



Coming Soon: On-going articles on The State of the Lake

Lake Mission Viejo isn't the same to everyone.

To some it's a warm, lazy day on the beach and a picnic in the park. To others, it's a sunset sail or an early morning workout in a kayak. To many, it's a concert venue, a fishing outing or a family event at the clubhouse. And to others, it's just something to drive by periodically and not think about much at all.

To the Board of Directors and Staff of the Association, it's something we think about and work on all the time. Our assignment is, fundamentally, everything about the lake you can dream up, and more, in pursuit of our mission to 'maintain and improve Lake Mission Viejo Association's premier freshwater lake and facilities.'

In July's newsletter, we will begin covering the complexities, challenges and rewards involved in the management of Lake Mission Viejo in a comprehensive "State of the Lake" series. In it, you will find details on a broad spectrum of issues we're working on, including these areas of focus:

- Water levels: How last year's wet winter helped to maintain water levels, and what LMVA has done and will do in the months ahead to keep the lake full within the constraints of our budget for water purchases. Water costs are increasing, and it's challenging and expensive to keep water levels up when the lake loses an average of almost 200 million gallons (600 acre-feet) of water a year to evaporation and natural seepage. What happens if we don't meet this challenge? The report will let you know.

- Recreation: What we've done and what we're planning to do to enhance and improve the lake's many recreational facilities, and what we have in store for upcoming recreational events. The State of the Lake report will address the proposed Capital Improvement Budget, which includes some significant proposals to maintain and improve the Association's facilities. The Board of Directors will consider these proposals when it considers the Association budget later this year.

- Water quality: What is the state of the lake's water quality? How is the fight against fish-killing Golden Algae going? What are we doing to continue to keep the lake quagga mussel free? Is the Advanced Purified Water treatment plant working as expected? What new tactics are being considered to continue to meet our mission of having a premier freshwater lake? Thousands – really, thousands – of Director's and Staff hours have been dedicated to the challenge posed by Golden Algae blooms, a seemingly intractable problem that is affecting lakes from Texas to California and around the world and still no resolution.

- Stewardship: The recent drought was more evidence (as if we needed it!) of the importance of protecting our natural resources for the next generation. The Association has been focused on water stewardship through extensive landscape re-designs to introduce drought-tolerant, low-water plants and recycled irrigation water to our landscaped areas. So far, the work we've undertaken will save an estimated 16 million gallons of potable (drinking) water a year. And that's just part of the Association's stewardship activities that will be covered in the State of the Lake report.

Like so many things, the more you understand Lake Mission Viejo, the more complex and challenging it becomes. When Golden Algae blooms and fish die, the lake can be terribly frustrating, but when a Summer Concert Series event comes off flawlessly with the lake a beautiful backdrop, or we look out at sails across the water and families across North Beach, working for the Lake Mission Viejo Association is hugely satisfying.

Do you have questions you would like to see addressed in the report? If so, please let us know by emailing General Manager Kevin Frabotta at Kfrabotta@lakemissionviejo.org.