

Torrance

People and Place

Location

Torrance covers 20.5 square miles of land in the southwest corner of Los Angeles County in the South Bay area. The community is 4 miles east of Redondo Beach, about 20 miles south of Los Angeles, and 118 miles north of San Diego. The geographic coordinates of Torrance are lat 33°50'09"N, long 118°20'23"W.

Demographic Profile

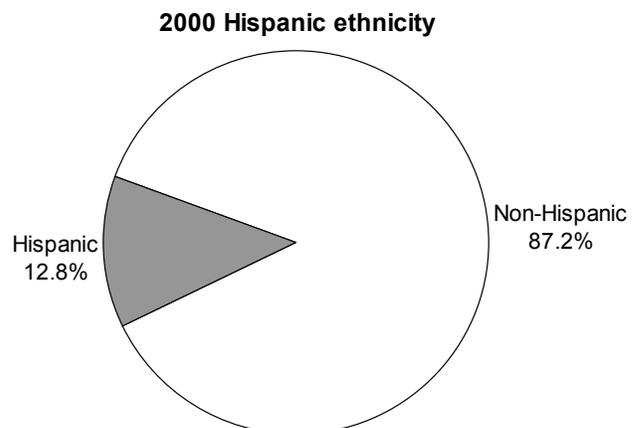
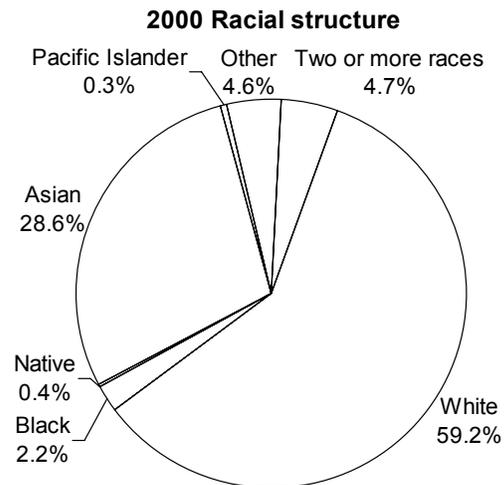
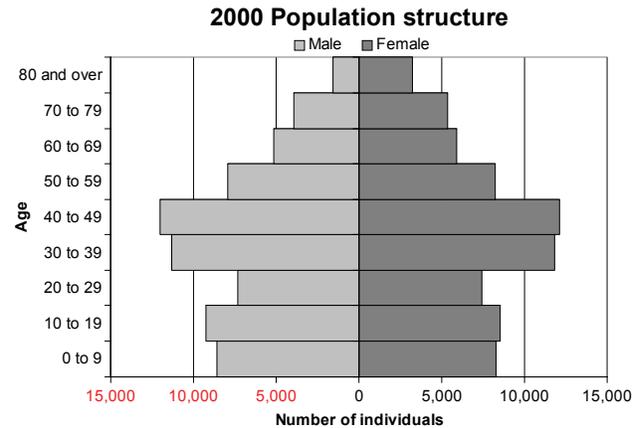
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Torrance was 137,946, a 3.6% increase from 1990. The gender structure was 51.4% female and 48.6% male. The median age was 38.7, higher than the national median age of 35.3. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 89.9% had a high school education or higher, 34.2% had a bachelor's degree or higher, and 10.7% had a graduate or professional degree; the national averages were 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively. The highest educational attainment for 20.6% was a high school diploma or equivalency.

The majority of the racial structure was white (59.2%), followed by Asian (28.6%), individuals who identified with two or more races (4.7%), individuals who identified with some other race (4.6%), black (2.2%), American Indian and Alaska Native (0.4%), and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.3%). About 12.8% identified as Hispanic, and 27.6% of the population was foreign-born. Of the foreign-born, 16.7% were from Korea, 14% from Japan, and 12.7% from China.

In 2000 83.0% of the population lived in family households.

History

Native peoples first inhabited the California coast about 13,000 years ago. The Los Angeles County area was home to the Chumash Indians, whose territory spanned the California coast from Malibu to Paso Robles.¹ The Chumash were hunter-gatherers and relied heavily on maritime resources, including clams, mussels, abalone, and many fish species. They developed sophisticated technologies for harvesting marine resources, established large coastal villages, and traded extensively within their territory. They became known as Gabrielenos because of their association with the San Gabriel Mission during Spanish occupation. Between 200 and 500 years ago, Tongva Indians migrated from



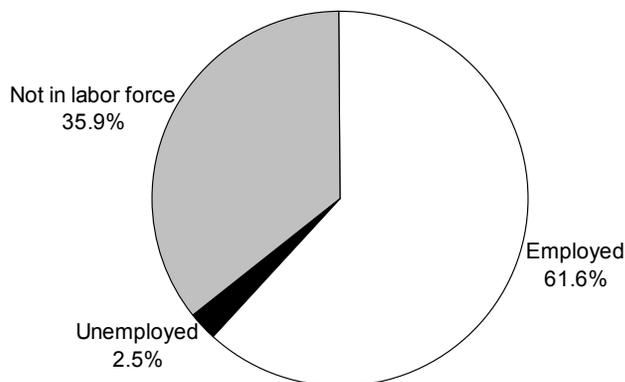
the Mojave Desert region, establishing 25 villages throughout what is today the Los Angeles County area, becoming similarly dependent on marine resources.² Today the Gabrieleno/Tongva tribe is headquartered in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area in San Gabriel, and is seeking federal recognition and tribal fishing rights.

In 1784 the Torrance area became part of a 75,000-acre land grant given to Juan Jose Dominguez by the Spanish government in recognition of his military service. The land grant, which extended from the Los Angeles River on the east to the Pacific Ocean on the west, became known as the Rancho San Pedro (later the Dominguez Ranch). The contemporary communities of Torrance, Carson, Redondo Beach, and the Los Angeles Harbor all lie within the former Dominguez Land Grant.³ Dominguez and his descendants were active in local politics and business enterprises, and many contemporary streets, businesses, water bodies, and other public structures in the South Bay area bear the Dominguez name. Until the early twentieth century, most land surrounding Torrance was used for agricultural purposes, mainly cattle grazing.

In the early 1900s, the Dominguez Land Company, under the leadership of Jarred Sidney Torrance, president, purchased a portion of the original rancho from the Dominguez family to develop the West's first planned industrial city.⁴ Renowned city planner Frederick Law Olmstead designed the city's initial layout with a balanced mix of industrial, commercial, and residential land uses.⁵ Members of Dominguez Land Company's Board of Directors chose the name Torrance (after the company president) in 1912. Its early growth was driven by the discovery of oil in the area in the 1920s, and Torrance continues to support a number of oil refineries. After World War II, the area experienced a second boom as wartime production facilities were converted to aerospace and related industries.⁶ Most of the city's housing was constructed during post-war years. In the 1970s city officials emphasized the further development of recreational, retail, and service sectors to meet the needs of a growing population.

Today Torrance remains a powerful industrial center, strategically located between the Los Angeles International Airport and the Long Beach Airport and between Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The city is corporate headquarters of a number of prominent companies, including Honda, Toyota, Epson, and the Kubota Tractor Corporation. Aerospace and oil have a continuing importance to the local economy.

2000 Employment structure



Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 61.6% of Torrance's potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 2.5% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 3.9% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 35.9% were not in the labor force. The primary employment sectors were education, health, and social services (17.5%), manufacturing (17.5%), local, state, or federal government (12.7%), and retail trade (11.4%). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employed only 0.2%, but this percentage may be artificially low because many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in the data.

Torrance is a regional business and industrial center with employment opportunities in light manufacturing (electronics, aluminum, and plastics), healthcare, education, and a growing number of retail stores, including many upscale shopping complexes and restaurants. Because Torrance is between recreational marina facilities at Redondo Beach (5 miles) and commercial facilities at the Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro (10 miles), some residents may also commute to jobs in the sport and commercial fishing industries.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Torrance's per capita income in 1999 was \$28,144, compared to a national per capita income of \$21,587. The median household income was \$56,489, 34.5% above the national median household income of \$41,994. About 6.4% lived below the poverty level, about half the national average of 12.4%.

In 2000 Torrance had 55,967 housing units, of which 97.5% were occupied and 2.5% were vacant. Of

the occupied units, 56% were by owner and 44% were by renter. Of the vacant housing units, 42.0% were for rent and 20.7% were for sale.

Governance

Torrance officially incorporated in 1921 and is a charter city with a council-manager government.⁷ Most California cities are general law cities that closely follow state statutes, but charter cities develop and follow statutes set forth in their own charters. City government consists of a mayor, six council members, a clerk, and a treasurer. Torrance levies an 8.25% sales and use tax. Los Angeles County levies a 12% lodging tax rate that earned \$10,202,899 in revenue during fiscal year 2001.⁸ See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fisherman and processors in California.

The nearest California Department of Fish and Game Marine Region Field Office is 20 miles away in Los Alamitos. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Southwest Regional office is in Long Beach (15 miles). Eight U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) vessels are stationed at the USCG Marine Safety Office/Group Los Angeles–Long Beach in San Pedro (10 miles). Delmar and San Diego, approximately 118 miles away, are the nearest cities that host Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings. A U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services District Office is in Los Angeles.

Facilities

The main thoroughfare connecting Torrance to the greater metropolitan area is Interstate Highway 110, which runs north into Los Angeles. The city is midway between Los Angeles International Airport (10 miles) and the Long Beach Airport (15 miles). The smaller Torrance Municipal Airport has two paved public access runways.

Torrance is in the Torrance Unified School District, which supports 17 elementary schools, 8 middle schools, 6 high schools, 4 adult education centers, and the South California Regional Occupational Center (a vocational education facility). It has several private schools, most of which are nondenominational. Higher education centers include El Camino Community College and branches of ITT Technical Institute and Bryman College.

Torrance Municipal Water and the California Water Service Company provide water and wastewater services. Southern California Edison and other private power companies supply electricity. The Torrance Police and Fire departments administer law enforcement and emergency services. Local hospitals include the Torrance Memorial Medical Center, the Little Company

of Mary Hospital, and the Harbor-University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Medical Center.

The nearest noncommercial marine facilities are 4 miles west at King Harbor and the Municipal Pier in nearby Redondo Beach. King Harbor has four marinas, with boat hoists and more than 1,000 slips.⁹ A number of sportfishing, charter, and whale watching vessels homeport at this harbor complex. Torrance Beach, a small section of open waterfront popular with long board surfers, provides marine recreation opportunities.¹⁰

The Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro Bay (10 miles) has the nearest commercial marine facilities. This complex, outfitted for both commercial and recreational purposes, stretches along 43 miles of waterfront and encompasses 7,500 acres, of which 3,300 are water.¹¹ The port is within the jurisdiction of the City of Los Angeles and is under the direction of a five-member Board of Harbor Commissioners appointed by the mayor.¹² The port has 29 state-of-the-art cargo facilities and 5 intermodal rail yards.¹³ The complex includes the Cabrillo Marina, which provides slips for 1,100 pleasure crafts, Cabrillo Beach (popular with swimmers), three museums, the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, and the S.S. Lane Victory (a national historic landmark). Charter operators offer a number of harbor cruise and whale watching tours.¹⁴ The Port of Los Angeles' World Cruise Center is the primary cruise passenger complex on the West Coast, handling the world's largest cruise ships.¹⁵ In 1997 the 47-acre terminal island transfer facility was completed, allowing direct transfer of containers from ships to trains.¹⁶

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 no seafood processors operated in Torrance and no vessels delivered landings. Residents owned six commercial vessels, of which four participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. The number of vessels owned by residents in 2000 that participated in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/0/1, groundfish 0/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/0/NA, shellfish NA/0/NA, shrimp NA/0/0, and other species 0/0/2.¹⁷

In 2000 Torrance residents held no federal groundfish permits. The number of residents holding permits in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/0/2, groundfish 0/0/3, highly migratory species NA/0/3, shellfish 0/0/NA, and other species 0/0/16.¹⁸

Torrance residents held at least 43 commercial fishing permits, all state registered, in 2000. The number of state permits held by residents in each fishery by state

(WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/0/6, groundfish 0/0/4, highly migratory species NA/0/5, shellfish 0/0/NA, and other species 0/0/28.¹⁹

Sportfishing

Several charter vessels operate out of Torrance targeting albacore tuna, rock cod, salmon, and other species. In 2002 at least three charter businesses served sport fishermen and tourists, and five license agents sold sportfishing licenses in Torrance. In 2000 Los Angeles County vendors sold 76,385 resident sportfishing licenses, 59 nonresident sportfishing licenses, 164 sport salmon punch cards, and 174 abalone report cards. The nearest commercial passenger fishing vessels port complex consists of Seal Beach, Long Beach, and San Pedro. In this port complex in 2000, 54 commercial passenger fishing vessels served 148,977 anglers and reported 883,806 landings composed of more than two dozen species. Sea bass (various species), barracuda, flatfishes (unspecified), and rockfishes (unspecified) accounted for 47.6%, 14.1%, 10.4%, and 9.2% of the landings respectively.

Subsistence

Local tribal and nontribal community members may engage in subsistence fishing in the Torrance area, however, specific information on subsistence fishing is not discussed in detail due to the lack of available data. The California Department of Fish and Game terms “recreational” fishermen who do not earn revenue from their catch, but fish for pleasure or to provide food for personal consumption. Information on subsistence fishing in California is captured to some degree in the sportfishing data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 three Torrance residents held North Pacific fisheries crew member licenses.

Sportfishing

Torrance residents purchased 194 Alaska sportfishing licenses in 2000.

Notes

1. The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. 2002. Chumash Indian life. Online at <http://www.sbnature.org/research/anthro/chumash/index.htm> [accessed 5 April 2007].

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3. County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. 2005. Dominguez watershed history. Online at <http://ladpw.org/wmd/watershed/dc/history.cfm> [accessed 5 April 2007].

4. Torrance Historical Society. No Date. Historical society brochure. Online at <http://www.ci.torrance.ca.us/> [accessed 5 April 2007].

5. City of Torrance. No date. City-at-a-glance. Online at <http://www.ci.torrance.ca.us/> [accessed 5 April 2007].

6. South Bay Cities Council of Governments. 2000. History. Online at <http://www.southbaycities.org/about> [accessed 5 April 2007].

7. City of Torrance. 2004. Torrance city council. Online at <http://www.ci.torrance.ca.us/gov.htm> [accessed 5 April 2007].

8. State of California. 2004. California counties transient lodging tax revenue. Online at <http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard/local/locprep/adhoc/county/0001cotranslodgtax.pdf> [accessed 5 April 2007].

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11. Port of Los Angeles. 2001. The Port of Los Angeles: Home. Online at <http://www.portofla.org/index.htm> [accessed 5 April 2007].

12. Port of Los Angeles. 2001. The Port of Los Angeles: About the port. Online at <http://www.portofla.org/about.htm> [accessed 5 April 2007].

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15. LA Inc.: The Convention and Visitors Bureau. No date. LA World Cruise Center. Online at <http://www.cruisela.com/wcc.aspx> [accessed 5 April 2007].

16. Port of Los Angeles. 2001. The Port of Los Angeles: A historical look. Online at http://www.portofla.org/about_history.htm [accessed 5 April 2007].

17. NA refers to data that were not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.

18. See note 17.

19. See note 17.