



# Lake Elsinore Inlet Channel Stabilization

California — Congressional District 49 Representative Darrell E. Issa

Water Resources Development Act

## REQUEST: \$2.6 MILLION

The City of Lake Elsinore requests \$2.6 million in the Water Resources and Development Act under the US Army Corps Section 206 program for a project to stabilize the banks of the Inlet Channel at Lake Elsinore.

## PROJECT PURPOSE

During the 2005 storm season the Lake received the 5th highest amount of inflows over the past seventy-five years of record. The high inflow from the San Jacinto River resulted in substantial erosion and deposition of

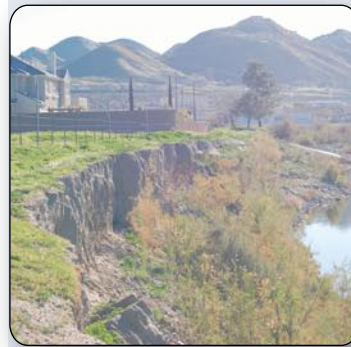
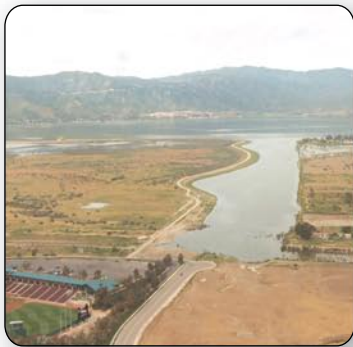


A damaged slope resulting from sedimentation and changing hydraulics in the Inlet Channel.

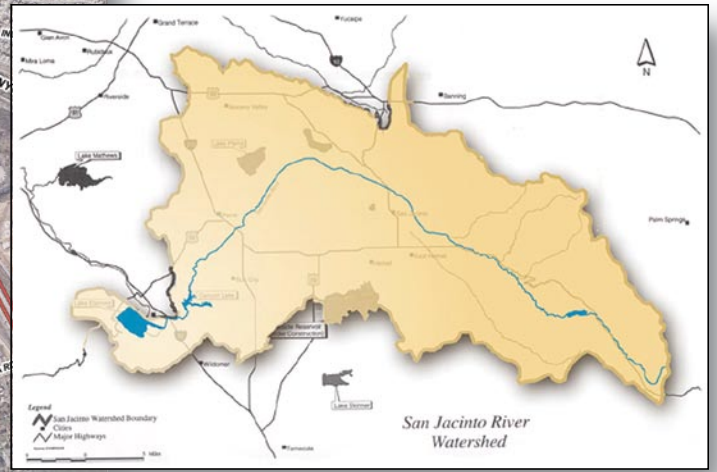
sediment within the Inlet Channel, negatively impacting water quality and aquatic environment, flood protection, public safety, and recreation opportunities.

**Water Quality and Aquatic Environment** — Lake Elsinore is a naturally shallow lake; however, the substantial sediment deposition from the 2005 storm season will increase fish-killing algae blooms. Lake Elsinore is already listed as an impaired waterbody for nutrients and sediments under the Federal Clean Water Act 303d list.

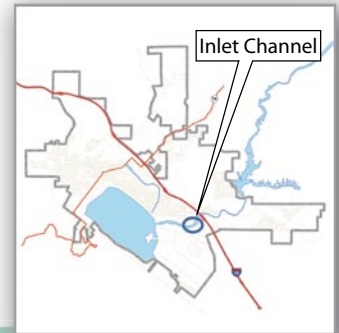
**Flood Storage** — Based on recent soundings, approximately 515,000 cubic yards of sediment (continued on back)



Removing sediment and repairing erosion damage is vital to flood protection, improved water quality and preventing fish-kills.



**Lake Elsinore is the terminus of the San Jacinto River, which drains a 750 square mile watershed. The Inlet Channel was built as part of the Lake Elsinore Management Project to stabilize the lake level, protect against flooding and improve water quality.**



(continued)

have accumulated on the bottom of the Inlet Channel. In the future, this volume of deposited sediment will displace an equal volume of water onto other shoreline properties around the Lake during storm events. This reduces the storage capacity of the 100 Year Floodplain.

**Public Safety** – The extensive sedimentation in the Inlet Channel has changed the design hydraulics of the channel. Therefore future stormwater flows will certainly be redirected from the planned course for the San Jacinto River. If this condition is not repaired, then future storm damage will most likely increase and new development occurring within the vicinity of the Inlet Channel may be placed at great risk. Already, the severe erosion of the north slope of the Inlet Channel caused by the storm damage poses a public safety hazard. The deep down-cutting of the slope has led to steep drop-offs. The City has fenced and posted signs in the area, but the hazard still exists and repairs to the slope are needed to correct this unsafe physical hazard.

**Recreation** – The Inlet Channel was planned and designated as an ideal “special events/concession channel.” The City currently has a concessions agreement with a company named California Skier, to operate the facility for public use as a tournament style wakeboarding and waterskiing facility. City staff estimates the accumulated sediment will reduce the usable space of the Inlet Channel for aquatic recreation by at least 33% at the normal lake operating water level of 1,240’ MSL.



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