

EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT
San Vicente Pipeline Update
Briefing Summary

DATE: May 19, 2008

TIME: 7 p.m.

EVENT:

Mira Mesa Community 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 left behind 20-Gallon Challenge tip cards that offer helpful tips for people to conserve water. Shannon also announced this is the last summer to use San Vicente Reservoir for about six to nine years. It will be closing for the construction of the San Vicente Dam Raise project. She encouraged fisher people and boaters to use the reservoir before it is expected to close in August.

Shannon 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 County's water has been imported from the Colorado River and Northern California through two aqueducts. 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 within the county and is improving its ability to move water around the county through several 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 tunnel will be 12 feet in diameter and the pipeline is 8 ½ feet in diameter. 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 65 percent complete, which means two additional miles has been tunneled since the group was last updated.

He also explained the tunneling work in the eastward direction from the West Shaft was recently completed in April. Another tunnel coming to the West from the Central Shaft will meet or "hole-through" the West Shaft tunnel in August. This will mark the completion of the tunnel between the

West Shaft and the Central Shaft, and pipe installation will begin this fall. The piping will be delivered to the Central Shaft, lowered into the tunnel, and installed starting at the West Shaft, moving toward the east.

Another section of tunnel is being mined towards the Central Shaft from the east. When the tunneling is done on the east side of the project, the pipe installation will continue from west to east, through the Central Shaft, and on to the east end of the project at the San Vicente Portal.

Wade also announced that there has been a decrease in activity at the West Shaft since the completion of the mining because muck is no longer hauled out from that location. The future activities at the site will be limited to supporting the grouting and mortar lining operations associated with pipe installation. Due to hard ground conditions in some of the tunneling sections, the expected project completion date is summer 2010.

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

- Q. Why does the reservoir have to be closed to everyone for nine years?
- A. There are a couple of reasons why the reservoir will be closed for that amount of time. The reservoir has to be lowered before construction, in order to reduce the pressure on the existing dam. Also, the access road is very treacherous and will be used by semi-trucks 24 hours a day during construction. This could create a safety hazard if the road was also used by fisher people and boaters. The third reason is the existing marina will be dug up and used as a quarry during construction, so there will be no space for the boaters to park. The project includes building a new marina (after construction is complete) as well as a less treacherous and wider access road.
- Q. Did you have to use the hydroelectric water facility up here on Mercy Road? Were there any pools of water forming at that location?
- A. Yes, it was used intermittently. It was not used to an extent where pools became an issue.
- Q. Do you know why the water level at Miramar Lake is decreasing?
- A. The Water Authority doesn't own or operate Miramar Reservoir, the city of San Diego does. You can contact Arian Collins, the public information officer for the city of San Diego Water Department or Joe Weber. Either of those people could probably answer your question and their phone numbers should be listed on the Water Department's website at www.sandiego.gov.

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