

Press Release
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Canyon Lake Declares a State of Emergency during Recent Storms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANYON LAKE, CA – With some of the heaviest rains in more than a decade dumped on the region last week, the City of Canyon Lake declared a State of Emergency to deal with storm related flooding. The City functioned in emergency-response mode from Thursday afternoon until Friday evening as a result of major after some roadways within the community being heavily impacted by flooding.

In addition to the City of Canyon Lake a State of Emergency was also declared by the Governor Schwarzenegger, Riverside County, and the Cities of Desert Hot Springs, Wildomar, Beaumont, and Calimesa. By declaring a state of emergency jurisdictions are provided certain legal immunities for emergency actions taken; exercise full power to provide mutual aid to any affected area in accordance with local ordinances, resolutions, emergency plans or agreements; require the emergency services of any local official or employee; and requisition necessary personnel and materials from any local department or agency. Specifically in Canyon Lake the City held over all deputies and fire personnel past their scheduled shifts, and contracted for an additional volunteer engine company. The City worked coordinated with Riverside County Department of Transportation to open “new” Newport Road for emergency vehicles only to increase response times between the cities of Canyon Lake and Menifee.

The City of Canyon Lake Emergency Preparedness Committee (CLEPC) volunteers logged over 152 hours of service to the City. The CLEPC assisted residents at Station 60 who needed sand bags and they also staffed the City’s Emergency Operation Center, at City Hall, during the emergency. As a result of the north causeway and RRCR at Salt Creek being closed the City was divided into three sections. The CLEPC assisted emergency personnel in each section by touring the area and reporting any needs back to the emergency operations center. Each of the three areas was staffed with a fire engine company and deputy. "Canyon Lake has had flooding before," Mayor Nancy Horton said. "I think our emergency preparedness program has increased in efficiency and scope tremendously since the floods of 2004-05. They all did a fantastic job."

The City of Canyon Lake made information on road conditions available on the web site and made a series of Code Red calls to residents to keep them as up to date as possible. If you are not signed up for the City's Code Red system please log onto www.cityofcanyonlake.com and along the right column click on the CODE RED logo and follow the instructions.

Last week, the City of Canyon Lake posted signs of potential contamination of the Lake. Contamination of Canyon Lake occurs at various inlets to the Lake from runoff brought by heavy storms. Per protocol after posting, when the runoff subsides, usually within 72 hours the lake is tested. The POA began testing on Tuesday at various locations in the lake and subject to results signs will be removed when the lake reaches a safe level for body contact.

Mayor Nancy Horton wants to remind residents that most likely we haven't seen the end of rain and potential flooding this season so please do **not** drive through flooded areas, if you come across a flooded area while driving, stop, turn the car around and find an alternate route that is safe.