

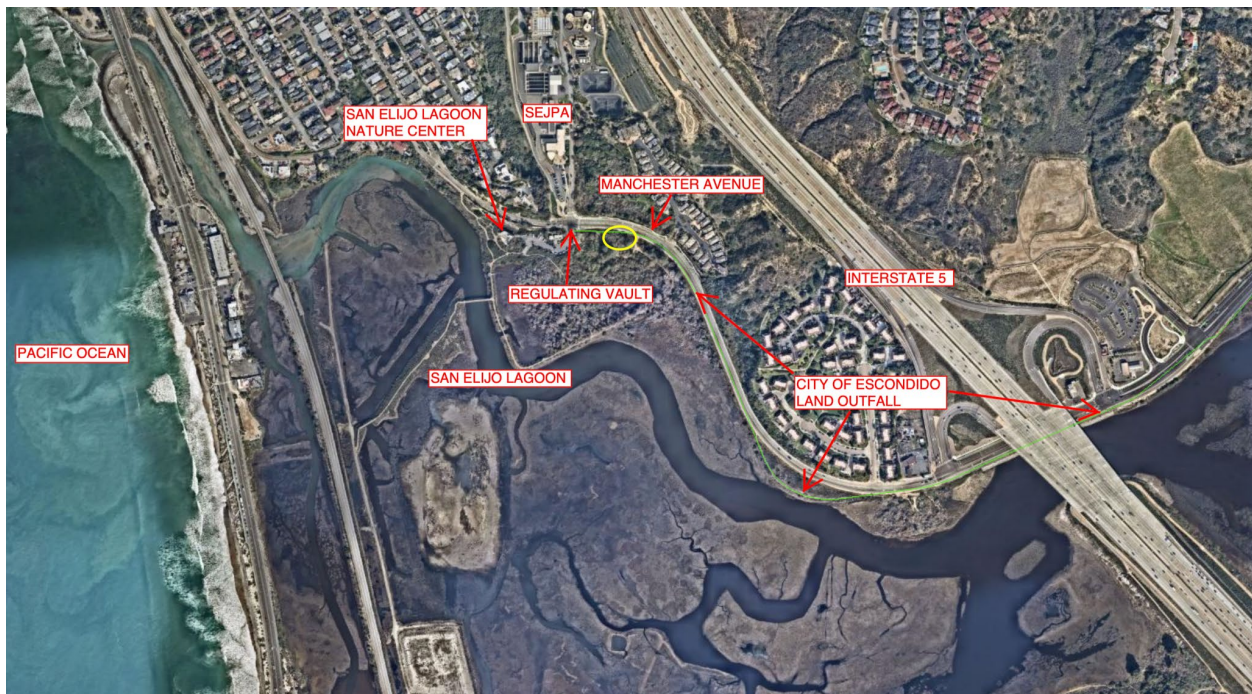
Repairs to the Escondido Land Outfall

San Elijo Joint Powers Authority & City of Escondido Joint Press Release

May 3, 2024

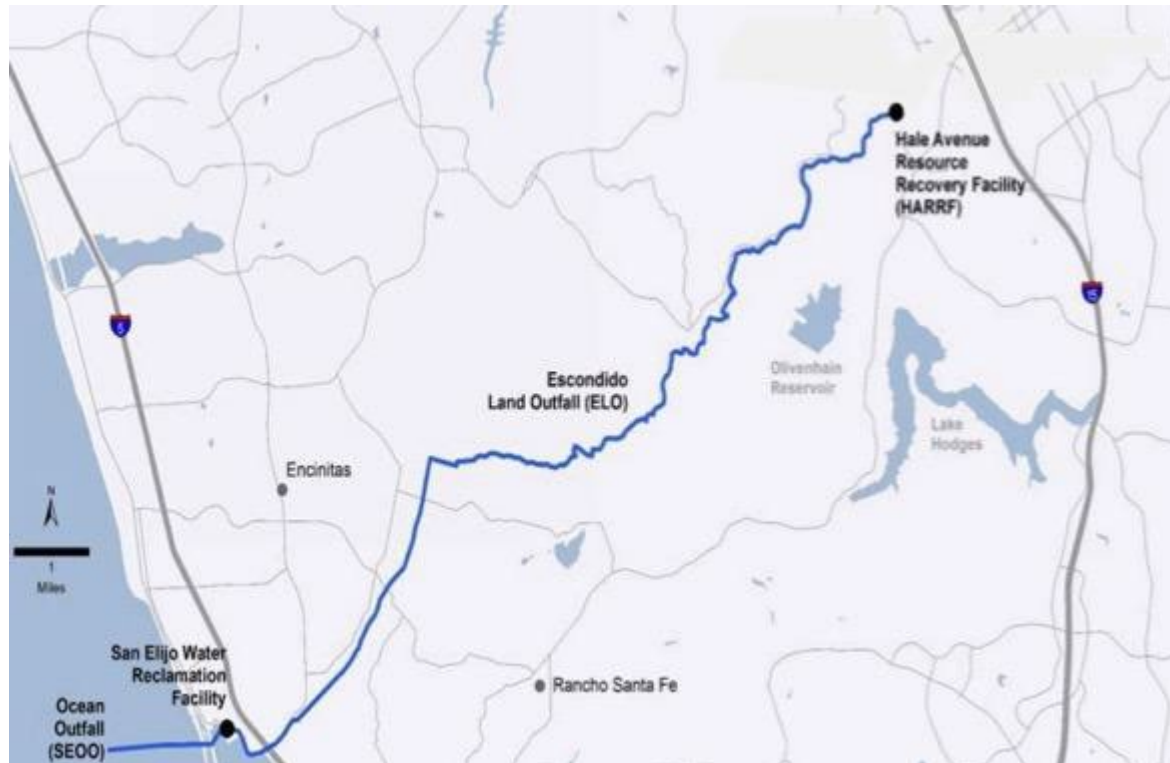
On April 16, staff from San Elijo Joint Powers Authority (SEJPA) noticed pooling water near the northern border of the San Elijo Lagoon, adjacent to Manchester Avenue. City of Escondido staff immediately responded, assessing the situation and taking water samples. Analysis of these samples ultimately identified the water to be treated secondary effluent from the Escondido Land Outfall.

The location of this slow leak is on the south side of Manchester Avenue, near the San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center. The water is contained in a small area of the Nature Center, south of the walking paths and approximately 25 feet from the roadway. Collaborative water sampling and analysis by both the City of Escondido and SEJPA has indicated that water from the weeping pipe has not influenced the San Elijo Lagoon, nor affected local wildlife.



On April 18, the City of Escondido declared a local emergency to expedite the resources needed to contain and repair the Land Outfall. The City of Escondido and SEJPA have been working collaboratively to contain and recover flow by diverting leakage to the San Elijo Water Campus, across the street, for further treatment and recycle/reuses. Current conditions of the leak range from no to low flow, depending on the flow rate at which the City of Escondido can safely operate its facilities.

The City of Escondido Land Outfall, completed in 1974, is a 14-mile pipeline that conveys secondary treated effluent westerly from the Hale Avenue Resource Recovery Facility (HARRF) to SEJPA's Ocean Outfall. The City of Escondido and SEJPA's combined flows are then discharged into the ocean via SEJPA's Ocean Outfall, meeting longstanding state water quality parameters and standards. The Land Outfall is inspected regularly and has been found to be in good conditions. Additional assessment of the Land Outfall is anticipated during the emergency construction project.



In addition to the efforts mentioned above, SEJPA and the City of Escondido have closely coordinated with the County of San Diego, the San Elijo Nature Center, the San Elijo Nature Collective, the City of Encinitas, and other local and state agencies. Since the onset of the weeping Land Outfall, the affected area has been closed to the public, including portions of the San Elijo Nature Center lagoon walking trails. Initially, the San Elijo Nature Center “Outer Loop” trail was closed in order to facilitate necessary emergency-related work. This trail has since been reopened, and as of May 2, 2024, all trails remain open, and efforts are underway to provide clearly marked signage to the public.

At a Special Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, the City of Escondido received approval by the Escondido City Council for the requested budget adjustment for the emergency repair project. The extent of construction and duration will be better understood after the Land Outfall pipeline is exposed and inspected, which is anticipated to occur early next week.

Both SEJPA and the City of Escondido are invested in reducing the amount of effluent sent to the ocean through progressive water recycling programs. You can read more about both agency's efforts to reuse at the [SEJPA Recycled Program](#) and [City of Escondido Water Reclamation and Reuse Program](#) and [Membrane Filtration and Reverse Osmosis Facility](#).

[Attached is a link to a website](#) with updated information on the repair project. Please direct all questions to neal@risingtidepartners.co and 858-215-1637.

About the City of Escondido

Incorporated in 1888, Escondido is a safe, clean and efficiently managed city of over 150,000 residents. Escondido is home to a growing number of businesses and a wide range of cultural, educational, healthcare, tourism and recreation amenities, making the City the ideal destination in which to live, work and play. Learn more at Escondido.org.

About San Elijo Joint Powers Authority

The San Elijo Joint Powers Authority is a local leader in environmental stewardship, providing award winning wastewater treatment and recycled water services for the communities of Encinitas, Solana Beach, Del Mar and Rancho Santa Fe.