

San Diego County Water Authority

4677 Overland Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123




Emergency Storage Project

Building Water Reliability

Dec. 11, 2006

Dear Community Member,



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 Authority's Capital Improvement Program to enhance and increase the operational flexibility of its water delivery system.

The San Diego County Water Authority's Lake Hodges Projects are moving along, with the pipeline nearing completion and the pump station well under way.

Tunnel and Pipeline Update

Kiewit Pacific, the tunnel and pipeline contractor, finished excavating the tunnel in August and has been installing pipe sections since September. All of the steel pipe has been installed in the tunnel and now the contractor is beginning to install grout to fill in the space between the tunnel wall and the pipeline. Grout work will take place on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., in addition to the normal Monday through Friday work hours. Within the next one to two weeks, the grouting operations will move to the shaft construction site on Mount Israel. Starting at the beginning of January for about five weeks, up to 20 trucks per day will access the shaft site using Mount Israel Road to deliver grout material. Kiewit Pacific is still on schedule to be finished with the pipeline portion of the project in spring 2007.

Pump Station and Inlet-Outlet Structure Update

Archer Western, the pump station and inlet-outlet structure contractor, is excavating the large hole that will hold the pump station. The hole is currently approximately 50 feet deep and will be 120 feet deep when completed. The contractor began using controlled blasting in October to break through the hard rock in the pump station pit. Blasting will continue Monday through Friday during the daytime, with multiple blasts possible each day, until the pump station excavation is complete in spring 2007.

Archer Western is also continuing to construct the temporary barrier, called a cofferdam, which will be used to hold back water in the lake while the inlet-outlet structure is under construction. The cofferdam is scheduled to be complete in spring 2007.

Possible Nighttime Work

Kiewit Pacific has been working at night on the tunnel and pipeline project since November 2005 and will complete their nighttime work in spring 2007. At this point, Archer Western is working 12-hour shifts, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Anticipating a potential need to extend work into the night, Archer Western is conducting a noise assessment and may request to add an additional shift from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. If the Water Authority approves the night work and it is deemed necessary for the project to stay on schedule, Archer Western may begin nighttime work sometime during the project. Night work would mainly consist of drilling holes in the bottom of the pump station excavation and lifting material out of the pit using a bucket pulled up by a crane. This additional work at night would help the construction stay on schedule for completion by the end of 2008. No blasting or trucking is allowed on the site after 7 p.m. or before 7 a.m.

The Water Authority will require Archer Western to take all possible precautions to minimize the noise and lighting effects from this night work, if it is determined to be necessary. As was done during Kiewit's nighttime work, the Emergency Storage Project information line will be answered live by an on-site worker between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. to address any community concerns regarding the night work. The toll-free Emergency Storage Project information line is (877) 426-2010.

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

Temporary Traffic Signal at Del Dios Highway and Rancho Drive

The installation of the temporary traffic signal at Del Dios Highway and Rancho Drive was delayed because of some additional permitting and design requirements by the county of San Diego. The traffic signal is now complete and was activated last Thursday, Nov. 7. The traffic signal is temporary and is scheduled to be removed at the end of the project in late 2008.

Coast to Crest Trail Update

As most of you are aware, the Water Authority determined that because of the intense construction activity and limited space on site, there is no safe way to open the portion of the Coast to Crest Trail that runs through the Lake Hodges project site. The project team, in coordination with the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority, also studied an off-site trail route as a potential detour, and found it was not feasible because of steep terrain, sensitive vegetation, and property ownership issues. For these reasons, the portion of the trail next to our work area must be closed until construction of the pump station and inlet-outlet structure is complete in late 2008.

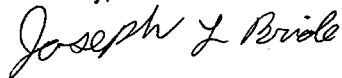
The Water Authority received comments through Oct. 18, 2006, on the draft supplemental environmental impact report that addressed the temporary Coast to Crest Trail closure. All public comments were addressed in the final SEIR that was released Nov. 17, 2006. At the Water Authority's board of directors' meeting on Nov. 30, 2006 the board decided to continue the decision of certifying the final SEIR until the January 2007 board meeting to allow the River Park JPA and Water Authority staff to meet to identify any other trail closure mitigation alternatives. The final SEIR is available for review on the Water Authority's website.

For More Information

Please visit the Water Authority's website at www.sdcwa.org, click on "Infrastructure," then "ESP," and finally "Lake Hodges Projects." If you would like to sign up to be on the email project update list, go to the website. 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.

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