

San Diego County Water Authority

4677 Overland Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123



Building Water Reliability

June 16, 2004

Dear Community Member:

Though the Olivenhain pipeline, dam, reservoir and pump station have successfully been completed and dedicated for use, there are still a couple of smaller projects on the plate that remain to be done at the site. This letter, hopefully, will bring you up to date on the remaining work, including the status of the landscaping planned for the right and left abutments.

The surge control pipe is the one remaining construction project to be completed. This pipe will protect the pump station from a damaging back-surge, if power is lost during pumping operations. The pipe alignment runs several thousand feet up Box Canyon beyond the right abutment to the dam. Construction will be daytime work only, with drilling operations beginning in June, and excavation, trenching and some blasting starting in late June. Blasting will certainly not be of the magnitude experienced during the quarry work for the dam. These will be smaller charges used mainly to fracture rock and get the excavator through tough, solid areas. Once the pipe is laid, the trench will be covered up and revegetated. A narrow horse/hiking trail will be cut along the alignment of the pipe so hikers and equestrians can ride down from the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. This trail is called for in the Master Recreation Plan for the Elfin Forest Recreation Reserve to be completed post dam construction.

In addition, we are looking at areas around the dam where drainage is a concern and may install some additional improvements to handle rain runoff. These improvements, if installed, will be done during the same timeframe as the surge control pipe construction.

Environmental impact studies conducted prior to ground breaking for the dam recommended landscaping of the dam's abutments to help "soften" the view from those homes that have a line-of-sight to the dam. Following the 9-11 tragedy, a set of federal and state security guidelines required us to alter some of our original landscape plans. One example is we are not allowed to plant any trees or vegetation within 20 feet of the security fence we installed, which borders the abutments in front of the dam. In some cases the 20-foot distance from the fence puts us on or near solid granite, hardly the ground needed to nourish the growth of trees and plants.

With the newly recognized federal and state security guidelines in mind, we stepped back and re-examined our original landscaping plan.



The Emergency Storage Project is a system of reservoirs, interconnected pipelines and pumping stations designed to make water available to the San Diego region in the event of an interruption in imported water deliveries.

The Emergency Storage Project is part of the Authority's Capital Improvement Program to enhance and increase the operational flexibility of its water delivery system.



Emergency Storage Project Information Line: **1-877-426-2010**

Environmental consultants are currently finalizing a new, modified approach that not only meets security guidelines, but also will still provide character and visual softening to the left and right abutments. Landscaping should be completed by spring 2005.

With the completion of the surge control pipe and landscaping of the dam's abutments, the San Diego County Water Authority and Olivenhain Municipal Water District will essentially be closing the chapter on a very successful joint venture. These projects, all part of long-term planning on the part of both agencies, directly enhance the region's water reliability in the event of a natural disaster such as a drought or an earthquake.

If you have any questions about the remaining activities to be completed, please call. We still maintain the Emergency Storage Project information line: 877-426-2010.

Thanks again for your extended patience and cooperation during the construction of the dam and its associated projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Newton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alex Newton
Olivenhain Dam Field Representative
San Diego County Water Authority