

MEDIA ADVISORY—May 15, 2017



INLET EXCAVATION UNDERWAY AT SAN ELIJO LAGOON

May 15-19 Sand Removal at Inlet To Improve Tidal Flow and Coastal Water Quality

CARDIFF STATE BEACH – One of the benefits to our rain-soaked winter is there is less sand impeding tidal flow where San Elijo Lagoon meets the ocean. Freshwater streams flowed through the lagoon and out to sea, which reduced the amount of buildup seen in typical years. The Conservancy's Camino del Norte stream gauge measured 16.5 inches of rain from October to present. This year's total sand removal will be approximately 20,000 cubic yards, or like filling 50 dump trucks.

WHO San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy oversees the annual inlet excavation, conducted through the support of California Coastal Conservancy and County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health. A conservancy biologist is onsite to monitor habitat and provide public support.

WHAT Earthmovers at the mouth of San Elijo Lagoon are removing accumulated sediment in the tidal channel impeded by the Pacific Coast Highway bridge. The sand will be deposited south of the inlet.

WHEN *Today: Monday, May 15 through May 19, 2017*

WHERE Cardiff State Beach in Cardiff-by-the-Sea. Media parking is in beach parking lot.

WHY The small opening, south of San Elijo State Beach Campground, is the lagoon's only access to the Pacific Ocean. Transportation corridors have partitioned the lagoon, altering fresh water and salt water flows. By reconnecting the lagoon's tidal passage, we can ensure the protection of many fishes, birds, plants and invertebrates that depend on the unique mix of saltwater and freshwater.

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SanElijo.org/Inlet

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San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy is the nonprofit land trust for San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve, now celebrating its 30th Anniversary year. The Conservancy's vision is a world where biodiversity is preserved and people act to embrace nature as central to a healthy community. The mission is to protect and restore the resources of the lagoon, its watershed, and related ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations.