

## Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority



City of Lake Elsinore • City of Canyon Lake • County of Riverside  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District • Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

### LESJWA Water Summit Fact Sheet

The Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority (LESJWA) is a joint powers authority formed in April 2000 to develop comprehensive, long-term strategies for improving water quality and protecting wildlife habitats in a 720-square mile area that stretches from the San Jacinto Mountains to Lake Elsinore.

LESJWA was formed and funded primarily based on a \$15 million State grant in 2000. These funds have been fully expended to implement major lake quality improvement projects at Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake described as follows:

**Lake Elsinore Carp Removal** – Removed over 1 million pounds of carp from Lake Elsinore. Carp are the fish responsible for stirring up nutrients on the lake bottom, which can cause algae blooms and ultimately lead to fish kills.

**Island Well Pump Station Improvements** – Produces 1.6 billion gallons of water annually, to help stabilize Lake Elsinore lake levels, enhance fish and wildlife habitats and improve recreation opportunities.

**Experimental Striped Bass Stocking** – Added hybrid striped bass in Lake Elsinore to help control overpopulation of carp fingerlings and shad, the fish that disrupt lake water quality and cause algae blooms, which can lead to fish kills.

**Lake Elsinore Destratification and Mixing System** – Mixes lake water to increase oxygen levels, improves water quality and reduces algae growth, which lead to fish kills.

**Recycled Water Nutrient Removal and Conveyance Pipeline**– Removes excess nutrients from recycled water and convey the water to Lake Elsinore, improving water quality and stabilizing the lake level.

**Canyon Lake Dredging Project** – Removed excess sediment from Canyon Lake and improves water quality for recreational use.

LESJWA now serves as the administrator of a task force of about 20 agencies identified by the Regional Board as watershed nutrient contributors to both lakes. They are working together to comply with water quality regulations called TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads). The task force must conduct necessary monitoring, studies and projects to assure that water quality targets are met by 2015 (interim) and 2020 (final). Compliance strategies are being developed to assure TMDLs are met however, funding to build and operate new lake projects will need to come from the task force entities. Future in-lake improvements approaches along with water quality trading options to develop the most economic solution for all are being explored.