

**PROPOSED TWIN OAKS VALLEY WATER TREATMENT PLANT
TWIN OAKS VALLEY WORKING GROUP
MEETING SUMMARY**

DATE: September 28, 2004

TIME: 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

ORGANIZATION:

Twin Oaks Valley Working Group

MEETING LOCATION:

Twin Oaks Valley High School, Room 8

PRESENTERS:

Tim Suydam and Kelley Gage

STAFF RESOURCES:

San Diego County Water Authority: Gina Molise
Malcolm Pirnie Inc: Kyle B. Rhorer, [Aziz Ahmed](#) and [Brent Alspach](#)
Katz & Associates: Patricia Tennyson and Jill Pasqualetto

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Tim Suydam responded to questions raised at the previous meeting. Kelley Gage presented background information on noise and how noise is measured.

Twin Oaks Valley Working Group Members

Elaine Coleman, Twin Oaks Valley Property Owners' Association

John Driessen, Resident

Barry Dzindzio, Resident

Carol Dzindzio, Resident

Jerry Harrison, Twin Oaks Nursery

Stan Mathes, Resident

Ben Morris, Twin Oaks Valley Community Sponsor Group

Welcome/Introductions

Meeting facilitator Patricia Tennyson welcomed the Twin Oaks Valley Working Group members and reviewed the agenda. The first working group meeting summary will be approved next meeting to allow the members time to review the summary.

Presentation Summary

Tim Suydam addressed a question from the previous meeting about why the Olivenhain Municipal Water District built a membrane water treatment plant. The site at Olivenhain had space constraints in which a conventional plant was not feasible. Also, the Olivenhain district anticipates that a membrane plant will be more effective at meeting future water quality regulations. This type of plant also allows for easier remote operation and uses smaller quantities of chemicals -- a cost saving measure.

Tim updated the working group on the San Diego County Water Authority's current activities for the proposed water treatment plant. The Water Authority is negotiating with the Shinnerl family to purchase its property for the termination point of the future Pipeline 6 in 2025. This pipeline, which will bring more untreated water to the region from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, is included in the Water Authority's Regional Water Facilities Master Plan.

Gina Molise offered to schedule a workshop on October 28 at 5:15 p.m. with John Crayton from the Water Authority's right of way department regarding the roads that provide access to the project site. Members of the group decided that a separate meeting was not necessary since John is meeting individually with John Driessen and Stan Mathes to discuss their specific questions.

Gina Molise extended an invitation to the working group to tour the Levy Water Treatment Plant owned and operated by Helix Water District. The tour date was set for Saturday, October 9. The group agreed to meet in the parking lot of the Twin Oaks Valley High School at 9:30 a.m. The Water Authority will provide transportation and lunch.

Gina also asked if the working group members would agree to allow a photographer to document the tour and the next working group meeting. Gina explained that working group members would need to sign a photo release form. The photos will be used to illustrate the Water Authority's work with the community. Members agreed to this request.

Kelley Gage discussed how noise is measured. By understanding how noise measurements are defined, the working group members will be able to review the environmental impact report for the water treatment plant with a better knowledge base. Kelley explained the following points:

- Sound is a fluctuation of air pressure, which is transmitted as a wave through air.
- Noise is measured in decibels using a device called a sound level meter. When written, the symbol dB means decibels.
- The human ear is not as effective hearing low frequency sounds as it is hearing high frequency sounds, so an electronic filter is used on the sound level meter to replicate the human response of the ear – filtering out those sounds that would not be perceptible to the human ear. This electronic filter is called the “A” filter, so sounds measured with this filter are denoted as “dBA”.
- Average noise levels over a period of minutes or hours are expressed as dBA L(eq), or the equivalent noise level for that period of time. [Example: average traffic noise of 45 dBA over an 8-hour period would be expressed as 45 dBA 8 hr L(eq).
- Doubling the amount of energy produces a 3 dB increase in the sound level; it does not double the decibel level. [Example: A vacuum cleaner at 10 feet may measure at 70 dBA. When another, identical vacuum cleaner is turned on at 10 feet, the total sound level increases to 73 dBA, not 140 dBA]
- Sound coming from a single point source drops in level at 6dB per doubling of distance. If you start measuring sound at 50 feet from the source and move to 100 feet from the source you will have a 6dB drop in sound level. Each time you double the distance, an additional 6dB decrease occurs.
- A change in noise level is noticeable at an increase or decrease of 5 dBA.

The water treatment plant will adhere to the county of San Diego noise ordinances. Members of the working group can find the ordinances on the county of San Diego Web site, www.sdcounty.ca.gov. On the county's home page, use the search box and type in “noise ordinance”.

According to the ordinance, during operations the water treatment plant must remain below 45 dBA for 1 hr L(eq), a one hour average, measured from the property line. During construction, the average noise level over an 8-hour period must remain below 75 dBA [denoted as 75 dBA 8 hr L(eq)] measured from

the closest zoned residential line. Since Twin Oaks Valley is a rural area, the construction measurement will be taken from the closest sensitive receptor, which is probably the closest home.

Questions and Answers

Q 1: Do the noise measurements take into account the amphitheater effect in the valley? I see a problem in measuring only from your property line.

A: We do measurements at the property line in accordance with the county noise ordinance because when you double the distance the noise level drops 6 dB. If we measure noise farther away than at our property line, the noise level from our property will decrease and noise pollution from other sources (traffic on Twin Oaks Valley Road, for example) will be included in the reading. By measuring at the property line, the reading is more accurate.

Q-2: How many people will staff this plant?

A: We estimate there will be 16 full time staff members who will work regular business hours and two or three people who will work the night shift.

Q-3: Have you looked more into lighting issues? Could we learn more about lighting at our next meeting?

A: Yes, we will bring more information to our next meeting.

Q-4: Could we have a larger aerial photo of the site?

A: Yes, we will provide one at the next meeting.

Q-5: Will construction require blasting? If so, please prohibit blasting on weekends, and give us advance warning.

A: Blasting may be required. We will provide advance notification of each blast.

Q-6: How much ammonia will be used at the plant in the disinfection process? How much sodium hydroxide will be used to adjust the pH level of the treated water?

A: We will bring this information to our next meeting.

Updating List of Concerns

After reviewing the list of community concerns about the planned water treatment plant, the working group added two new concerns.

- Can the aqueduct right of way be open for equestrian use?
- Can trucks go up Twin Oaks Valley Road and out Gopher Canyon?

Brainstorm -- Minimizing Potential Impacts of Water Treatment Plant

Patsy facilitated a brainstorming session to identify ways to address the concerns raised by the community. The working group members developed a list of suggestions, below. The list will be e-mailed to the working group; working group members agreed to share it with their neighbors. At the next working group meeting, the members will put this list into priority order. The Water Authority will do its best to meet the reasonable requests within their project parameters.

Closing

The Water Authority will present information about lighting at the next meeting on October 12, 2004. Also, staff will present renderings of the water treatment plant with very preliminary architectural and landscaping enhancements. These renderings will serve as a starting point for discussing landscaping and architectural design options.

Brainstorm List: Addressing Community Concerns Sept. 28, 2004

Plant Construction

- No truck noise before 7 a.m.
- Limit hours of construction from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- No Saturday or Sunday construction
- Provide advance warning of blasting
- No blasting on weekends
- Stage or manage truck traffic to ensure trucks don't drive in one after the other
- Prohibit recreational radios or boom boxes
- Clean truck traffic debris from roadways daily
- Repave or assure all access roads are in good condition at end of construction
- Limit equipment delivery to construction hours only
- Host frequent community meetings during construction
- Improve safety of the access road curve at electrical pole near Schetne house (by relocating or widening the road, etc.)
- Establish complaint phone number during construction
- Set up Web site updates for road closures, other impacts during construction
- If mitigation land is required by environmental impact report, purchase land in Twin Oaks Valley
- Increase communication and coordination between the Water Authority and Vallecitos Water District, especially regarding access roads and use of fill material from VWD reservoir project

Facility Design

- Buildings should blend into landscape
- Implement architectural standards -- make facility blend with community (perhaps use rocks on the walls); do not build facility that looks like the diversion structure
- Landscaping – no tall, skinny trees; use native plants if possible; use low water use type with a big canopy
- Landscaping -- Italian cypress trees, 3' on center, to camouflage the fencing
- Remove rejection tower – move up the hill and bury it
- Enclose noisy components of the plant in buildings
- Maintain wildlife corridors (coyote traffic allowance)

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- Bury additional electrical power lines to plant
- Install wrought iron fencing instead of chain link with barbed wire where fence is visible to community (might be okay to have chain link at the back of the plant where it not visible)
- Outdoor lighting should not block ability to observe stars; maintain dark skies
- Aqueduct right of way should be open for equestrian use
- Develop a water conservation education center, garden or some other community resource at the facility

Plant Operation

- All lights should be on a separate circuit
- Only light areas where staff has to work at night
- No recreational radios or boom boxes
- No public address or loudspeaker
- Minimize chemical bulk deliveries, maybe by selecting an alternate treatment method
- Use safer containers (especially for chlorine), even if this requires more trucks to deliver supplies
- Limit chemical storage on site
- Control stormwater runoff from plant
- No bulk chlorine (use a maximum of 1 ton cylinders)