



## City Wants Millions To Secure Dam From Quake

*Report: Quake Could Liquefy Dam, Send Water Into Escondido*

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ESCONDIDO, Calif. -- Officials in North County are asking for state funds to reinforce Lake Wohlford Dam which could liquefy in the event of a major earthquake, a published report said.

The North County Times reported Friday that a federal analysis from spring 2007 found that a large quake could potentially liquefy the earthen portions of the 112-year-old dam, possibly sending a powerful wave of destructive water through the center of the Escondido. Results showed it could crumble in a 7.5-magnitude earthquake, according to Carlsbad-based **GEI Consultants**.

City officials said they need between \$10 million and \$20 million for the reinforcement project, the Times reported, and have asked their state lobbyist to search for grants, loans or other funds.

The report said since the results of the analysis were made, the Lake Wohlford reservoir has been kept far below capacity, which gives the city less water reserves during a drought.

The flood risk has been "downplayed" the report said because Escondido is far away from the state's most volatile earthquake fault, the San Andreas Fault. It lies about 80 miles away, but geologists have said it is overdue for a "big one." The fault is capable of 7.9. State law requires the Lake Wohlford Dam be upgraded to meet new seismic standards.

Escondido has only \$3.8 million of reserves in its water fund which means the costs could be passed to the city's 26,000 water customers if state money is not secured, the city's utilities manager, Mary Ann Mann told the Times.

Officials hope to get the Lake Wohlford Dam renovations included in a water bond measure that could appear on the state ballot this November, the Times reported.

According to the **GEI Consultants**, the Wohlford dam was built in 1895 with rocks. In 1924, authorities added 24 feet to the height of the dam using silt and sand, and reinforced the landward side with similar materials. But the materials were not evenly mixed.