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NCTD pulls dirt from Loma Alta over weekend

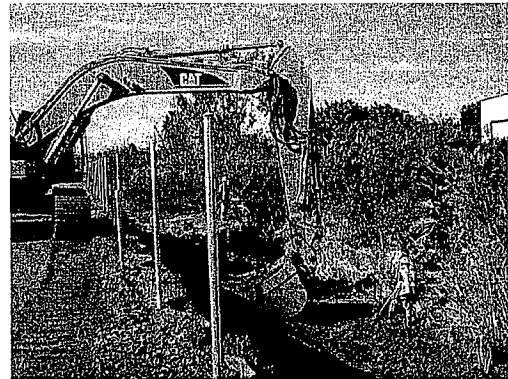
By: PAUL SISSON - Staff Writer
Industry Street businesses hope the move will prevent flooding

OCEANSIDE -- Spurred by businesses that recently flooded along Industry Street, the North County Transit District removed tons of soil from the Loma Alta creek bed over the weekend.

Tom Kelleher, a spokesman for the transit district, said Monday afternoon that earth-moving equipment excavated the southern bank of the creek bed on Saturday and Sunday after obtaining emergency clearing permits from the Army Corps of Engineers.

"I am told 1,400 cubic yards of soil was removed," Kelleher said in an e-mail.

On Nov. 30, a winter storm caused Loma Alta to swell and jump its northern bank, flooding several businesses along Industry Street. A rainstorm on Jan. 7 brought more flooding to some of the same businesses. Many business owners pointed to the new Sprinter light rail line, whose tracks runs along the Loma Alta's southern bank. Sprinter construction raised the tracks by up to five feet in some locations, and



An excavation crew works to scoop soil from the Loma Alta creek bed in Oceanside over the weekend.

Photo courtesy of the North County Transit District
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business owners have said publicly that doing so narrowed the creek channel and pushed flood waters onto private property.

The Nov. 30 storm filled Weiland Sliding Doors and Windows on Industry Street with water, despite piles of sandbags at every entrance and an earthen berm designed to prevent the creek from getting too close.

After that flood, the business installed concrete barriers and heavy-duty doors at each of its entrances. Those doors kept the water out of the business's main building when the creek rose again on Jan. 7 but did not prevent much of the low-lying property from flooding.

Steve Donner, the company's general manager, said Monday that he saw a few pictures of the weekend clearing effort that the transit district performed. He said he was not sure what to make of the excavation, which is supposed to let the creek flow more freely.

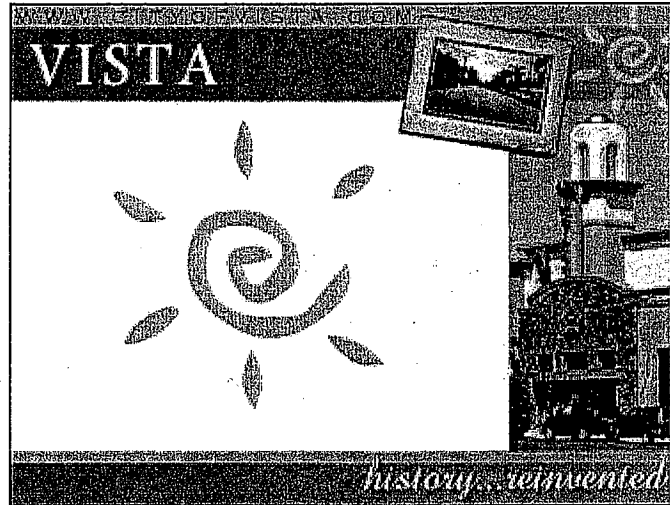
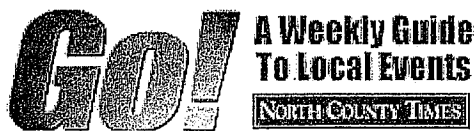
"We're happy with any efforts, but the proof will be in the next storm," Donner said.

Oceanside City Manager Peter Weiss said Monday that he thought the transit district's clearing effort will make a difference the next time it rains.

"It should definitely give the water somewhere to go," Weiss said.

-- Contact staff writer Paul Sisson at (760) 901-4087 or psisson@nctimes.com.

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Resolutions for the institutions

Everyone always asks "So what's your New Year's resolution?" And so often it's something that we half-heartedly vow to follow and we do ... until about Jan. 20 or so. Since it's far more fun to tell others what to do, what resolutions would you propose for your favorite North County institution? [17 comment\(s\)](#)

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Comments On This Story

Note: Comments reflect the views of readers and not necessarily those of the North County Times or its staff.

Thank you NCTD! wrote on Jan 15, 2008 8:44 AM: If only the City of Oceanside could be this responsive on the San Luis Rey River debacle. Come on Mayor Wood, you are always critical of NCTD, lets show we can match

their emergency response with a clean up of the San Luis Rey River bed.

We flooded too wrote on Jan 15, 2008 10:39 AM:Other businesses flooded besides Weiland including a linen supply and auto repair business. This area has been flooding for years and will continue to do so. The land is below the rising level of the creek.

C'mon Folks wrote on Jan 15, 2008 10:40 AM:There is no emergency in the San Luis Rey River. I'm sure all the negative comments directed at the Mayor are political in nature. Has there been flooding? NO. So you just have to wait for the permits to come through the normal course of business. Quitcher whining.

No Real Expectations, wrote on Jan 15, 2008 12:32 PM:I agree, just because Jim Wood is the Mayor should not raise any expectations that he will take a leadership role on the San Luis Rey River or any other critical issue facing our City. And of course it must be politically motivated for anyone to assume the Mayor has responsibility for anything just because he is the elected Mayor. Our Mayor's priorities are clear, and he has consistently moved forward his agenda of retribution for police management.

Rest of the Story wrote on Jan 21, 2008 12:01 PM:As is often the case, we (including myself) often only see part of the picture and are quick to judge. I will not pretend the SLR issue is simple, but I can at least point us in the right direction for getting the SLR issue moving. Don't look at the City, who has been trying for years to get this resolved. Most of the blame needs to fall on Federal and State bureaucracy, ineptitude and wrongly placed priorities. After years of negotiating with US Fish and Wildlife, the Corps of Engineers is now bogged down trying to deal with State Fish and Game over similar issues. In the meantime, this is a ticking timebomb, with many people's lives and livelihoods on the line. Awareness of this is the beginning; barking up the right tree should follow if anything is going to budge.

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