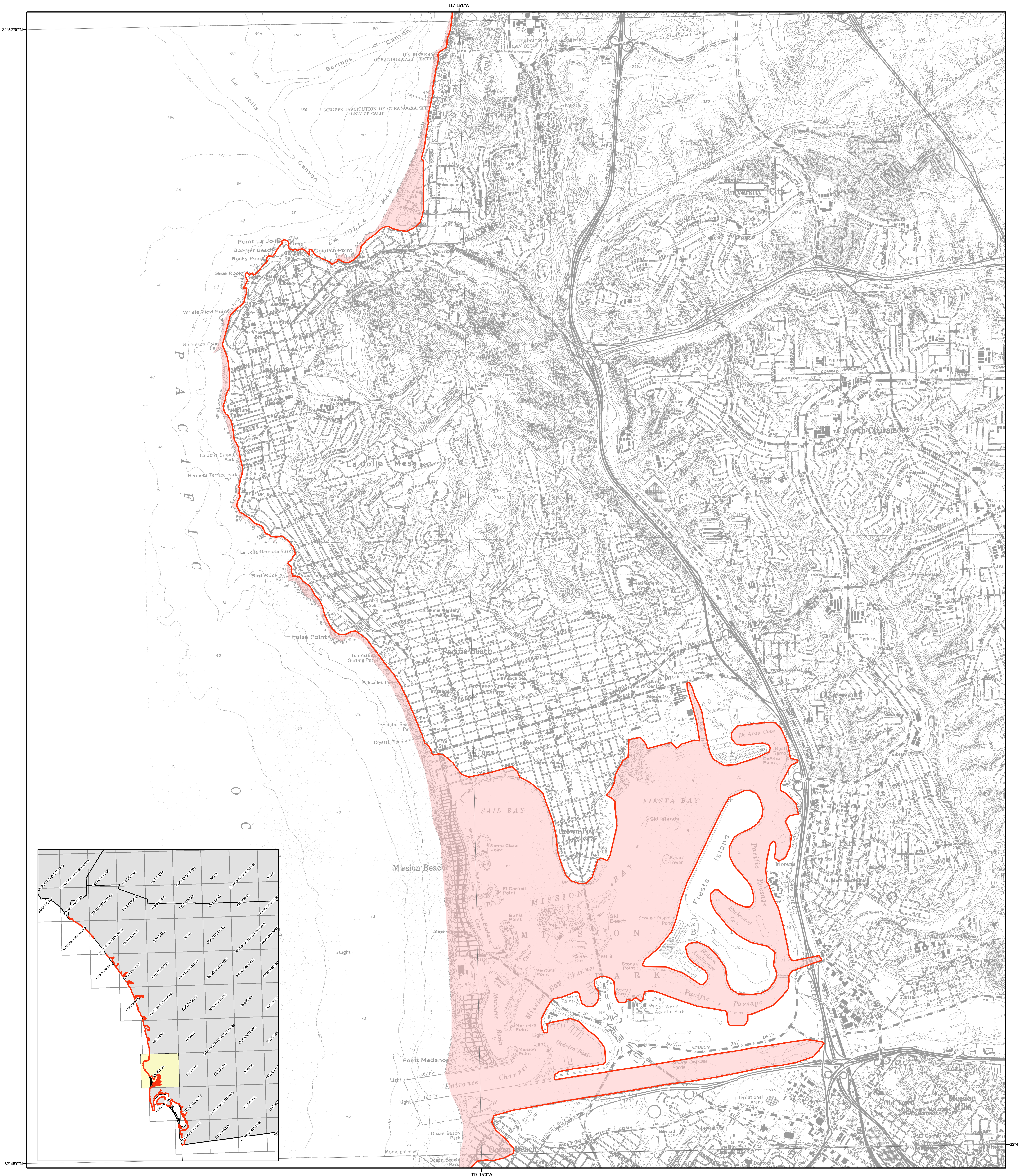
California Emergency Management Agency
California Geological Survey
University of Southern California

Tsunami Inundation Map for Emergency Planning
La Jolla Quadrangle

State of California
County of San Diego



METHOD OF PREPARATION

Initial tsunami modeling was performed by the University of Southern California (USC) Tsunami Research Center funded through the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) by the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program. The tsunami modeling process utilized the MOST (Method of Splitting Tsunamis) computational program (Version 0), which allows for wave evolution over a variable bathymetry and topography used for the inundation mapping (Titov and Gonzalez, 1997; Titov and Synolakis, 1998).

The bathymetric/topographic data that were used in the tsunami models consist of a series of nested grids. Near-shore grids with a 3 arc-second (75- to 90-meters) resolution or higher, were adjusted to "Mean High Water" sea-level conditions, representing a conservative sea level for the intended use of the tsunami modeling and mapping.

A suite of tsunami source events was selected for modeling, representing realistic local and distant earthquakes and hypothetical extreme undersea, near-shore landslides (Table 1). Local tsunami sources that were considered include offshore reverse-thrust faults, restraining bends on strike-slip fault zones and large submarine landslides capable of significant seafloor displacement and tsunami generation. Distant tsunami sources that were considered include great subduction zone events that are known to have occurred historically (1960 Chile and 1964 Alaska earthquakes) and others which can occur around the Pacific Ocean "Ring of Fire."

In order to enhance the result from the 75- to 90-meter inundation grid data, a method was developed utilizing higher-resolution digital topographic data (3- to 10-meters resolution) that better defines the location of the maximum inundation line (U.S. Geological Survey, 1993; Intermap, 2003; NOAA, 2004). The location of the enhanced inundation line was determined by using digital imagery and terrain data on a GIS platform with consideration given to historic inundation information (Lander, et al., 1993). This information was verified, where possible, by field work coordinated with local county personnel.

The accuracy of the inundation line shown on these maps is subject to limitations in the accuracy and completeness of available terrain and tsunami source information, and the current understanding of tsunami generation and propagation phenomena as expressed in the models. Thus, although an attempt has been made to identify a credible upper bound to inundation at any location along the coastline, it remains possible that actual inundation could be greater in a major tsunami event.

This map does not represent inundation from a single scenario event. It was created by combining inundation results for an ensemble of source events affecting a given region (Table 1). For this reason, all of the inundation region in a particular area will not likely be inundated during a single tsunami event.

References:

Intermap Technologies, Inc., 2003, Intermap product handbook and quick start guide: Intermap NEXTmap document on 5-meter resolution data, 112 p.

Lander, J.F., Lockridge, P.A., and Kozuch, M.J., 1993, Tsunamis Affecting the West Coast of the United States 1806-1992: National Geophysical Data Center Key to Geophysical Record Documentation No. 29, NOAA, NESDIS, NGDC, 242 p.

National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (NOAA), 2004, Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (IfSAR) Digital Elevation Models from GeoSAR platform (EarthData): 3-meter resolution data.

Titov, V.V., and Gonzalez, F.I., 1997, Implementation and Testing of the Method of Tsunami Splitting (MOST): NOAA Technical Memorandum ERL PMEL – 112, 11 p.

Titov, V.V., and Synolakis, C.E., 1998, Numerical modeling of tidal wave runup: Journal of Waterways, Port, Coastal and Ocean Engineering, ASCE, 124 (4), pp 157-171.

U.S. Geological Survey, 1993, Digital Elevation Models: National Mapping Program, Technical Instructions, Data Users Guide 5, 48 p.

TSUNAMI INUNDATION MAP FOR EMERGENCY PLANNING

State of California ~ County of San Diego

LA JOLLA QUADRANGLE

June 1, 2009

SCALE 1:24,000

0.5 0.25 0 0.5 1 Miles

1,000 500 0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 Feet

0.5 0.25 0 0.5 1 Kilometers

Table 1: Tsunami sources modeled for the San Diego County coastline.

Sources (M = moment magnitude used in modeled event)		Areas of Inundation Map Coverage and Sources Used		
		Dana Point	Oceanside	San Diego
Local Sources	Carlsbad Thrust Fault		X	X
	Catalina Fault	X	X	X
	Coronado Bank Fault			X
	Lasuen Knoll Fault	X		X
	San Clemente Fault Bend Region			X
	San Clemente Island Fault			X
	San Mateo Thrust Fault	X	X	
	Coronado Canyon Landslide #1			X
Distant Sources	Cascadia Subduction Zone #3 (M9.2)	X		X
	Central Aleutians Subduction Zone#1(M8.9)	X	X	X
	Central Aleutians Subduction Zone#2(M8.9)	X		X
	Central Aleutians Subduction Zone#3(M9.2)	X	X	X
	Chile North Subduction Zone (M9.4)	X		X
	1960 Chile Earthquake (M9.3)	X		X
	1952 Kamchatka Earthquake (M9.0)	X		
	1964 Alaska Earthquake (M9.2)	X	X	X
	Japan Subduction Zone #2 (M8.8)	X		X
	Kuril Islands Subduction Zone #2 (M8.8)	X		X
	Kuril Islands Subduction Zone #3 (M8.8)	X		X
	Kuril Islands Subduction Zone #4 (M8.8)	X		X

MAP EXPLANATION

Tsunami Inundation Line

Tsunami Inundation Area

PURPOSE OF THIS MAP

This tsunami inundation map was prepared to assist cities and counties in identifying their tsunami hazard. It is intended for local jurisdictional, coastal evacuation planning uses only. This map, and the information presented herein, is not a legal document and does not meet disclosure requirements for real estate transactions nor for any other regulatory purpose.

The inundation map has been compiled with best currently available scientific information. The inundation line represents the maximum considered tsunami runup from a number of extreme, yet realistic, tsunami sources. Tsunamis are rare events; due to a lack of known occurrences in the historical record, this map includes no information about the probability of any tsunami affecting any area within a specific period of time.

Please refer to the following websites for additional information on the construction and/or intended use of the tsunami inundation map:

State of California Emergency Management Agency, Earthquake and Tsunami Program:
http://www.oes.ca.gov/WebPage/oeswebsite.nsf/Content/B1EC
51BA215931768825741F005E8D80?OpenDocument

University of Southern California – Tsunami Research Center:
http://www.usc.edu/dept/tsunamis/2005/index.php

State of California Geological Survey Tsunami Information:
http://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/geologic_hazards/Tsunami/index.htm

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency Center for Tsunami Research (MOST model):
http://nctr.pmel.noaa.gov/time/background/models.html

MAP BASE

Topographic base maps prepared by U.S. Geological Survey as part of the 7.5-minute Quadrangle Map Series (originally 1:24,000 scale). Tsunami inundation line boundaries may reflect updated digital orthophotographic and topographic data that can differ significantly from contours shown on the base map.

DISCLAIMER

The California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA), the University of Southern California (USC), and the California Geological Survey (CGS) make no representation or warranties regarding the accuracy of this inundation map nor the data from which the map was derived. Neither the State of California nor USC shall be liable under any circumstances for any direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages with respect to any claim by any user or any third party on account of or arising from the use of this map.