

ESP UPDATE



Summer 2004 Edition



The Emergency Storage Project is a system of reservoirs, interconnected pipelines and pumping stations designed to make water available to the San Diego region in the event of an interruption in imported water deliveries.

The Emergency Storage Project is part of the San Diego County Water Authority's Capital Improvement Program to enhance and increase the operational flexibility of its water delivery system.

This newsletter is one way the San Diego County Water Authority is keeping communities like yours informed about the project's progress.

For more information, please call toll-free (877) 426-2010 or visit our Web site at www.sdcwa.org.

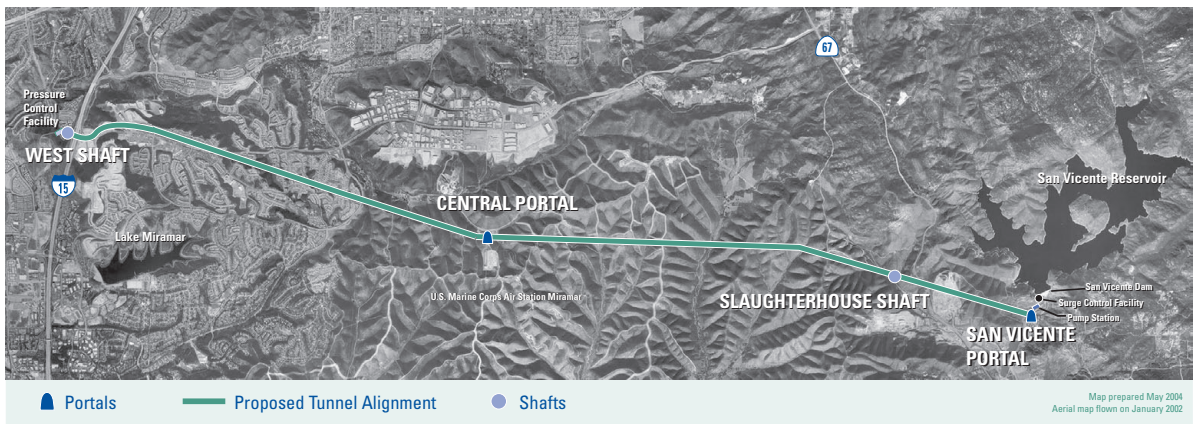


San Diego County Water Authority

Capital Improvement Program

San Vicente Pipeline Construction Begins Early Next Year

The San Vicente Pipeline project, now in the final design stage, is scheduled for three years of construction starting in early 2005. The San Diego County Water Authority's board of directors certified the San Vicente Pipeline Subsequent Environmental Impact Report earlier this year. The environmental document is available on the Water Authority's Web site, www.sdcwa.org under Infrastructure.



Crews will excavate the majority of the tunnel and pipeline project using two or more tunnel boring machines. The Water Authority is working to acquire the necessary tunnel easements. Four construction access sites are needed for personnel and materials to access the tunnel, to insert and extract the tunnel boring machines

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Olivenhain Reservoir Will Soon be Filled to Capacity



The Water Authority has been filling the Olivenhain Reservoir in 30-foot increments since August 2003 and it is now nearly full.

The Olivenhain Reservoir, which has been filling with water since August 2003, is now almost at full capacity. The reservoir should be completely filled with water by late summer. With a capacity to hold approximately 8 billion gallons of water, the water in the reservoir is enough

to sustain nearly 200,000 San Diego County residents for one year. The water in the reservoir is stored for use during an emergency, such as an earthquake or prolonged drought. The Olivenhain Reservoir, with its

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More Work Ahead

The surge control pipe and landscaping are among the remaining projects associated with the Olivenhain Dam. Crews will begin excavating for the surge control pipe in mid-June. The project will involve trenching and minor blasting. Blasts will be much less intense than those that occurred during dam construction. Once pipe installation is complete in October, the ground will be landscaped and a narrow horse trail will be created along the pipe alignment.

Landscaping around the Olivenhain Dam is planned to help "soften" the view from neighboring homes. Original landscaping plans from environmental studies conducted prior to construction are being re-evaluated due to new federal and state security guidelines following the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy. For example, the planting of trees and vegetation are not permitted within 20 feet of the security fence. A modified approach is being prepared that will meet the new security guidelines and strive to soften the view. Landscaping should be completed by spring 2005. 💧

OLIVENHAIN RESERVOIR *continued from page 1*

accompanying pipelines and pump stations, is a key component of the Water Authority's regional Emergency Storage Project.

Recently, the reservoir had a role in another emergency operation. On April 23, the California Department of Forestry used helicopters to obtain water from the Olivenhain Reservoir to douse a small fire that broke out on the hillside of Paint Mountain, located in the community of Elfin Forest within the Olivenhain Municipal Water District's service area. Easy access to the reservoir was key to containing the fire.

The Water Authority has been filling the reservoir in 30-foot increments through a 6.5-foot-diameter pipe connected to the Water Authority's Second Aqueduct. The water is imported

from the Colorado River and Northern California. Monitoring and testing results have been positive and well received by the California Division of Safety of Dams whose goal is to ensure dam safety and proper inspection and maintenance. At a total cost of approximately \$200 million, the project, which includes the Lake Hodges Headworks as well as emergency standby power, is well worth it when compared to the devastation San Diego County would suffer during an emergency that would cause a prolonged water shortage. 💧



Helicopter bucket scoops reservoir water to extinguish flames.

A Peek at the Future — San Vicente Reservoir

Does the mention of fresh water recreation get your motor running? As just one of two fresh water lakes in San Diego County offering water skiing, the San Vicente Reservoir is regarded by many as a county gem. Exciting changes are in store for the reservoir. Here's a preview:



Fresh water recreation will be improved with the raising of the San Vicente Dam in 2008.

- Shaded picnic areas
- Improved landscaping
- Additional boat ramps
- Improved roads

These benefits are a component of the Water Authority's Emergency Storage Project that raises the height of the existing

San Vicente Dam. The dam raise, scheduled to begin construction in 2008, will allow the Water Authority to store at least an additional 50,000 acre-feet of water for emergency use. The city of San Diego will continue to own and operate the San Vicente Reservoir.

However, the reservoir will be closed to recreational users during construction.

The Water Authority is working closely with the city to ensure a smooth construction process with the least amount of disruption possible to recreational use. 💧



San Vicente Reservoir



Lake Hodges Project Team Responds to Community Concerns

Lake Hodges is the site of a future pump station and a 1.25-mile-long underground pipeline leading to the Olivenhain Reservoir.

Both projects are in the final design stage. The project team has been working closely with the Del Dios Town Council and others in the community to assure that the two-and-a-half-




After the Lake Hodges project is completed in 2009, water will consistently fill the lake.

year construction period planned to begin in July 2005, occurs with minimum impacts to the surrounding area.

The Water Authority hosted a meeting in late April with representatives from the Del Dios Town Council, the county of San Diego, the city of San Diego, MWH Global (design contractor), the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority and potentially impacted residents. The group reviewed construction site access road options, and agreed to install a temporary traffic signal at Rancho Del Dios and use the existing access road to the site. According to the county public works representative, the traffic light could be set to discourage "cut-through" traffic in the Del Dios area.

The above ground pump station originally identified in the environmental impact report for the Lake Hodges project, has been modified to a mostly below grade structure, considerably reducing environmental and visual impacts.

Additional details regarding the Lake Hodges project were provided at the June Del Dios Town Council meeting. Water Authority representatives have been updating the Del Dios Town Council regularly since October 2001. 

Take an Online Tour of the Olivenhain Dam

The Water Authority invites you to tour the Olivenhain Dam and Reservoir via the Internet. This photographic tour takes guests through the four major phases of the dam's construction and explains the work involved. Please visit the Water Authority's Web site at the following address:

<http://www.sdcwa.org/infra/esp-olivenhainphototour.phtml>

Your Award-Winning Olivenhain Dam

Less than a year after its historic completion, the Olivenhain Dam is overflowing with local nominations and accolades. Three major awards were recently presented to the Water Authority recognizing its major contribution to San Diego County through the Olivenhain Dam. The Water Authority acknowledges the level of community commitment for the project and congratulates all local residents and businesses for their contributions to an award-winning dam.

The Public Relations Society of America, San Diego Chapter honored the Water Authority's Emergency Storage Project team with Community Relations Mark of Excellence awards. This recognition was based upon the Water Authority's extensive community research and continued communication regarding the construction of the Olivenhain Dam and the overall Emergency




Accepting the Clair A. Hill Award for Environment and Community Relations are the Water Authority's Olivenhain Dam Project Manager Jerry Reed, Olivenhain Municipal Water District's Deputy General Manager Harry Erlich, Water Authority General Manager Maureen Stapleton, Olivenhain Municipal Water District's board member and representative on the Water Authority board Mark Muir and Vice Chair of the Water Authority board Jim Bond.

Storage Project.

Technical aspects of the dam were also applauded by local organizations. The San Diego Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers bestowed

its "Project of the Year" award to the Water Authority for the dam. This selection was based upon the engineering expertise of such a high-magnitude project. This professional organization also honored the Water Authority during National Engineers Week for its ultimate contribution to the community — providing a reliable, backup source of water in emergency situations. At the state level, the Water Authority was a finalist in the Association of California Water Agencies' Clair A. Hill Award for Environment and Community Relations.


The Water Authority was also a finalist for the San Diego County Taxpayers Association's Golden Watchdog Award. This tribute recognized the Water Authority's management of a public project completed under budget and on schedule. 



CONSTRUCTION *continued from page 1*

and to remove excavated materials from the tunnel. They are also used to circulate air and to deliver equipment, sections of pipe and concrete. The locations of the four construction access sites are near the San Vicente Dam, in Slaughterhouse Canyon, south of Beeler Canyon and off Mercy Road near Interstate 15 (please see map on front page). Excavated materials from the tunnel will primarily come from the San Vicente Portal and Central Shaft, with a limited amount from the West Shaft. Materials excavated from the Central Shaft will not be hauled off the property. Instead, this material will be placed and graded on site. Materials excavated from the San Vicente Portal may be hauled to a nearby commercial quarry. The materials from the West Shaft may be hauled to a commercial quarry and/or used as fill at a property owned by San Diego Gas & Electric.

Residents and businesses near the tunnel route may perceive a subtle, low-level vibration for several days as the tunnel boring machine proceeds through the vicinity. This low-level vibration during tunneling will not impact surface structures such as

homes, swimming pools or patios. If the tunnel boring machines encounter large boulders it may be necessary to remove the boulders through controlled blasting. Residents and property owners near the blasting sites would always be notified in advance. The Water Authority will provide regular community updates to neighborhoods located along the pipeline route as the project progresses. 

For more information

about the San Diego County Water Authority's
Emergency Storage Project,
please call toll free (877) 426-2010
or visit our Web Site at: www.sdcwa.org.



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San Diego County
Water Authority

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The Water Authority is a public agency serving the San Diego region as a wholesale supplier of water. The Water Authority works through its 23 member agencies to provide a safe, reliable water supply to support the region's \$130 billion economy and the quality of life of nearly 3 million residents.

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