April 26, 2006

Dear Mt. Israel Resident,

The San Diego County Water Authority’s contractor, Kiewit Pacific, will soon begin mobilizing a small construction crew in your neighborhood to work on the northern portion of the Lake Hodges to Olivenhain Reservoir tunnel and pipeline. Kiewit began work last June on the 5,800-foot tunnel that is now 65 percent complete. Construction will begin soon at the Water Authority property off Mt. Israel Place to prepare the Olivenhain Dam Headworks to receive the tunnel connection. Work will take place between May and December.

As the tunnel from Lake Hodges approaches Olivenhain Reservoir, the contractor must now begin boring a vertical shaft to the tunnel. The shaft will serve as a surge chamber for any changes in pressure during transfer of water between Lake Hodges and Olivenhain Reservoir.

The contractor will have to improve the existing access to the Water Authority property, off Mt. Israel Place, so that drilling equipment and concrete trucks can access the site to construct the shaft. A limited amount of controlled blasting will also be required because the rock is too dense for bulldozers alone to grade the road. The construction team anticipates needing only about three to four blasts for the entire activity.

Initial construction work on the road leading to the shaft is expected to begin in the next week or two, with the first controlled blast expected the second or third week of May. Residents living nearby will be notified of the specific dates and times of the controlled blasts. These blasts will take place sometime between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The majority of the work will take place during the contractor’s regular working hours from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Concrete trucks will only be allowed to make deliveries between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The shaft excavation work will be a 24-hour operation, Monday through Friday, for about three weeks during the July/August timeframe, when the tunnel from Lake Hodges is scheduled to meet the shaft location. Night work will be limited to small crews of six to eight people. The entire road and shaft construction project is expected to last until December, with most of the work taking place during daytime hours, on weekdays.

We appreciate the community’s patience and understanding during the completion of the Lake Hodges-Olivenhain Reservoir connection phase of the Emergency Storage Project.

The Water Authority’s Lake Hodges project team will conduct its quarterly briefing at the Del Dios Town Council meeting on Wednesday, May 10, at 7 p.m. at the Del Dios Fire Station. Please feel free to attend and learn more about current activities on the Lake Hodges Projects.

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For more information about the overall project, please 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 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,

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