January 26, 2006

Dear Community Member,

This letter provides an update on the construction of the Lake Hodges tunnel project. Tunneling began in early September 2005 and is scheduled for completion in late summer 2006. The tunnel is now on the west side of Del Dios Highway and is currently 2,020 feet long – more than one-third of the entire length.

The County of San Diego issued a noise variance permit that allows tunnel blasting for the project 24 hours a day, Monday through Friday. However, late-night blasting has been infrequent and we expect this will continue to be the case. The Water Authority works with the project contractor, Kiewit Pacific, to maintain a blasting schedule intended to minimize impacts on the Del Dios community. This blasting schedule includes up to three blasts each day, Monday through Friday, in accordance with the following times:

- Between 6:30 a.m. and 8 a.m.
- Between 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- Between 8 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Occasionally the contractor must alter the schedule because of unexpected circumstances. For example, changing rock densities, delays in removing blasted material from the tunnel due to equipment problems, and mechanical problems with the ventilation and safety systems, are obstacles that affected daily blast schedules in recent weeks. These instances have required blasting outside of the planned schedule, including an occasional late night blast.

Each blast consists of a rapid series of smaller blasts over a period of approximately five seconds. Blasting is done according to a specific design intended to carve the tunnel by moving rock inward toward the center of the tunnel. Kiewit monitors each blast using two seismographs. The seismographs are periodically relocated close to the residences that are nearest to the blast. Both ground vibration and sound are monitored to ensure blast levels remain within the limits allowed by the contract specifications. In addition, wells close to the tunnel are monitored. To date, the contractor has not experienced any significant seepage into the tunnel.

The Water Authority understands that blasting can be irritating for those close to the tunnel alignment route. The contractor assures the Water Authority it will continue to do its best to blast according to the above schedule whenever possible. Any complaints about blasting operations may be made by calling the 24-hour project information line at (877) 426-2010.

The Lake Hodges team will conduct its regular quarterly briefing at the Del Dios Town Council meeting on Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. at the Del Dios Fire Station. Please attend to learn more information on the Lake Hodges Projects.

For additional information on the Lake Hodges Projects visit the Water Authority's website at www.sdcwa.org, click on “Infrastructure,” then “ESP,” and finally “Lake Hodges Projects.” Del Dios Town Council meeting summaries of the Water Authority presentations about the Lake Hodges Projects are located on this site, along

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with copies of all community correspondence and the status of the Coast to Crest Trail. If you have questions, please call our toll-free project information line at (877) 426-2010.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Joe Bride
Contract Administrator, Lake Hodges Projects
San Diego County Water Authority