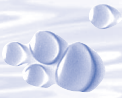


ESP UPDATE



Winter 2005 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



Construction activity can be seen from Interstate 15.

Construction Begins on Mercy Road

If you frequently drive on Interstate 15, you may have wondered about the construction work on the west side of the Mercy Road exit. This work is part of the San Diego County Water Authority's Capital Improvement Program. A pressure control and hydroelectric facility, and a shaft for the San Vicente Pipeline, will share this location. Although construction for the San Vicente Pipeline doesn't begin until summer 2005, the clearing of the site for both projects is currently under way.

Once the site is cleared, graded and excavated, crews will place the concrete foundation in January. They will begin construction of the projects shortly thereafter. When construction is complete, the Water Authority will landscape and hydro seed the area, provide six parking spaces for access to the Canyon Hills Resource Based Park, and install a sign to mark the park's location. The Water Authority is working with the Mira Mesa community on these projects.

See MERCY ROAD on page 2

Pipeline Surge Control Facility Environmental Study Is Under Way

The public comment period for the draft San Vicente Pipeline Surge Control Facility environmental study is nearing the end of its 45-day review period. Residents, businesses, recreational users and public agencies are encouraged to review the draft

A public hearing to receive comments on the draft environmental study will be held on Jan. 27, 2005.

document and provide comments. Written comments should be mailed to: John McCullough, Water Resources Department, San Diego County Water Authority, 4677 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123-1233.

The Water Authority will hold a public hearing to receive comments on Jan. 27, 2005, at the Water Authority's headquarters (address

above). Please check the Water Authority's Web site (www.sdcwa.org) beginning Jan. 20, 2005, for the anticipated start time. All written comments on the draft document must be received by Jan. 27.

See ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY on page 2

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MERCY ROAD *continued from page 1*

The San Vicente Pipeline will be an 11-mile-long pipeline connecting the San Vicente Reservoir in Lakeside to the Water Authority's Second Aqueduct west of Interstate 15. The pressure control facility will allow the Water Authority to control



This site will be the home for a San Vicente Pipeline shaft and a pressure control and hydroelectric facility.

water flow in and out of the San Vicente Reservoir and into the Olivenhain Reservoir to meet the county's normal and emergency water needs. In addition to pressure control, the project includes hydroelectric turbines to generate electricity that will be placed on the San Diego County power grid. The pressure control and hydroelectric facility is planned for completion in spring 2006 and San Vicente Pipeline construction will finish in 2008. 💧

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY *continued from page 1*

The environmental study, called the Supplement to the Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SSEIR), evaluates the environmental impacts resulting from construction and operation of the San Vicente Pipeline Surge Control Facility to be built in Lakeside. This facility would provide surge protection for the San Vicente Pump Station and Pipeline in emergency situations. The proposed site is located on a hill overlooking the existing San Vicente Dam.

If you would like to learn more about this project, please attend the public hearing or visit the Water Authority's Web site at www.sdcwa.org and select "Infrastructure." Next, select "San Vicente Pipeline." For more information, please call the toll-free project information line at (877) 426-2010. 💧

The Emergency Storage Project Schedule

Phase One (1998 - 2003)

- Olivenhain Dam
- Olivenhain Pipelines and Powerline
- Olivenhain Pump Station, Surge Control Pipe

Phase Two (2002 - 2008)

- San Vicente Pipeline
- San Vicente/Moreno-Lakeside Interconnect Pipeline
- San Vicente Pump Station
- San Vicente Surge Control Facility

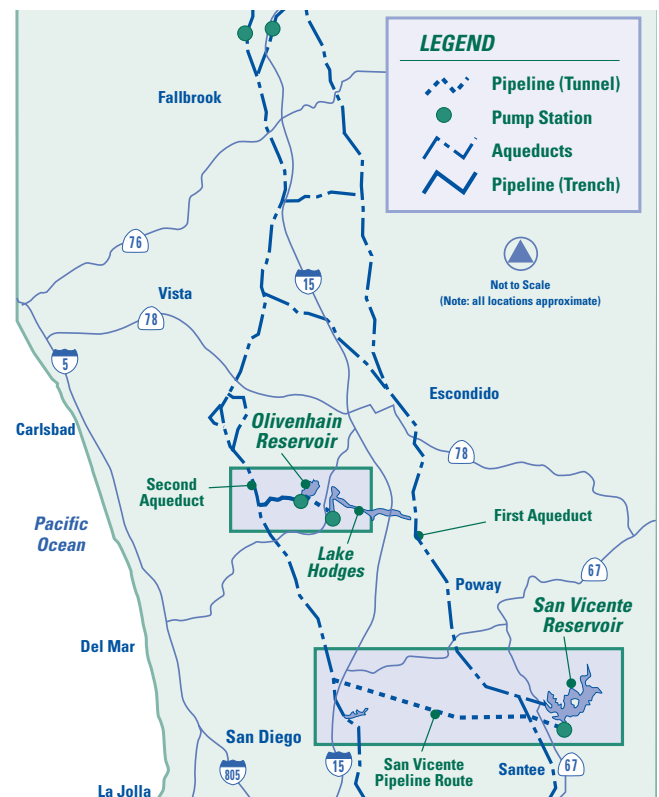
Phase Three (2004 - 2008)

- Lake Hodges Pipeline
- Lake Hodges Pump Station
- Pipeline 3 Pump Station and Interconnection
- Pipeline 4 Pump Station

Phase Four (2008 - 2012)

- San Vicente Dam Raise
- San Vicente Recreational Facilities
- Operations Center Upgrade

Project Area Map



Wetland Creation Project Nears Completion

Nearly eight acres of wetlands have been added to the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve in Encinitas. The Water Authority has funded and managed this \$1 million mitigation project to create new wetland habitat and mitigate for environmental impacts of the Emergency Storage Project construction. Beginning in October of last year, between two and six feet of material was



The wetland habitat created by this project will welcome various wildlife including the California least tern.

removed from the surface to create channels, ponds and hummocks, mimicking a wetland habitat. The *North County Times'* editorial staff bestowed the Water Authority with a "Rose" award for this project.

The site, located adjacent to the reserve bordering Manchester Avenue, was originally a wetland habitat but extensive agriculture and grazing activities

transformed it into a non-native upland habitat. As part of the mitigation project, several non-native plant species were



Approximately 24,000 cubic yards of materials were removed to create new wetland habitat.

removed, including mustard, pampas grass and non-native acacia, which posed a threat to the quality of the wetland habitat. These non-natives are being replaced by isocoma scrub, southern willow scrub and marsh plant species. A temporary irrigation system, to be maintained for up to five years, will ensure the survival of these new plants. Some smaller Torrey pine trees, which are not indigenous to the area, were removed and donated to San Diego County Parks and Recreation for relocation. In addition to the construction inspection, archaeological and environmental monitors were on-site to review the progress. 💧

Planning Continues for the San Vicente Dam Raise

Another major component of the Emergency Storage Project is to raise the existing San Vicente Dam, owned and operated by the city of San Diego and located near Lakeside. Slated for construction in 2008, the dam raise will increase the reservoir's water storage for San Diego County. As originally planned for the Emergency Storage Project, the dam will be raised 54 feet to increase water capacity by 52,000 acre-feet over the present capacity of 90,000 acre-feet.

A recent study launched by the Water Authority as part of its Regional Water Facilities Master Plan identified a need for an additional 100,000 acre-feet of



The San Vicente Dam currently stands at 219 feet tall.

storage capacity and identified San Vicente Dam as a possible location to store the water. Therefore, the dam may be raised further to 123 feet, or about 69 feet beyond what is planned for the Emergency Storage Project. Other sites have been identified in previous studies and further engineering and environmental studies are needed before a site selection for the additional water storage can be made. Both studies are currently under way and are expected to be completed in 2006.

The San Vicente Dam raise will be constructed of roller-compacted concrete, the same technology used on the recently completed Olivenhain Dam near Escondido. Construction work is scheduled to begin in 2008 and finish in 2012.

See DAM RAISE on page 4




DAM RAISE *continued from page 3*

San Vicente Reservoir will be closed to boating and other water recreation for several years as the water level will be

Once the San Vicente Dam is raised, this will complete the Emergency Storage Project — a project vital to the San Diego region and future water supply.

significantly lowered for construction. While the closure may be inconvenient to those who enjoy the fresh body of water for fishing and water skiing, those who return to the reopened reservoir will enjoy many improvements, such as added beach fronts, shade trees, picnic areas, additional boating ramps, doubled parking areas and an improved road leading to

the reservoir. The Water Authority will work hard to outreach to those who use the reservoir for seasonal recreation with

information on when the reservoir will be closed and reopened and what boating alternatives are available in the county during the construction period. Once the San Vicente Dam is raised, this will complete the Emergency Storage Project — a project vital to the San Diego region and future water supply. 

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

4677 Overland Ave.
San Diego, CA 92123

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 economy, job base and the quality of life for more than 3 million residents.

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