

EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT

San Vicente Pipeline San Vicente Dam Raise Carryover Storage Project Briefing Summary

DATE: June 6, 2007

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

ORGANIZATION:

Lakeside Community Planning Group

MEETING LOCATION:

Lakeside Community Center

PRESENTERS:

Andrew Oleksyn, SDCWA
Jeff Shoaf, SDCWA

STAFF RESOURCES:

Shannon Reed, SDCWA
Emily Powell, Katz & Associates
Jessica Young, Katz & Associates

San Vicente Pipeline Update

Andrew Oleksyn, assistant construction administrator for the San Vicente Pipeline project, explained the San Vicente Pipeline is an 11-mile-long pipeline that will run between San Vicente Reservoir and the Water Authority's Second Aqueduct near Interstate 15 and Mercy Road. The Water Authority has been working on the project for about two years now and currently tunnel work is 33 percent complete. The tunnel boring machine was moved to the West Shaft and has begun tunneling east. Another tunneling machine has been moved to the Slaughterhouse Shaft and it is tunneling west toward the Central Shaft. At this point, the majority of tunnel advancement is occurring in the central part of the tunnel. For the past few months there has been a low level of activity at the San Vicente Portal, but work will begin to increase to support the tunneling activities and excavate material from the tunnel. Work at the Slaughterhouse Shaft will begin to slow down.

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

Q: Where will the excavated material from the San Vicente Portal be moved to?

A: The excavated material will be delivered to Hanson Aggregates located near Highway 67.

Q: What will the impact of truck traffic be on Moreno Avenue?

A: There will not be any impact on Moreno Avenue because trucks will turn right onto Vigilante Road from the site to access Highway 67.

San Vicente Dam Raise and Carryover Storage Project Update

Jeff Shoaf, project manager for the Carryover Storage and San Vicente Dam Raise Project, thanked the community for attending the San Vicente Dam Raise tours and announced additional tours will be offered at the end of August. He explained the tours have given the Water Authority some great ideas such as having a kiosk or interpretive center in the marina area that discusses the town of Foster and the Native American origins of the area. In addition, the Water Authority updates the kiosk in the marina with the most updated project information and conducts outreach events at the reservoir during the summer season to inform boaters about the upcoming reservoir closure.

Currently, the project is in the 30 percent design phase, which will continue until early 2008. Jeff explained the design team is laying out the buildings at the marina and the designs will go before the Lakeside Design Review Board. The project team has also visited Diamond Valley Lake and Lake Perris to examine the accessibility features there to use at San Vicente Reservoir to make sure anyone who wishes to visit it is able to. However, the fluctuation at San Vicente Reservoir will be 100 feet, making it hard for it to always comply with ADA standards. The complete design for this project will be completed between 2008 and 2009.

Jeff explained the current schedule for the San Vicente Dam Raise project. In early 2009, work will begin on the foundation excavation and the dam access road which will last until the end of 2009. Construction for the dam raise will start in early 2010 and will continue through the end of 2012. In June or July 2008, the city of San Diego will begin drawing down the reservoir to prepare for construction. The reservoir will be open for most of the summer season in 2008. The reservoir will be closed once the water level gets below the existing launch ramp and will remain closed until sometime between 2014 and 2017. It will take approximately two to five years to fill the reservoir and the reservoir will reopen when the water level reaches the new boat launch ramp. The Water Authority is working with the city of San Diego to reopen the reservoir as soon as possible.

Jeff announced the draft EIR/EIS for the Carryover Storage and San Vicente Dam Raise project is on schedule to be released on July 6, 2007.* All Lakeside residents will receive a notice announcing the release of the document and it will be advertised in the local newspapers as well as *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. Hard copies of the document will be available at the Lakeside Public Library and the Water Authority's Kearny Mesa office, and it will also be posted on the Water Authority website at www.sdcwa.org.

The 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR/EIS will be from July 6 through August 20.** Members of the community can submit comments by mail, e-mail, fax, or orally at two public hearings. There will be a public hearing on Aug. 8, 2007, in Valley Center and one on Aug. 13, 2007,** in Lakeside. An open house will be held before each of the public hearings to give community members a chance to speak one-on-one with the project team. During the public hearing portion of the evening, the Water Authority's board of directors and the engineering and operations committee will listen to community members' comments and concerns regarding the project on record with a court reporter. The Water Authority's board of directors and the engineering and operations committee will listen to comments and concerns from the community, but there will not be responses or opportunities to ask questions and receive answers during the hearings.

Jeff explained San Diego is experiencing one of the driest years since the early 1800s, which reinforces the purpose of the San Vicente Dam Raise project. This year is not being considered a drought, but if next year is similar to this one, the official designation of a drought may become a reality. He encouraged everyone to conserve water whenever possible.

***Since this meeting, the release date for the draft EIR/EIS has been delayed. It is expected to be available for review in August 2007.**

****After the study is released, two public hearings will be held, one in Lakeside and one in Valley Center, to hear public comments on the draft EIR/EIS. A letter will be mailed announcing the release of the study and providing the details of the public hearings.**

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

Q: Have you considered reopening the Ramona entrance to San Vicente Reservoir?

A: Reopening the Ramona entrance was considered early in the planning process, but was considered not feasible. There are issues with Caltrans regarding Highway 67 because of the volume of traffic and steep grade. As part of the project, the current marina access road will be improved, making it less steep and more truck and trailer-friendly.

Q: If Northern California shuts off the pumps that deliver water to San Diego on a yearly basis and San Vicente Reservoir will be lowered next year, will the San Diego region have enough water?

A: This occurrence is not expected to be a yearly event. However, the Water Authority is working closely with the city of San Diego on a drought management plan and examining ways to meet the region's water needs. It is important to understand that the best time to lower a reservoir and build a dam is during a drought. Also, Olivenhain Dam is completed, and the connection to Lake Hodges and a pump station will be completed soon. Currently, San Vicente Reservoir does not serve the community of Lakeside.

Q: There is a problem with the haul trucks exceeding the 25 mph speed limit while driving on Vigilante Road. Please remind the truck drivers that the entire length of Vigilante Road is 25 mph.

A: Andrew stated he will make an announcement at the next construction meeting with the contractor.

Q: What will happen to the dam if there is an earthquake?

A: San Vicente Dam is a low seismic area. The Water Authority is working with the Division of Safety of Dams, a regulatory agency with the state of California to review the sizability of the dam. The design for the dam has to go through several review processes. The Water Authority is working with an experienced design firm, MWH, who worked on the Olivenhain Dam and Roosevelt Dam projects. The Water Authority has also hired a board of senior consultants, who are experts on seismic forces and dams.

- Q: Has a decision been made regarding staining or painting the concrete for the dam a certain color?
- A: No decision has been made yet about staining the San Vicente Dam, but it could enhance the area around the dam. The Water Authority wants input from the Lakeside community and will send out a survey as we move forward with construction. The Olivenhain Dam was stained a desert varnish color, which is the same color that would most likely be used at San Vicente Dam.
- Q: What percentage of the overall water storage for San Diego County is at San Vicente currently?
- A: Currently, San Vicente Dam is approximately one-sixth or 90,000 acre-feet of the water storage for San Diego County.
- Q: What percentage increase will it be after the dam is raised?
- A: If the Carryover Storage Project raise of 117 feet is completed, San Vicente Dam will hold approximately one-third of the County's storage or 242,300 acre-feet. This project will just short of triple the current storage at San Vicente Reservoir. If only the Emergency Storage Project raise of 54 feet is completed, the dam will hold approximately 142,000 acre-feet.
- Q: Is it possible that the closure that is occurring in Northern California could occur with San Vicente Reservoir?
- A: No. San Diego imports 90 percent of its water from two different sources. One is the state water project, the delta area up north, and the other is the Colorado River. Currently, the pumps have been turned off in Northern California due to the smelt, which is a small fish. At San Vicente Dam, there are no endangered fish and mechanisms are in place to keep the fish out of the piping system.
