

Central Shaft Work on Stonebridge Parkway

The tunneling machine has excavated about two miles from the Central Shaft. The contractor is working on the site in three, eight-hour shifts. The tunneling machine is operated up to 24-hours a day inside the tunnel. Evening activities are restricted to those that support the tunneling efforts to reduce community impacts.

While tunneling, the contractor is installing a concrete support system. The materials for creating the concrete support system need to be trucked to the Central Shaft site. After tunneling is completed, the contractor will install about five miles of pipe.

All the material from the tunnel will be used as backfill on the site, which will raise the site elevation to that of Stonebridge Parkway. Using the excess material on site will reduce truck traffic on nearby roads. A main access road for construction deliveries is through the Vulcan access road off of Kirkham Road. Deliveries are currently only allowed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Water Authority received some noise complaints from a property owner whose home overlooks the shaft site. We worked with our contractor to alter some activities to try to reduce the noise levels at night.

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

Q. What is the construction timeline?

A. Construction began in August 2005 and is scheduled to end in 2009.

Q. How are you getting material out of the tunnel and are you doing it at night?

A. The material is lifted out of the shaft by a crane and is then dumped outside. The materials must be removed from the tunnel 24-hours a day in order for the tunneling machine to continue operating.

Q. What specifically did you do to reduce the noise at night?

A. Earlier this year we were informed by a resident overlooking the shaft that they were being disturbed by nighttime activities. To reduce noise our contractor discontinued the use of back-up beepers at night, installed padding on dumping equipment, and modified the dumping procedures for excavated material. The dumping location has also been moved further away from the neighboring homes.

Q. What will the property at the Central Shaft be used for after construction?

A. At the end of the project, the shaft will be filled in and two small structures will remain for inspection, maintenance, and ventilation of the pipeline. The remaining property, zoned for institutional use, will be sold.

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