



San Elijo Lagoon CONSERVANCY

Preserving, protecting, and enhancing San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and its watershed

SPRING CLEANING AT THE INLET

April 14–21, 2011

Spring is the time of year when we apply a new coat of paint, sweep out the cobwebs, and add color to our gardens. For San Elijo Lagoon, it is time to clean out sand and cobble that has accumulated in the inlet channel over the past year.



Last week, equipment began the first steps in moving sand out of the lagoon inlet and back to the beach, an operation expected to conclude on April 21, 2011.

Each year, Conservancy staff oversee this maintenance operation that removes approximately 25,000 cubic yards of sand from the inlet. This annual breaching creates positive benefits for both the community and the lagoon.

The main goal of the project is to **ensure that tidal flow is maintained in the lagoon**, preventing stagnation of this shallow-body system. Water movement is essential for preventing depletion of oxygen, and hence maintaining water quality and the overall health of the entire reserve.

And, without a constant connection to the ocean, **the fish populations that depend on the lagoon as a nursery** will not succeed. Lastly, the project **supplies the beach with much-needed sand**, providing beachgoers a place to lay their towel and the material to build sandcastles.

We hope you have a chance to see this interesting operation in action. You can count on San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy being back next year for a little spring cleaning.

Thanks to funding from California State Coastal Conservancy and CalTrans, our efforts in the last decade have improved tidal circulation with significant ecological and recreational benefits.

—Doug Gibson, Executive Director/Principal Scientist at San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy is a community-spirited nonprofit land trust based in Encinitas, California.

Our mission is to protect and restore the resources of San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve, its watershed, and related ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations.

For more information, please visit SanElijo.org or call (760) 436-3944.