

EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT OLIVENHAIN DAM COMMUNITY UPDATE SUMMARY

DATE: November 6, 2002

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

ORGANIZATION:

Elfin Forest Town Council

MEETING LOCATION:

Elfin Forest Fire Station

PRESENTERS:

Jerry Reed, San Diego County Water Authority, Jim Prine, Edaw Environmental

STAFF RESOURCES:

Alex Newton, San Diego County Water Authority, Jennifer Stein, Katz & Associates

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION:

Olivenhain Dam Project Manager Jerry Reed provided a brief update on construction activities at the Olivenhain Dam. He stated that the roller-compacted concrete operations for the main dam have finished over two months early. Most night work is complete and most of the major truck deliveries are done. Remaining construction activities include the inlet-outlet tower, the downstream flow control facility and the Lake Hodges Portal. In addition, demobilization will begin this week and continue for the next three to four months with all of the equipment leaving the project site. Some of the equipment leaving will be considered a wide load and will require an escort at night from the California Highway Patrol. The Water Authority will keep residents informed through the e-mail system when a wide load occurs.

Following J. Reed's presentation, Jim Prine gave a presentation on the mitigation program for the Emergency Storage Project. In Escondido Creek, work will be done to remove target invasive exotics that displace native species. This work will begin in April 2003 on 95 acres of land. Truck access to the site will be along the city of Escondido sewer road, with some access on Harmony Grove Road and Via Ambiente. Some trails may be temporarily closed during the work. A nesting bird survey will be done before clearing each section of the project. Cut eucalyptus trees will be offered to the community first before being hauled away. During clearing, there will be five trips a day for hauling trees and brush. A water truck will be on-site during clearing for fire control. Some lane closures might be necessary for clearing near the avocado trees on Harmony Grove Road. Following the clearing, this section will be monitored and maintained for the next five years.



Olivenhain Dam

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Questions and Comments Asked During the Meeting:

Q: Will there be recreation on the Olivenhain Reservoir?

A: No. There will be no body contact or recreational activities on the reservoir. The extreme deepness of the reservoir combined with the possible force from the inlet-outlet tower could create safety hazards. You will be able to use the hiking trails to walk around the reservoir.

Q: Are you going to fence the reservoir because of terrorism concerns associated with Sept. 11?

A: Fencing is a possibility that is currently being considered.

C: We would like the Water Authority to consider using people in the neighborhood to assist with security, like the voluntary mounted patrol that is run through the Sheriff's Search and Rescue.

Q: Is there a schedule for taking down the traffic signal?

A: The traffic signal has helped us maintain safe access in and out of the project. The temporary signal is permitted through the county of San Diego. When we are finished with the project, we are required to take it down. We will complete work on the dam in May 2003. However, with the dedication ceremony in July and ongoing work at the project site (pump station, surge control facility) continuing through December 2003, we are currently considering the possibility of keeping the temporary traffic signal up through the summer and possibly through December. This is being considered for safety reasons with workers and equipment still entering and exiting the site. However, if we receive permission from the County to extend the time that it is up, the traffic light is still considered a temporary fixture.

Q: How long will the mitigation work take place in Escondido Creek?

A: Clearing will take approximately one year. It may be faster but we have up to one year to complete it.

C: That's wonderful. Thank you!

Q: You mentioned this clearing is part of Phase One. Is there a Phase Two?

A: The Water Authority must complete 27 acres of mitigation. The environmental impacts associated with the San Vicente Pipeline project are being reevaluated and there may be a reduction in the amount of mitigation the Water Authority must do.

Q: How far east on Harmony Grove Road will the clearing go?

A: Clearing will start at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve parking lot.



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