

INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS ANALYSIS
MT SAN ANTONIO, CA

RELEASE: PUBLIC NEWS RELEASE NO. 3
DATE: September 15, 2026
SUBJECT: Redevelopment of Former U.S. Closed Tennis Facility

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FORMER U.S. CLOSED FACILITY TO BE REPLACED BY RESERVOIR
SITE REMAINS CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS

The Institute for Environmental Systems Analysis announces that the San Antonio Racquet Pavilion, site of the inaugural U.S. Closed tennis championship, has been decommissioned and substantially demolished. Removal of the principal stadium structure began shortly after conclusion of the tournament and is now sufficiently advanced that the site should no longer be considered an athletic facility.

Construction crews are presently redeveloping the property for a large open-air reservoir and associated support works. Excavation, grading, retaining structures, buried service connections, monitoring points, and perimeter improvements are underway. The final reservoir geometry and operating volume have not been released publicly and remain subject to field conditions encountered during construction.

The Institute does not presently intend to disclose the precise operational purpose of the reservoir. Planned uses include water storage, facilities support, emergency reserve capacity, environmental monitoring, thermal-management studies, and other functions for which a substantial controlled body of water near the Mount Baldy Complex may be useful. Not all anticipated uses are expected to occur simultaneously.

The reservoir will not be open to the public. It is not planned as a recreational lake, municipal park, swimming facility, fishing area, scenic overlook, or public water-access point. There will be no public beach, trail connection, concession operation, boat launch, or spectator accommodation. Persons encountering the site from surrounding roads or ridgelines should regard it as an operating Institute facility rather than a destination.

The completed facility will not be ADA compliant. This reflects its designation as a restricted industrial and research installation rather than a public accommodation. Certain grades, service routes, access ladders, inspection points, and perimeter features are being designed around equipment and operational requirements rather than visitor circulation. No public-access program is planned that would require these features to be converted for general use.

Most permanent elements of the U.S. Closed facility are being removed rather than incorporated into the new works. Sections of foundation, drainage infrastructure, electrical service, and subsurface utility corridors may be retained where useful. The former center court footprint will be largely consumed by the reservoir basin. The tournament's practice courts have already been removed or placed beyond practical recognition as tennis courts.

The Institute has retained the Closed Cup, selected court fixtures, match records, and limited architectural documentation from the tournament. Several hundred unused Brawny paper-towel rolls were also recovered from hospitality and player-service areas and have been transferred into ordinary Institute stores. No commemorative public display is planned at this time.

The redevelopment should not be interpreted as evidence that the U.S. Closed was unsuccessful. The tournament concluded as intended, produced a champion, and demonstrated that the site could support a major temporary concentration of personnel and infrastructure. The Institute simply determined that continued maintenance of a stadium of approximately Wimbledon-scale capacity was less useful than the next requirement for the land.

Construction traffic will continue intermittently in the area. The Institute asks that members of the public respect posted boundaries and avoid approaching unfinished slopes, temporary fencing, water-control structures, heavy equipment, or unmarked service roads. Some nighttime work may occur when weather, concrete placement, or other scheduling considerations make it preferable.

Additional information may be released when the reservoir is complete. The Institute does not anticipate providing construction tours, public opening ceremonies, shoreline access, or clarification of rumors concerning the unusually deep central portion of the excavation.

Institute for Environmental Systems Analysis
Office of the Director