

**1060 Flamingo**

John and Anna Lembeck  
**Status:** Lembeck, his wife and four children are living in Orange. If the stabilization work is finished before winter rains, he'd like to rebuild. If not, he may turn the property over to his lender.

**1044 Flamingo**

Lewis Wright, 86; Kay Wright, 78  
**Status:** Stayed with daughter and son-in-law in Laguna before buying a Laguna Woods Village condo. "It's not Laguna Beach, but you know, it's very nice," he said.

**968 Bluebird Cyn.**

James Moore, 50, John Gustafson, 54  
**Status:** Stayed with a friend for a month, then moved to a mobile home. A few weeks ago they moved to a cottage in Laguna Beach and expect to stay at least six months.

**1045 Flamingo**

Robert Lockhart, 35, Jill Lockhart, 37, two children  
**Status:** Lived in a mobile home at El Morro for four months, and then moved to a condominium. They haven't made a decision about rebuilding.

**976 Bluebird Canyon**

Michael Tiffany, product line manager for aerospace company; home built in 1966, two bedrooms, 1,800 square feet.  
**Status:** Not available

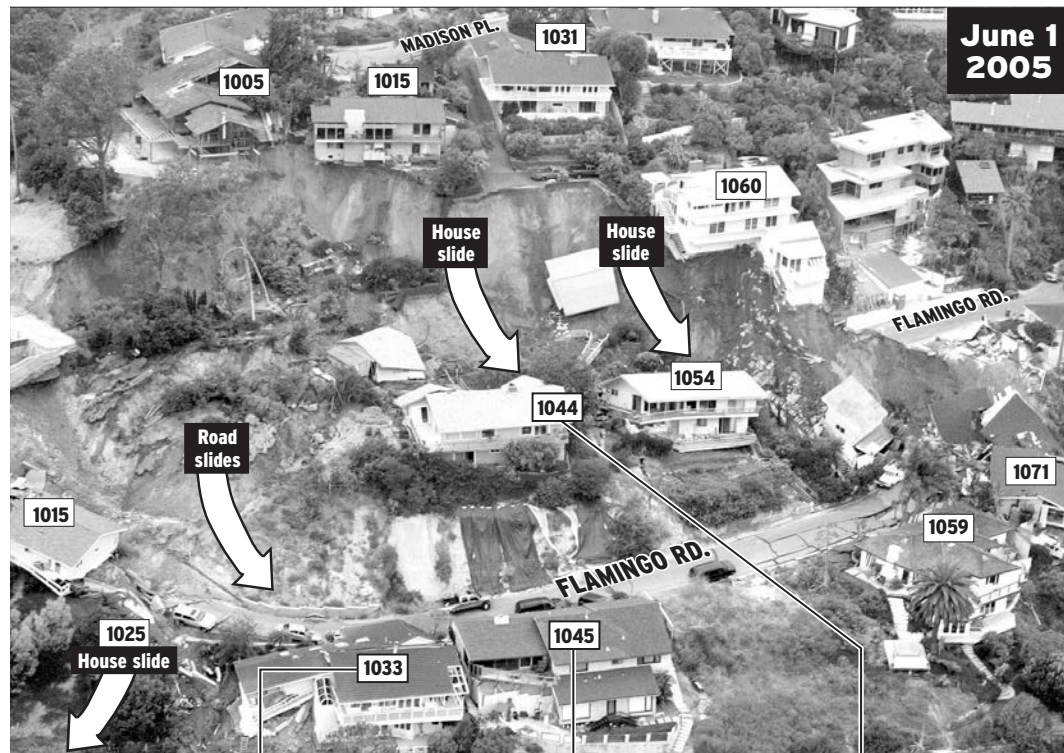
**1031 Madison Place**

Paul and Donna Schnell  
**Status:** Own one of six homes still not sturdy enough to live in, although they can enter during the day. The risk of slope failure is still strong. They hope to move in by January.



# Putting it back together

Six months ago this week, a Laguna Beach landslide brought homes in Bluebird Canyon crashing down. Today, the focus is on rebuilding - rushing to stabilize the slope before winter rains and grading sites where homes were razed. The work ahead includes erecting retaining walls, adding drainage systems and scraping away unstable subsoil. Here's a look at causes of the slide and how the area will be repaired:



**From that day**  
 "I saw the earth in front of the house separate; the street just buckled up and water gushed out."  
 - Sherry Way at 1033 Flamingo Road

"Trey, the house is moving, we have to get out of here. If we don't get off this mountain, we're going to die up here."  
 - Jill Lockhart, yelling at her son to leave the house at 1045 Flamingo Road

"The house looked like a cracker box; it was all cracking up, and it slid down about 20 feet."  
 - Paul Schnell of 1031 Madison Place on the house at 1044 Flamingo Road

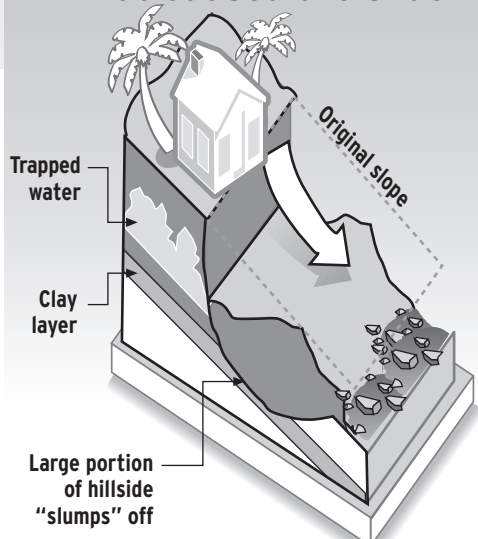


① Two houses - 1005 and 1015 Madison Place - withstood the slide but are literally hanging over the edge of the hillside. Owners hope to make them livable in the future.

② A temporary road, in place of Flamingo Road, is used during construction. Grading for the final Flamingo Road will begin in April and will be done by November 2006.

③ Tarps and sandbags cover the hillside in case of rain. Workers started demolition in mid-August and have worked seven-day weeks to secure the slope.

**What caused the slide**

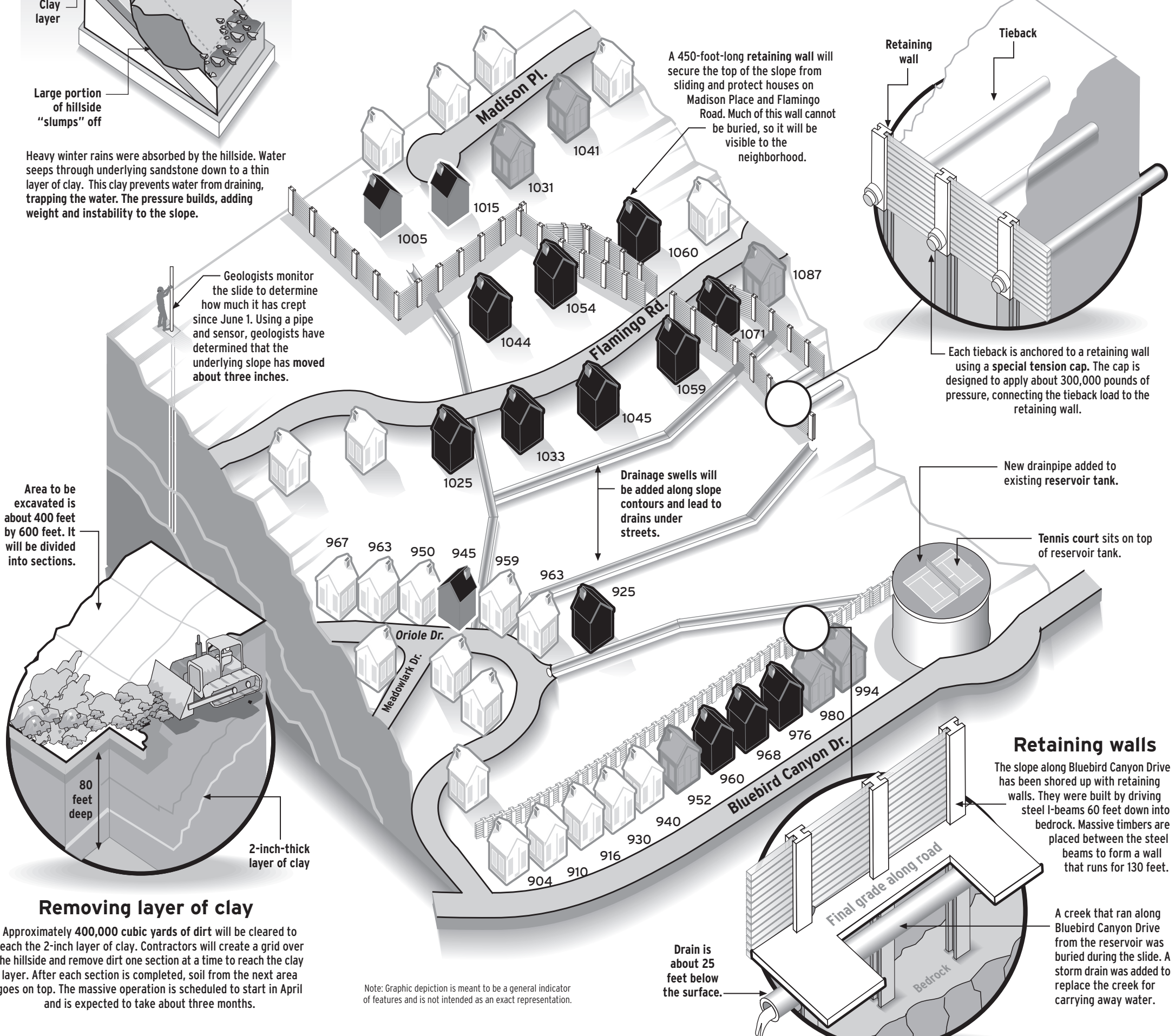


Heavy winter rains were absorbed by the hillside. Water seeps through underlying sandstone down to a thin layer of clay. This clay prevents water from draining, trapping the water. The pressure builds, adding weight and instability to the slope.

**MAKING THE HILLSIDE SAFE**

Here's a look at where the damaged homes were located and how engineers are working to make the hillside safe for houses again:

- Red tagged - home destroyed by slide and then bulldozed.
- Red tagged - residents not allowed to enter, but house not bulldozed.
- Yellow tagged - residents allowed to visit house, but prohibited from living there.



BLUEBIRD CANYON SLIDE DATES					
<b>June 1</b>	Landslide destroys 12 homes.	<b>Late Aug.</b>	Federal Emergency Management Agency denies aid to the city for repairs.	<b>Mid-Nov.</b>	Appeal to FEMA results in up to \$5 million for infrastructure repairs. Another \$2 million in federal funding will help rebuild Flamingo Road.
<b>Jan. '06</b>	Shoring of hillside and drainage system complete.	<b>Apr. '06</b>	Excavation down to clay layer begins.	<b>Nov. '06</b>	Homeowners can start to build houses.

Sources: Interviews conducted with Geofirm in Laguna Beach, officials from the city of Laguna Beach and residents affected by the landslide

Photos by Bruce Chambers; reporting by Laylan Connolly, Chantal Lamers; graphic by Scott Brown / The Register