

EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT OLIVENHAIN DAM/LAKE HODGES COMMUNITY UPDATE SUMMARY

DATE: October 9, 2002

TIME: 7 p.m.

ORGANIZATION: Del Dios Town Council

MEETING LOCATION: Del Dios Fire Station

PRESENTERS: Tim Smith, San Diego County Water Authority

STAFF RESOURCES: Alex Newton, San Diego County Water Authority;
Rebecca Cole, Katz & Associates

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Tim Smith provided a status of the Lake Hodges Projects since he had met with the community in May. He explained a design consultant has been selected with work to begin in November 2002. An additional project to the scope of work includes the Olivenhain-Hodges Pumped Storage Project, which will allow energy in water to be used rather than wasted. Tim discussed changes to the pump station that include a reduction in noise and visual impacts, which were well received from those in attendance. He further explained upcoming activities for Lake Hodges Projects including geotechnical mapping and 14 borings.

Questions and Comments Asked During the Meeting:

Q: Will you pump water from Owens Valley into the Olivenhain Dam to keep in Lake Hodges?

A: Water from the Water Authority's Second Aqueduct will fill the Olivenhain Dam. In rainy winter years when Lake Hodges would overflow, water would be captured and moved to the Olivenhain Dam. In summer months, water from Olivenhain Dam would be moved back to Lake Hodges to benefit recreation activities.

Q: Once the dam is complete, will Lake Hodges remain full?

A: The Lake Hodges facilities will need to be constructed first, which is scheduled for completion in January 2008. After that, Lake Hodges will be allowed to fill by natural runoff, which could occur over a two to five year period. The water level in Lake Hodges will vary by season.



Olivenhain Dam

Building Water Reliability
through the Emergency Storage Project

Q: Will there be ebb and flow from season to season?

A: Yes. From March to May, Lake Hodges will be filled to elevation 311 and will remain at that elevation during the summer months, May through July. From July to September, Lake Hodges will be lowered to elevation 296. During the winter months from September to March, Lake Hodges will be at elevation 296 to capture rainwater runoff.

Q: How high will water levels be on average at Lake Hodges? Will there be shoreline?

A: During the summer months, the water level in the Lake will be the highest at elevation 311. The shoreline will be similar to when the Lake is full.

Q: Will there be an increase in power lines?

A: The Olivenhain-Hodges Pumped Storage Project, currently sized at 40 megawatts, will not increase the power lines as originally required.

Q: Are you going to pave the road that leads to the pump station?

A: Likely no, but we will evaluate this further in the design phase.

Q: What is the decided truck route? Will there be two-way traffic?

A: The approved EIR identified the truck route from Del Dios Highway to Rancho Drive, through the gate and on the dirt portion of Lake Drive to the site. There will be two-way traffic. An alternative route was discussed that heads west from the site along the winding dirt portion of Lake Drive that eventually connects to Del Dios Highway. Preliminary investigation indicates this alternative route is about ¼ mile longer, there are problems with the turning radius for trucks, safety concerns at the intersection with Del Dios Highway and there would be more traffic past the Aquatic Center. The alternative route will be evaluated during the design phase at the request of the Del Dios Town Council.

Q: How long will trucks be driving the route and how many?

A: Trucks will travel during the two-year construction period. At peak construction, there will be approximately four truck trips every hour for eight hours each day, totaling approximately 32 truck

trips a day (i.e. there will be approximately 16 trucks each driving in and out for a total of 32 truck trips).

Q: How does Tad Brierton fit into this project?

A: He works in the Water Authority's Right-of-Way department and reviews property acquisitions.

C: I do not want to see staging near the access road entrance as it's very near my home.

A: There will be traffic control at the gate for all construction traffic. Staging will likely not be in the dirt area near the entrance. We will determine the staging areas in the design phase.

Q: What direction will trucks exit?

A: The EIR identified the truck routes as discussed above. We will verify this in the first part of the design phase.

Q: Whose dirt is it that will be excavated?

A: Dirt from the tunnel excavation will likely be mostly rock and will be the Water Authority's once underground right of way is acquired.

Q: Lake Hodges being kept at high water levels is a positive thing. Rancho Santa Fe is putting in a larger flume making them capable of drawing more water from the Lake. Do your numbers of emergency storage include this increase?

A: Yes, regardless of the draw.

Q: Does the EIR commit to those lake levels?

A. Yes.

Q: To maintain water levels, you need to draw water from Riverside so are your draws reasonable to be comfortable in your commitment?

A: Yes.

Q: What can we do to get you to change the truck route?

A: In design, we will carefully examine all possible truck routes and keep you informed of our review.

Q: Will there be round-the-clock construction on this project just like the Olivenhain Dam project?

A: The primary construction will occur during the day in an 8-hour period. There may be some cases where construction would occur outside normal working hours to make critical connections (i.e. the electrical power line).

Q: Please consider the old Del Dios Highway (the dirt portion of Lake Drive heading west from the site).

A: We will consider this route during design.

Q: How long is the design phase?

A: Design will approximately three years beginning November 2002 and continuing through December 2005. Construction will begin Jan. 2006 and end Jan. 2008.

Q: When will we pursue the issue of keeping the Lake open throughout construction?

A: We will have a better idea once the project design reaches 30 percent design, which will occur in about one year – October 2003.

Q: Do you know what the current water level of Lake Hodges is under I-15?

A: The area under I-15 is currently dry. The ground surface is approximately elevation 300.

Q: How can I get a copy of the EIR?

A: The EIR is now on compact disk available from the Water Authority. We will arrange a CD to be sent to your council president.



Q: How will the energy be used?

A: The energy generated from the Olivenhain-Hodges Pumped Storage Project will be transmitted directly to the existing power grid.

Q: Once the pump station starts pumping, will access to the Lake be impacted?

A: There will be buoys or some form of protection at the inlet/outlet pipe or channel to the pump station.

Q: Will you still be able to walk by?

A: Yes. The EIR states the road and affected trails will be relocated around the project site.

Q: How loud will the turbine noise be?

A: The noise level at the edge of the property line will be at or below the County of San Diego noise standards, which is about 50 decibels.

Q: Will there be a fence around the pump station?

A: Yes, for security.

Q: Will use of the main trail be open during construction?

A: The EIR states it will not; however, we plan to consider options to keep part of the trail open.

Q: Will you remove the Sycamore tree that exists where the pump station will be?

A: We have identified the location of the Sycamore tree and will try to design the facility so it will not be damaged during construction.

Q: Do you have concern with going under people's property?

A: We are going so far under homes – about 100 to 500 feet – and the material is hard rock, so there is little chance for noise or vibration impacts to residents and their homes.

Q: Will you run electrical lines under the ground?

A: The EIR identifies above ground electric lines on power poles from the pump station to the existing 69-kilovolt power line. As part of the design, we will evaluate the cost of running the electric line underground at the request of the Del Dios Town Council.

Q: Have you considered working with the City of San Diego to look at a new access route that could be left as a legacy to residents near and users of Lake Hodges?

A: We will consider this.

Q: Do right-of-ways need to be purchased for the new route?

A: Yes. We plan on purchasing underground easements for the tunnel route.

Q: Can you provide a schedule for design and key design submittal dates?

A: Yes. We will bring the schedule next time we meet with the Del Dios Town Council.

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