



## **City of Lake Elsinore Awarded Prestigious Helen Putnam Award for Planning and Environmental Quality**

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**Lake Elsinore, CA** – The City of Lake Elsinore received the prestigious Helen Putnam Award for Planning and Environmental Quality for its creation and implementation of the Lake Management Plan.

Presented by the League of California Cities during its annual conference in Long Beach, the Helen Putnam Award recognizes excellence in local government across the state. The award highlights outstanding achievements that improve the quality of life for residents while promoting responsible and forward-thinking planning practices.

"The Helen Putnam Award recognizes our commitment to restoring and preserving Lake Elsinore for generations to come," said Council Member Steve Manos, who accepted the award alongside City Manager Jason Simpson, Assistant Director of Lake and Community Operations, Adam Gufarotti, and Management Analyst, Bailey MacLean. "It was incredibly rewarding to share our Lake Management Plan with colleagues from across California and showcase how innovative solutions can protect both our environment and our community's recreational heritage."

Lake Elsinore has long been a treasured destination for residents and visitors, offering 3,000 acres of scenic beauty and recreational opportunities such as boating, kayaking, fishing, and lakeside gatherings. In recent years, the lake faced challenges from harmful algal blooms, nutrient pollution, and low oxygen levels.

In response, the City developed the comprehensive Lake Management Plan, a multi-year, science-driven effort to improve water quality and ecosystem health. Key initiatives include the use of nanobubble technology to oxygenate water, phosphorus mitigation to reduce algae growth, and satellite-based monitoring to track cyanobacteria levels.

The Lake Management Plan represents a significant investment in the health and sustainability of Lake Elsinore. Since its launch, the City has deployed state-of-the-art nanobubble barges, phosphorus mitigation, and comprehensive monitoring systems. These efforts have not only improved water quality and aquatic habitat but also enhanced recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, ensuring safe and enjoyable boating, fishing, and lakeside activities.

Results have been encouraging: dissolved oxygen levels near the lake bottom have more than tripled, sediment quality has improved, and cyanobacteria levels are being closely monitored to protect public health. With these proactive, science-based measures, Lake Elsinore is now positioned as a model for innovative lake management in California, demonstrating how local governments can protect natural resources while fostering community recreation and tourism.



"Receiving the Helen Putnam Award is a tremendous honor and a testament to the dedication, collaboration, and vision of our staff and community partners," said City Manager Jason Simpson. "This recognition motivates us to continue implementing innovative solutions that protect Lake Elsinore and ensure it remains a premier destination for recreation and natural beauty."

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