



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

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San Diego Public Library to Show Documentary Film About the Rise and Decline of Suburbia

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library, in cooperation with the California Council for the Humanities, will host a film screening of “The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream” on Sunday, April 17, at 2 p.m. in the third floor Auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego. This event is free to the public.

Since World War II, North Americans have invested much of their newfound wealth in suburbia. It has promised a sense of space, affordability, family life and upward mobility. As the population of suburban sprawl has exploded in the past 50 years, so too the suburban way of life has become embedded in the American consciousness. Suburbia, and all it promises, has become the American Dream.

But as we enter the 21st century, serious questions are beginning to emerge about the sustainability of this way of life. Americans who live in suburbs typically drive 50 to 100 miles round trip each day to get to work, to shop and to play. Americans use a highly disproportionate amount of the world’s resources. The United States contains just 4 percent of the world’s population, but gobbles up 25 percent of its oil. It doesn’t take a genius to figure out that such massive use of non-renewable resources is just not sustainable.

With brutal honesty and a touch of irony, “The End of Suburbia” presents a startling portrait of a world where oil and natural gas production is decreasing, prices are increasing and where, without affordable petroleum, the suburbs are doomed to become “the slums of the future.”

Eric Watkins, writer for *Gas and Oil Journal*, will facilitate a discussion after the presentation. In conjunction with the film screening, students from San Diego High School of International Studies will showcase their oral history project – part of the California Council for the Humanities’ “California Stories Uncovered” campaign.

For more information about the program, call the Central Library at 619-236-5800 or visit the Library on the City’s Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/> .

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“California Stories Uncovered” is made possible in part by a grant from the California Council for the Humanities as part of its statewide California Stories Initiative. The Council is an independent nonprofit organization and a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information on the Council and the California Stories Initiative, visit <http://www.californiastories.org/> .

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<http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/>