

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Declaration of Lake Elsinore as a Traditional Navigable Water (SPL-2007-1295-DPS)

1. Lake Elsinore is located within (partially) the city of Lake Elsinore, Riverside County, California (Latitude: 33.66142, Longitude: -117.35171). Lake Elsinore has the physical characteristics of a traditional navigable water (TNW): normal area (depending on lake level) is 3074-3412 acres with a corresponding average depth of 12.5-19.9 ft. The ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of the lake was originally determined to follow the 1260 ft MSL (NGVD 1929) elevation contour, as part of the Corps Regulatory permit and subsequent modifications authorizing construction of the "back basin" levee and outlet channel. A new request for re-examination of the OHWM has triggered a new jurisdictional determination (JD) process, including establishment of TNW status and re-evaluation of the OHWM. Based on field evidence from a March 4, 2008 site visit (measurements of elevations at which algal deposit lines, wrack lines, and scour lines), design details of the outlet channel which was lowered from 1260 ft MSL to 1255 ft MSL at the confluence of the outlet channel with Temescal Wash and Wasson Canyon channel (USACE, August 1995, "Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement, and Rehabilitation Manual for Lake Elsinore outlet channel"), as well as a HEC-5 analysis showing the 1255 elevation corresponds to a 5.8 return interval, the lake's OHWM has now been determined to be at the 1255 ft MSL elevation (NGVD 1929).

2. Lake Elsinore has sufficient access to qualify as a TNW: The lake has at least one public access point, a large boat ramp maintained by the City, as well as easy road access via nearby freeway I-15. The City is proposing to construct another boat ramp. Private boat docks are located at various points along the lake.

3. Lake Elsinore has sufficient commerce to qualify as a TNW: The lake is subject to frequent use by motorized watercraft, primarily for recreation. For the calendar years 2006 and 2007, the City sold 34,907 and 32,410 Daily Lake Use Passes, respectively. All boaters are required to purchase a Lake Use Pass to utilize the Lake. In 2006, the cost of a Daily Lake Use Pass was \$8.00, whereas the City raised the fee in 2007 to \$10.00. Approximately 90% of the vessels on Lake Elsinore are under 26-feet in length. The maximum boat length permitted by City ordinance is 40-feet.

The City utilizes the 1-mile long Inlet Channel as an Event

CESPL-RG 1145b

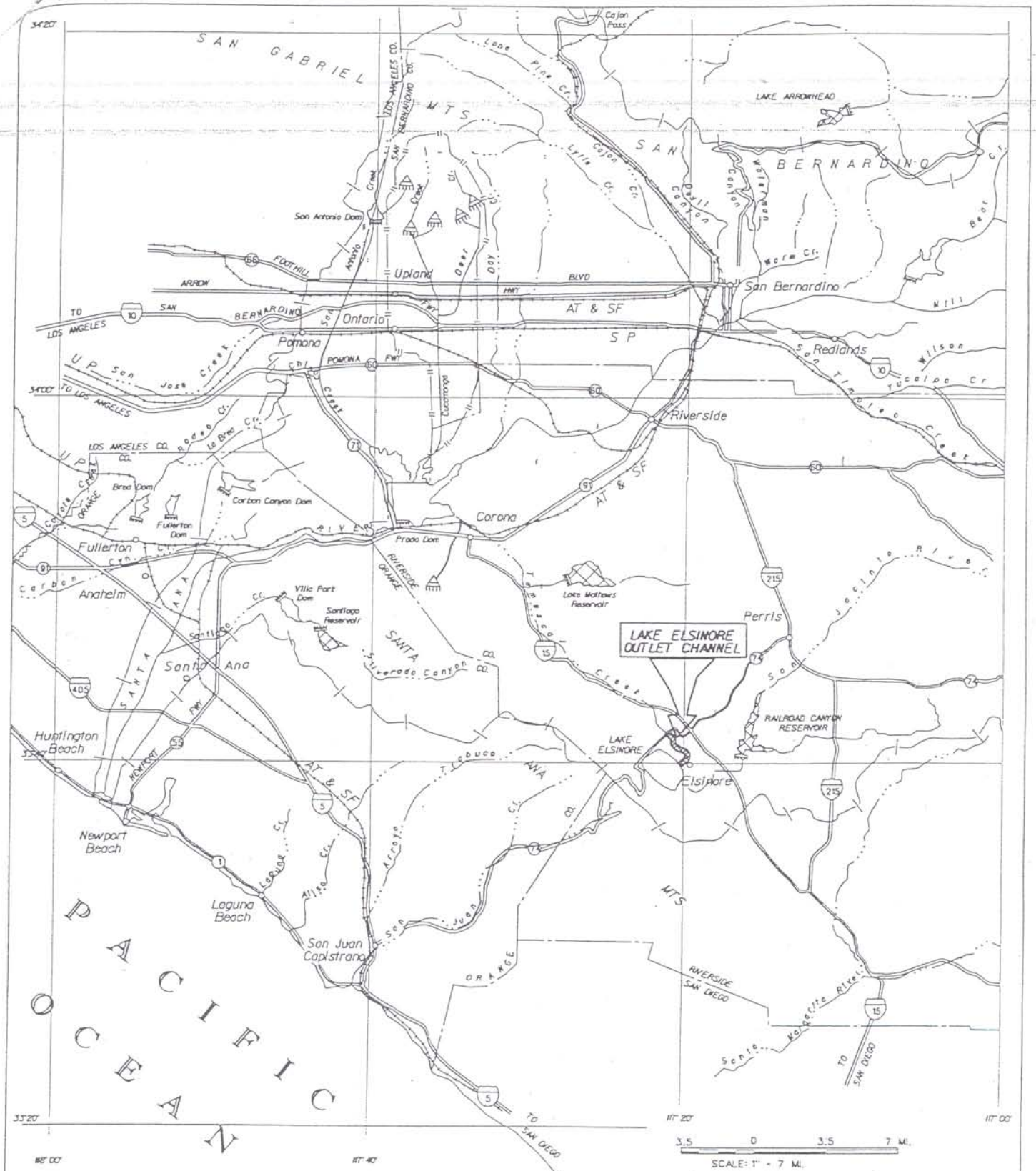
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Channel. The City has a concessions agreement with a company named California Skier to rent the Inlet Channel for amateur and professional waterskiing and wakeboarding. These are usually private parties. There are few large special events within the Inlet Channel, about 2 per year. In addition, only 1 or 2 annual special events occur on the main body of the Lake. This is for the National Water Ski Race Association (NWSRA). The City typically does a partial lake closure to accommodate this event during the off season. Approximately 10% of the boaters are from outside the counties of Riverside, Orange, San Diego and Los Angeles, including an unknown number of state visitors.



Mark Durham
Chief, South Coast Branch
Regulatory Division

DISTRIBUTION: CESPL-RG



LAKE ELSINORE
OUTLET CHANNEL

LAKE ELSINORE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT
LAKE ELSINORE OUTLET CHANNEL
PROJECT LOCATION AND VICINITY MAP

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT
LOS ANGELES
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|------------------------|
| | BOUNDARY OF SANTA ANA RIVER DRAINAGE AREA | | WATER-SUPPLY RESERVOIR |
| | DEBRIS BASIN | | INTERSTATE HIGHWAY |
| | FLOOD-CONTROL DAM | | STATE HIGHWAY |

SCALE: 1" = 7 MI.