New Look
ESP Update has a new look, reducing production costs while providing sharper photos. Our expanded email list also trims mailing expenses. To sign up for email delivery, see “For More Information.”

Coast to Crest Trail Reopened at Hodges Reservoir
A 1.1-mile section of the Coast to Crest Trail within the Lake Hodges construction site was reopened to the public on July 1. The trail section had been closed for public use and fenced off in early 2006 during major construction work.

When completed, the Coast to Crest Trail will extend nearly 55 miles from Del Mar to Volcan Mountain north of Julian. The recently reopened section at Hodges features winding pathways along the shore and many scenic viewpoints of the reservoir. Bikers, hikers, and horse riders can now travel unimpeded approximately eight miles between Interstate 15 and Hodges Dam. Work is still ongoing at the Lake Hodges Projects site to establish landscaping and to finish work inside the pump station. The new landscaping is designed to help the pump station blend in with its surroundings. As construction is completed, remaining security fencing along the trail section will be progressively removed.

A newly reopened section of the Coast to Crest Trail offers awe-inspiring views of Hodges Reservoir.

Getting Ready for Concrete on the San Vicente dam Raise

In August, Barnard Construction completed its foundation excavation work for the San Vicente Dam Raise. A new contractor, Shimnick Obayashi Joint Venture, is now on site gearing up for the main event – placing the roller-compacted concrete to raise the dam.

Like any project of this magnitude, preparations are crucial to the concrete work that follows. The contractor is transforming the former boat marina into a large concrete batch plant for the dam raise. Rock from nearby hillsides will be excavated, crushed on site, and then incorporated into the roller-compacted concrete made at this location. The Water Authority’s construction management team will test samples of the concrete to confirm its strength and performance before launching the intensive concrete placement work in spring 2011.

The contractor is also making improvements to the roads that will be used to haul materials to the construction site. The Moreno Avenue – Vigilante Road intersection is being realigned, enabling large trucks to turn more easily and safely onto Moreno Avenue toward the dam. The contractor is also building a new access road to the old marina. This improved marina access road will later serve the public when the reservoir reopens after the project is complete.

The preparatory work for the concrete also includes grouting the dam foundation. Grouting fills crevices to provide a solid foundation for the raised dam. Crews started grouting this summer and will continue through spring 2011.

The dam raise is scheduled to be complete in early 2013. Other project-related tasks, including building a new marina and restoring native vegetation, are slated for completion in summer 2014. The reservoir is expected to reopen to recreation sometime between late 2014 and late 2017, depending on local rainfall, the availability of imported water, and water demand at that time.

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San Vicente Pipeline Rises to the Top

The San Vicente Pipeline has surfaced! The tunneled pipeline ranges from 50 to 350 feet underground, and runs nearly straight for 11 miles. With the recent installation of a 33-ton vertical riser pipe, it now makes a 90 degree turn up toward the surface, where it will connect to the Water Authority’s aqueduct system near Interstate 15 and Mercy Road.

During water supply emergencies, the Water Authority will use the San Vicente Pipeline to deliver water from San Vicente Reservoir to the countywide water system.

Now that pipeline construction is essentially complete, crews are getting the pipeline ready for operation. After pressure testing is conducted this fall, the contractor will make the final connections to facilities that will control the quantity and pressure of water flowing into the Water Authority’s aqueduct system.

The contractor has already begun restoring pipeline construction areas at the Central Shaft in Scripps Ranch and the San Vicente Portal near San Vicente Reservoir. All construction work for the pipeline is expected to be complete late this year.

Put Down Roots to Conserve

Fall days are on the approach, meaning cooler temperatures and, we hope, rain. October and November are the best times to plant those drought-tolerant plants you have been thinking of adding to your landscape. The cooler temperatures will keep moisture in the ground and give your plants the opportunity to thrive. To find out more about fall planting, visit the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College at www.thegarden.org.

For More Information

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