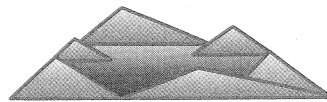


**San Diego County Water Authority**

4677 Overland Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92123  
www.sdcwa.org



**Lake Hodges Projects**

*Building Water Reliability  
Through the Emergency Storage Project*

January 26, 2006

Dear Community Member,

*The Lake Hodges Projects are part of the Emergency Storage Project, a system of reservoirs, interconnected pipelines and pumping stations designed to make water available to communities in the San Diego region in the event of an interruption in imported water deliveries.*

*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 quality of life for more than 3 million residents.*

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](http://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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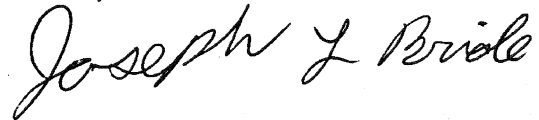
**San Diego County Water Authority**

**Capital Improvement Program**

Emergency Storage Project Information Line: **1-877-426-2010**

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph L. Bride". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

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