Lake Perris State Recreation Area is one of the California State Parks’ most popular recreation destinations, with an average attendance of 1.1 million visitors each year. Although seismic safety concerns of Lake Perris dam has resulted in an interim lowering of the lake level by 25 feet, there is still plenty of water in the lake to enjoy.

While the lake remains open to boaters, personal watercraft (PWC) users, fishing and swimming, the reduction in recreational surface acres (about 20 percent) will result in fewer vessel launches for public safety. Reservations are recommended.

Swimming and beach oriented activities at Perris will be greatly enhanced by a massive importation of additional sand in spring 2006.

For public safety reasons, high speed vessel travel (over 5 mph) has been eliminated around Alessandro Island. This has created a more leisurely boating experience, especially for fishermen. New fish habitat structures have been placed in the area.

Waterskiing, wake boarding and PWC users can still enjoy the open zone between Alessandro Island and Lake Perris dam for higher vessel speed activities. The direction of travel is counter clockwise and the...

Lake Perris is still 80% full!
speed limit (35 mph) remains the same. Sail Cove is still available for hand launching of sailboats, windsurfers, kayaks and canoes.

The Lake Perris Marina will receive a major retrofit this spring improving its structural integrity, electrical services and physically moving the docks 60 feet further off-shore improving vessel access to slips. Soon thereafter, a new ADA-compliant access ramp will be restored to the marina docks, eliminating the current steep ramp approach due to the lowered lake level.

With over 1,800 surface acres of water still remaining, Lake Perris is still very much open for business. Swimming, sailing, kayaking, fishing, boating and personal watercraft use is still happening like normal here at the lake. Additionally, Lake Perris contains over 6,000 acres of open space land which is a great place to escape the bustle of the city and return to the natural beauty of Southern California to unwind and relax.

**DWR Involvement**

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) identified potential seismic safety risks in a section of the foundation of Perris Dam in 2005. While there is no imminent threat to public safety, in the interest of ensuring the maximum public safety for those using and living downstream of the lake, the state has determined that it is necessary to lower the water level while additional analysis is performed and remedial alternatives are examined. Study work has begun, and the remediation of the Perris Dam facilities will be a major capital improvement program for DWR in the years to come.