

Truck Trip Generation Study



**City of Fontana
County of San Bernardino
State of California**

August 2003

TRUCK TRIP GENERATION STUDY

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Due to the size of this report, it has been split into sections. Click on the items below to open up that section of the report. You can also click on a bookmark in the left side frame to go to that section.

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CITY OF FONTANA

Location

The City of Fontana is located in Southern California in the southwestern portion of San Bernardino County. Fontana is situated approximately 50 miles east of the City of Los Angeles, approximately 110 miles north of the City of San Diego, and approximately 15 miles west of the Cities of Riverside and San Bernardino. The City is bordered to the north by the San Bernardino National Forest, to the east by the City of Rialto, and to the west by the City of Rancho Cucamonga, and by the City of Ontario, the Jurupa Hills and the unincorporated areas of Riverside County located to the south. The region in which Fontana is located is often referred to as the Inland Empire.

History

In 1913, the town site of Fontana was officially founded by A.B. Miller between Foothill Boulevard and the Santa Fe railroad line. Over 4,000 people from the local area showed up on June 7, 1913, to celebrate the opening of the town site. The first three prominent buildings erected in the town site, the grammar school, packing house, and Pacific Electric Railway Depot, were constructed in 1914.

During the period extending from 1915 through 1920, agricultural activity in the region was extremely successful. During this time, water development ensued and the planting of citrus and deciduous orchards expanded. The orchards produced numerous varieties of oranges, along with lemons and seedless grapefruit. The Fontana Development Company continued to increase the acreage being planted and, by the end of 1920, approximately 5,000 acres of citrus orchards and approximately 12,000 acres of deciduous orchards had been planted. In addition, approximately 1,000 acres of peanuts, barley, sweet potatoes, hay, and the like had been cultivated, and grapes, poultry, and swine were also

leading commodities. Diversifications of the agricultural industry in the Fontana area, in addition to the entire Southern California region, were in no small part due to the efforts of A.B. Miller.

The popularity of Fontana as a prime location for establishing an orchard, vineyard, or poultry house led to a dramatic rise in the population within the community. From 1924 to 1926, the City of Fontana doubled in size, reaching an estimated population of 4,200 citizens. Although the reliance on agriculture and livestock would dominate Fontana until the early 1940s, economic change was on the horizon.

In 1942, the economic focus of the City of Fontana was shifted with the opening of the Kaiser Steel Mill. By the end of the 1940s, there were over 8,000 people employed by Kaiser Steel in Fontana, with a payroll of approximately \$38 million (approximately \$262 million in year 2000 dollars, when adjusted for inflation). In an attempt to keep pace with Fontana's rapidly growing population, residential development also flourished and, during 1949, building permits totaled \$16,197,525 (approximately \$112 million in year 2000 dollars). The result of this industrial boom meant that the orchards, which had once dominated the Fontana landscape, were being replaced by companies such as the Basalt Rock Company (manufacturers of steel and concrete pipe), the Western Steel Company, the Taylor Forge and Pipe Works, the Graver Tank and Manufacturing Company (manufacturers of steel tanks), and the West Coast Loading Corporation (manufacturers of flares).

The City of Fontana was incorporated June 25, 1952, during this boom in the economy. By 1954, Fontana's population totaled approximately 15,000 residents. The economy of Fontana continued to be dominated by the steel industry until the late 1970s, when Kaiser Steel began to reduce production and trimmed their



workforce. In 1984, Kaiser Steel ceased production altogether at the Fontana plant, but the plate steel and rolling mill plant was acquired by the California Steel Industry (CSI) and is still in operation today employing a work force of over 1,000.

Present

Today the City of Fontana covers approximately 36 square miles, while its sphere of influence encompasses an area of approximately 56 square miles. According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the population of Fontana has risen from 87,535 in 1990 to 139,100 in 2002, which is an increase of over 47 percent. The California Department of Finance estimates that the 2003 population in Fontana has grown to 145,770, which is an increase of over 970 percent since 1954.

The economy of Fontana has gone through many permutations since the early reliance of the economy on agriculture until the early 1940s, which was followed by the dominance of the steel industry until the 1980s. Today the economy is supported by the many distribution centers located in Fontana because of the City's location to major good movement transportation routes like: Interstate 10; Interstate 15; Interstate 60; the recently completed Interstate 210; the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe and Union Pacific Railroads; the Ontario International Airport; and, the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. These distribution centers include Target, Sears, Napa Auto Parts, Mercedes Benz, Big 5 Sporting Goods, and Home Shopping Network. In addition, Metrolink provides local rail connection to surrounding communities throughout Southern California.