

EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT
San Vicente Pipeline Update
Briefing Summary

DATE: October 15, 2007 **TIME:** 7:30 p.m.

EVENT: Mira Mesa Planning Group Meeting

MEETING LOCATION: Mira Mesa Library

PRESENTERS: Wade Griffis, SDCWA
 Shannon Reed, SDCWA

STAFF RESOURCES: Jess Young, Katz & Associates

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Shannon Reed, public affairs representative with the San Diego County Water Authority, announced information about the Water Authority's 20-Gallon Challenge which encourages residents to save 20 gallons of water per person, per day. She also directed people to www.bewaterwise.com and www.sdcwa.org to learn more about ways to conserve water. She introduced Wade Griffis as the construction administrator for the San Vicente Pipeline project. Wade provided the following overview of the Emergency Storage Project. Over the years, up to 90 percent of San Diego's water has been imported from the Colorado River and Northern California. There are two aqueducts that bring water to San Diego County. In the early 1990s, the Water Authority recognized that its system is vulnerable because those two aqueducts cross fault lines. If the aqueducts are severed because of an earthquake, some communities could be without water in as little as three days. To avoid this risk, the Water Authority is increasing its water storage capacity and is improving its ability to move water around the county through various capital improvement projects as part of the Emergency Storage Project.

Wade explained the San Vicente Pipeline will be 11 miles long and will connect San Vicente Reservoir to the Second Aqueduct located just west of I-15 at Mercy Road. The first step of construction is to excavate the tunnel and the second step is to install the pipeline. The tunnel will be 12 feet in diameter and the pipeline is 8 ½ feet in diameter. It will allow water stored in San Vicente Reservoir to be pumped out to the Second Aqueduct to use in emergencies. There are four construction access points from which tunneling is supported – one at both ends, the San Vicente Portal and the West Shaft, and two in the middle, the Central Shaft and Slaughterhouse Shaft. At the time of this meeting, the tunnel is approximately 42 percent complete which is about 4 ½ miles.

There are three areas where tunneling is currently under way. There is a machine working from the Slaughterhouse Shaft tunneling to the west. West of the Central Shaft, another machine just completed a 12,000 foot reach and it is resting while a 500 foot section is being drilled and blasted. Once that section is complete, that machine will continue on towards the West Shaft. From the West Shaft, the tunnel boring machine is mining to the east and is about 1,800 feet into that tunnel section. The project is anticipated to be completed in 2010.

The access points serve as a way to remove excavated material from the tunnel. Material moves through a conveyor system off the back of the machine and then through a railway system that takes it from the face of the tunnel heading to the shaft, where it is removed. At West Shaft, the material is trucked off site to MCAS Miramar. There are currently two ten-hour shifts at the West Shaft; one shift is actual mining and the second shift is maintenance.

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

- Q. When will cameras be installed at the West Shaft to prevent graffiti?
A. There are currently no plans to put cameras in, but that will be researched and the group will be updated.
- Q. Have you run into any large water areas?
A. There is about 80 gallons per minute of groundwater flow that is received in the West Shaft from tunnel Reach 1.
- Q. Can't the groundwater be conserved and used elsewhere?
A. The construction water that drains from the tunnel is a combination of groundwater seeping from the tunnel walls and construction water used in the tunneling process. With limited flows in the range of 60 to 70 gallons per minute, treating and distributing this water so that it could be re-used is not feasible from a cost-benefit perspective.
- Q. Will the landscaping still be happening?
A. That will be the final stage of the project. The expected completion date has been extended, so the resource space at the top will not be accessible. There will be a separate contract for the park improvements.

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