



# Laguna Beach Landslide

THE DAY THE EARTH MOVED

Wednesday, June 1, 2005

NEWS EYEWITNESS

# LANDSLIDE

BREAKING NEWS



Laguna Canyon Rd

Mission Viejo



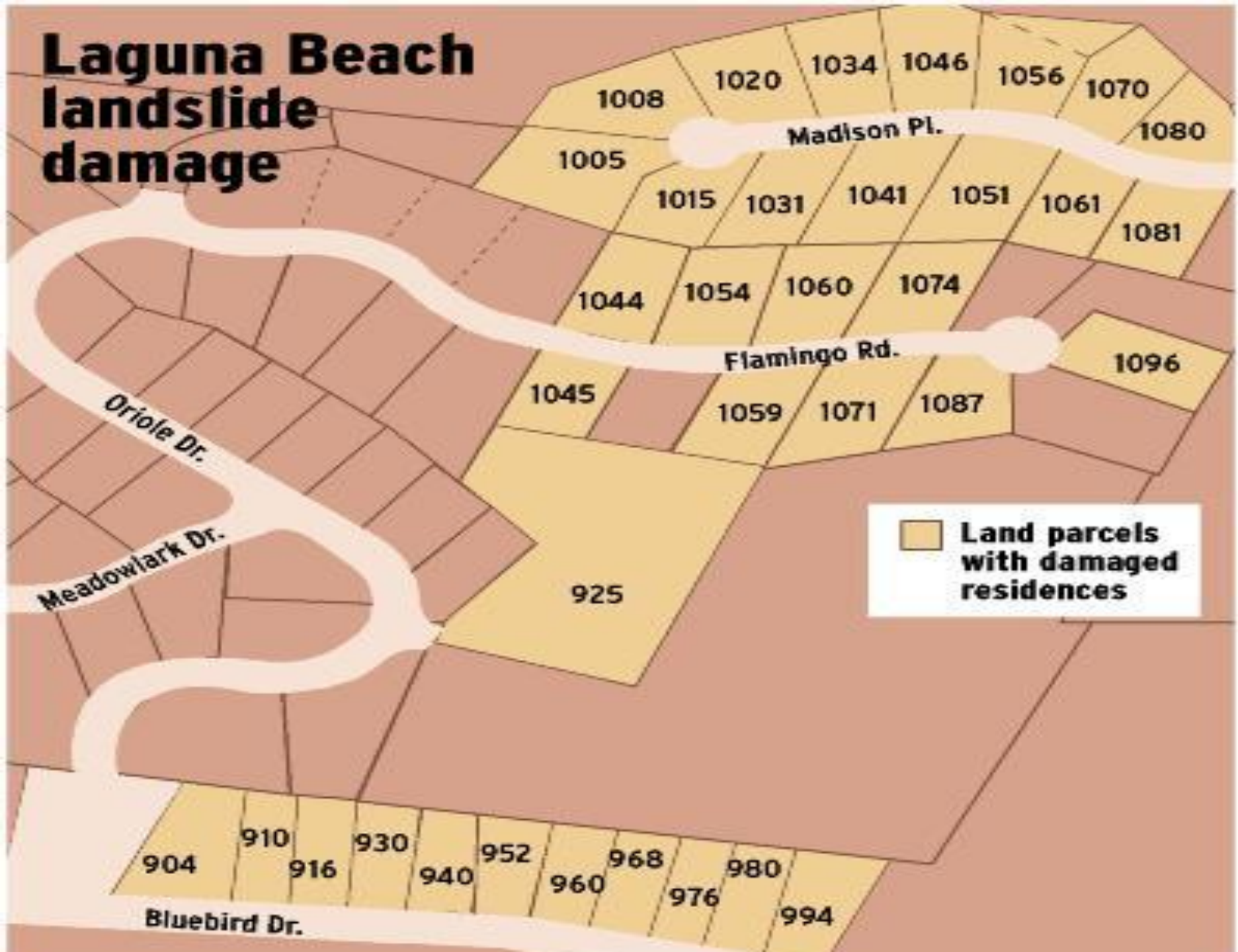
Laguna Beach

Blue Bird Canyon Dr

**ELAMINGO RD**

Laguna Niguel

# Laguna Beach landslide damage







# THE DAY THE EARTH MOVED

6:51 a.m.

- Landslide reported to police
- Residents flee their homes
- 339 SCE customers lose power




*"We had about one minute  
to get out"*

**Residents were alerted shortly before  
7 a.m. by popping and cracking**

**Power poles went down, homes  
fractured and trees disappeared**

Some say it sounded like  
POP Rock Candy!



Extreme  
Crackling and  
Popping



**7:05**

**Thirty-two firefighters are sent out  
with search-and-rescue  
equipment**

**A triage area was immediately  
established**



**Firefighters  
survey the  
damage to  
a residence**



8:00

Red Cross volunteers  
designate Laguna Beach  
High School and  
Bluebird Park as  
shelters



# Hidden Dangers

## 1978 Bluebird Canyon Slide



**Most homes were built before others knew about the threat of landslides**





**8:30**

**Eleven OCSD deputies sent to help; they are later supported by teams with bloodhounds and police dogs looking for possible victims.**

**8:30**

**Evacuation is declared. Homes on the perimeter are evacuated, too.**



**8:50**

# **County of Orange activates its Emergency Operations Center**





5:00 p.m.

Residents of 23 homes in the 800 block of Bluebird Canyon Drive are allowed back in



An aerial photograph showing a residential neighborhood on a hillside. A large, dark brown landslide has occurred, covering several houses and a road. The houses are mostly multi-story, with some showing significant damage. The surrounding area is lush with green trees and vegetation. The text 'The Bad News' is overlaid in large, bold, white letters with a red-to-white gradient at the top of the image.

# The Bad News

**The slide wiped out 22  
Multi-million dollar homes**

**26 others declared unsafe**

**Damaged at least 11 others**

# The Good News

Only five minor injuries reported

No one was reported missing

No fatalities or serious injuries!!!



345 high-dollar homes  
evacuated

More than 1,000 people  
displaced

Many were asleep or preparing for  
work or school

# Neighbors and Families Pull Together

In a town familiar with disaster, the residents look out for each other



Neighbors helping  
neighbors

Strangers helping  
strangers





# The Damage and Destruction





Jeff  
LaTendresse  
LBFD



**A mother looks  
for her  
daughter's cat  
named  
"Chaos".**

**She found  
chaos, alright,  
but no cat.**



Disaster leaves key  
question

**Why?**

# La Conchita



**Record winter rainfall**

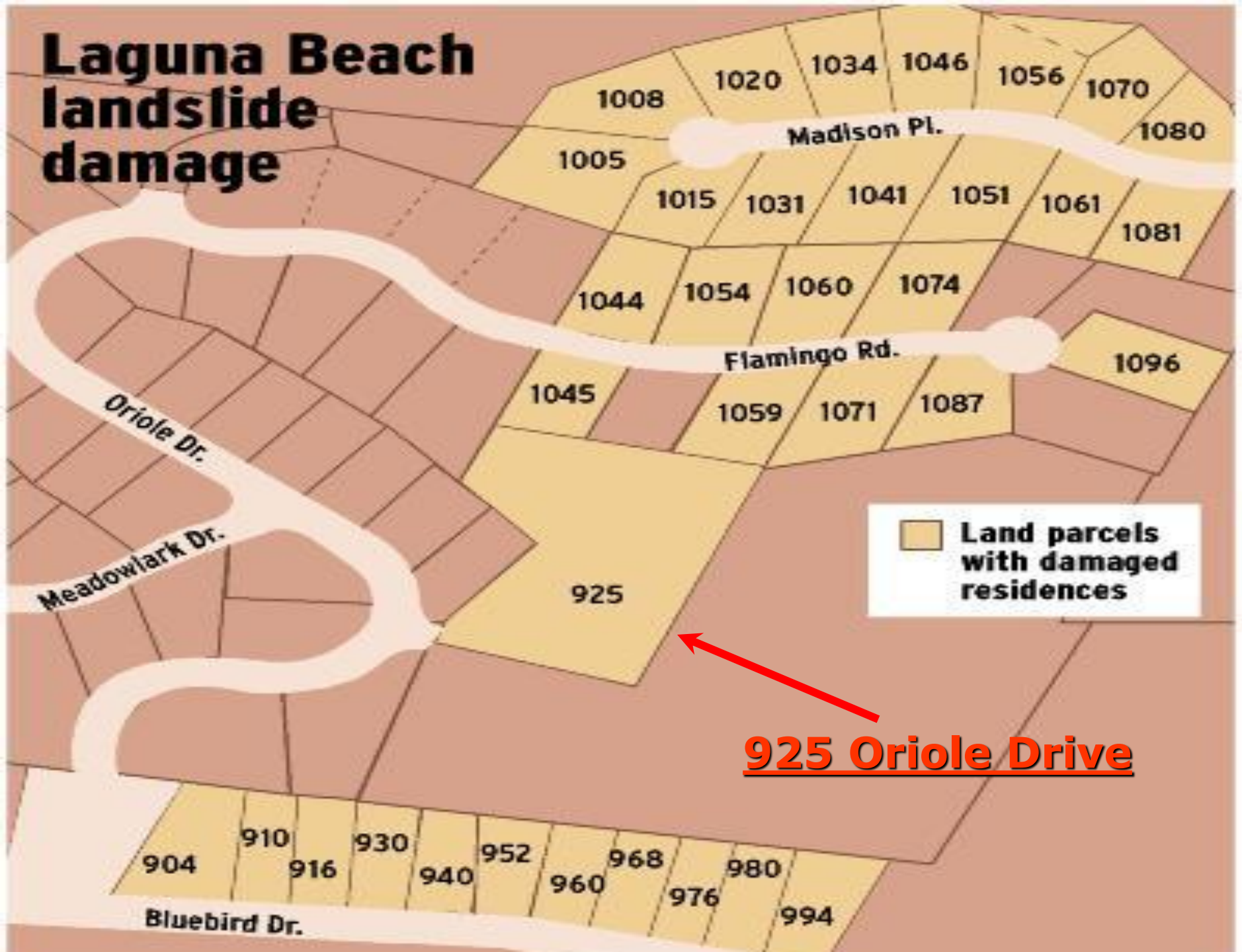
# Speculation

Controversial 5,600 square foot house with underground water tanks  
925 Oriole Drive

Most of the other homes averaging about 1,438 square feet



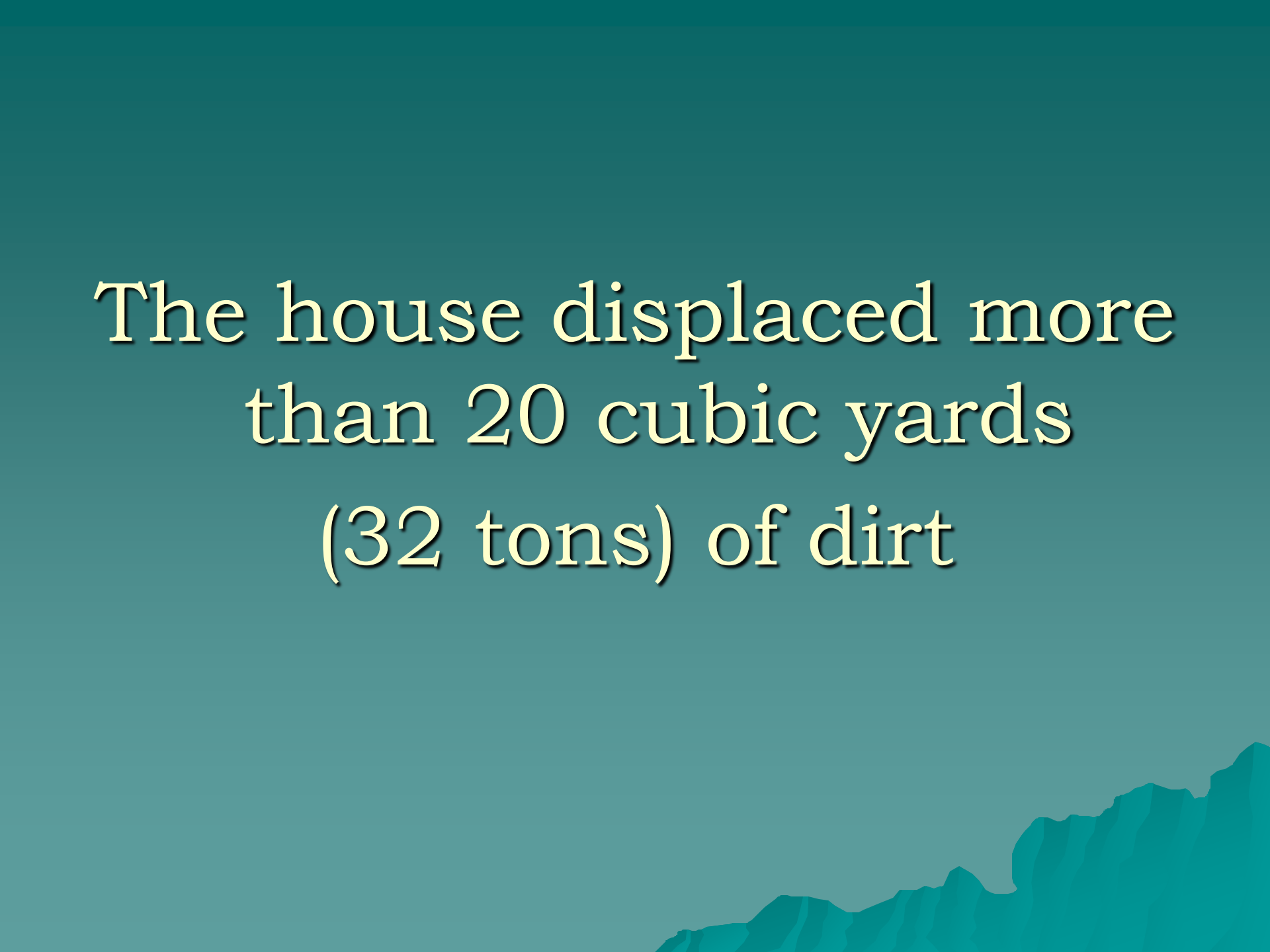
# Laguna Beach landslide damage



Land parcels with damaged residences

925 Oriole Drive

The house displaced more  
than 20 cubic yards  
(32 tons) of dirt

The background is a solid teal color. In the bottom right corner, there is a dark teal silhouette of a mountain range with jagged peaks.

# Strength of Community

*At one point during an evening press conference at City Hall, Mayor Elizabeth Pearson-Schneider asked if anyone needed a place to stay.*

*Only one man quietly raised his hand.*



# The trauma and the tragedy

*“but it’s a miracle  
it wasn’t  
worse...”*

































ROAD  
CLOSED

ROAD  
CONSTRUCTION

ROAD  
CONSTRUCTION



A landscape photograph featuring a vibrant rainbow arching across a cloudy sky. Below the rainbow, a range of mountains is visible, partially obscured by a dense forest of green trees in the foreground. The overall scene conveys a sense of hope and renewal.

**Laguna will once again  
rise from the rubble**

**Thankfully, storms don't last forever**