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.

California Conservation Corps Assists With Escondido Creek Project

As part of the Water Authority's mitigation requirements for the overall Emergency Storage Project, the Water Authority will begin riparian enhancement work this fall along Escondido Creek. For the first phase of the project, the California Conservation Corps is removing invasive non-native species of plants such as Arundo and Eucalyptus trees. The Water Authority will plant native species, such as the Arroyo willow or Western sycamore, as part of phase two. Once the non-native plants are removed, native plants will also naturally revegetate the area. The Escondido Creek Conservancy and the Olivenhain Municipal Water District are involved in the coordination of the project.

The California Conservation Corps' mission is to train youth with meaningful conservation work and educate...
This facility would provide surge protection for the San Vicente Pump Station and Pipeline in emergency situations. The proposed site is located on a hilltop overlooking the existing San Vicente Dam.

In January 2004, the Water Authority certified the Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for the surge control site. Modification to the original design and environmental issues not considered in the SEIR are being addressed in the SSEIR.

A Draft SSEIR will be released to the public in November 2004 for review and comment. The final document should be available in February 2005.

The San Vicente Pipeline is an 11-mile-long pipeline connecting the San Vicente Reservoir in Lakeside to the Water Authority’s Second Aqueduct west of Interstate 15. The San Vicente Pump Station is currently in the final design stage. Construction of the San Vicente Pump Station and Pipeline is scheduled to begin in May 2005. Construction trailers are currently set up near the construction site. This project is a key component of the Water Authority’s Emergency Storage Project and an important investment in the future reliability of San Diego County’s water supply.

Moments after the final cut is made to a downed Eucalyptus tree, grooves are cut and herbicide is placed inside to kill the tree and prevent regrowth.

David McCollom. “The CCC partnership with OMWD has yielded benefits for both agencies. OWMD has received high-quality...
Lake Hodges Projects Design Nears Completion

The Lake Hodges Projects, important components of the Emergency Storage Project, are in the final design stage. The projects include a tunnel pipeline from Lake Hodges to the Olivenhain Reservoir, a pump station/inlet-outlet structure at Lake Hodges and a pumped-storage component to capture energy.

During a July 14 presentation to the Del Dios Town Council, Project Manager Tim Smith said the projects’ designs are 75 percent complete. He provided a project timeline and a description of what local residents may expect during construction, which will begin in January 2005.

Projected Lake Hodges Projects Timeline:

- January 2005 – Site clearing
- February-July 2005 – SDG&E brings power to site (transmission line)
- July 2005-July 2007 – Tunnel pipeline construction from Lake Hodges to Olivenhain Reservoir
- December 2005-December 2007 – Pump station/inlet-outlet and switchyard construction at Lake Hodges
- October 2007-December 2007 – Trees and brush cleared from Lake Hodges following sensitive species breeding and nesting season
- January 2008 – Project completion

The Water Authority answered a variety of questions regarding the different phases of construction, Lake Hodges’ future water levels, construction activities and traffic control measures.

A summary of the July Water Authority presentation to the Del Dios Town Council (and all previous presentations) is accessible on the San Diego County Water Authority Web site, www.sdcwa.org. Select the “Infrastructure” button, the “ESP” button, and then the “Lake Hodges Projects” button. For more information, please call the toll-free project information line at (877) 426-2010.

Olivenhain Dam Projects Coming to an End

Next spring, both the surge control pipe and landscaping projects, the final jobs scheduled at the Olivenhain Dam site, will be completed. Pipeline clearing work began in June, followed by minor blasting and excavation work. The crews excavated a 2,000-foot-long trench and laid pipe throughout the summer. During an upcoming pipeline shutdown, the surge control pipe will be connected to the Olivenhain Pipeline. This surge project should be complete by December. A narrow horse trail and hiking path runs along the pipe alignment.

The surge pipe protects the Olivenhain Pump Station and Pipeline from potential damage if power is lost during a pumping operation. A power loss may result in a strong wave or back-surge of water. The surge pipe will reduce stress and potential damage by allowing the surge of water to exit the main pipeline and spend itself, up the hill, beyond the right abutment to the dam.

Final dam landscaping is scheduled for December 2004 through March 2005. Trees will be planted as part of this project and temporary irrigation lines will be installed to establish root growth.

Wetland Creation Work Begins

In September, the San Diego County Water Authority began creating a wetland habitat of almost eight acres at a site adjacent to the San Elijo Ecological Reserve bordering Manchester Avenue in the city of Encinitas. The site was used extensively for agriculture until the late 1980s and has been disturbed by grazing, contributing to the current low-cover native vegetation. This project will convert approximately 7.73 acres of non-native upland habitat adjacent to Lux Canyon Creek into a diverse, native riparian habitat.

Crews will excavate the area to achieve desired wetland conditions. They will install a temporary irrigation system and begin planting soon. The site will be maintained for five years.
work at the lowest price possible, while the CCC has been able to educate their young, talented work crews on the intricacies of a project involving the environment and removal of non-native trees and plants,” McCollom continued.

Water Authority Project Manager Tim Cass commented, “The Corps has a shining track record with the Water Authority. I recall when they assisted with the Peñasquitos Creek project several years ago. The crews were quite enthusiastic about their work and took a lot of care when removing Eucalyptus trees. There was a loud cheer from the crew when they brought down a large Eucalyptus tree without damaging nearby oak trees.”

Approximately five truck trips a day are needed to haul trees and brush during the plant-removal phase. This first phase continues through February 2005. A six-month hiatus is required for the gnatcatcher breeding season, followed by revegetation and planting work from September 2005 to February 2006. The Water Authority will monitor and maintain the revegetated areas until 2011.