from 3 to 5 p.m.

We now have patrol cars operating in Lakewood on a 24-hour basis with additional patrol cars only 4 miles away. We also have the State Highway Patrol covering the area for traffic control and accident investigation. We do not have a crime here in Lakewood, no bookies, no slum areas, no crime hangouts. These things contribute to crime. We don't have these factors here.

(c) Parks and Recreation.

We have just voted in a self-governing parks and recreation and parkway district. This is for the purpose of beautification of our community and acquisition and development of neighborhood parks. This will not change by annexation. We have a well planned community in reference to parks. We now have 3 parks developed. We have additional park sites for development. We have a \$150,000.00 swimming pool being built in Lakewood. The future of Lakewood looks very good from the Parks and Recreation standpoint.

(d) Representation:

If Lakewood were annexed we would lose our identity as Virginia City did. It is now known as North Long Beach. There would not be 2 or 3 councilmanic districts of exclusively Lakewood representation. Prior to the 1950 Charter Amendment, (jokingly called the Lakewood Amendment) Lakewood would have had its own council districts if annexed. The present charter as amended provides that there shall not be more than nine (9) councilmanic districts and if an area of less than 10,000 is annexed, the present city council would alter the boundaries of one or more of adjacent councilmanic districts extending them into the annexed area. If 10,000 or more annexed to the City of Long Beach, the present city council would re-district both Long Beach and Lakewood, without being required to give Lakewood its own councilmanic district. The present 9 districts would be re-districted and Lakewood would be divided among several districts. We would have a voice in the wilderness in each district that we became a part of. We would be a minority, not equal to or majority in any district because of the population re-apportionment by the present city council. It took North Long Beach some 9 years to get representation. You as an individual would not acquire any more political prestige. Only those in power would receive this prestige by our added population to their present political sphere.

- (7) Drainage Ditches. The drainage ditches are a part of the Los Angeles County Flood Control system. They are directly under this departments control. Annexation would not change this.

SUMMARY::::::::::::::::::

Long Beach is a beautiful city but not for young progressive people with families to rear. Los Angeles is the richest county in the world. We benefit by this now. We have good representation and they are easy to talk to. They have done a good job for Lakewood. We have a beautiful community, well planned for rearing our families. We do not have a botched-up zoning in Lakewood. Businesses are in their proper places, parks are in their proper places, schools are located within walking distance of almost every home. There is a future here in Lakewood for our children. They will have the proper environment to grow up in. We have the unique opportunity of controlling the environment in which our children will live. By staying an independent Lakewood we can maintain better local control over our future. Lets keep Lakewood for Lakewood. Lets build community spirit. Lets look to the future with hope and a proper recognition of our potential as united Lakewood.

Prepared for Lakewood Citizens who are for "Lakewood First, Foremost and Always", By the Lakewood Civic Speakers' Bureau.

For more information;

Call ---- 564-49

WE NEED MORE SPEAKERS. ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LAKEWOOD--FIRST-FOREMOST-ALWAYS.

PLEASE CALL THE ABOVE NUMBER IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WORKING FOR LAKEWOOD.