

# EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT OLIVENHAIN DAM COMMUNITY UPDATE SUMMARY

**DATE:** November 12, 2003

**TIME:** 7 p.m.

**ORGANIZATION:** Del Dios Town Council

**MEETING LOCATION:** Del Dios Fire Station

**PRESENTERS:** Joe Bride, San Diego County Water Authority  
Jim Lindell, MWH Americas, Inc.

**STAFF RESOURCES:** Alex Newton and John Crayton, San Diego County Water Authority; Rebecca Cole, Katz & Associates; George Johnson, Jacobs Civil.

## **PRESENTATION SUMMARY:**

### **Update Presentation on the Lake Hodges Project**

Joe Bride began the presentation update on the Lake Hodges Projects. He indicated the 30 percent design had been completed and the 60 percent is due in March 2004. He introduced Jacobs Civil, Inc. as the selected Construction Management firm. Joe indicated the 30 percent geotechnical drilling is complete and good data was compiled. As promised during the June 2003 meeting, Joe indicated an arborist was hired to look at the sycamore tree off of Lake Drive, in the vicinity of the proposed pump station. The arborist concluded the tree is not doing well, and had a life expectancy of two years. If anyone is interested in receiving a report from the arborist, please contact Joe at [jbride@sdcwa.org](mailto:jbride@sdcwa.org). Joe then introduced Jim Lindell from MWH, design project manager, to continue the presentation.

Jim stated the project is still in the early design stage, and the information is preliminary in nature. They have determined the horizontal and vertical alignments of the tunnel, and Jim presented this using a project map. Two alternatives remain for the vertical alignments. The contractor may select the "Drill and Blast" tunneling method and therefore follow the shallower alignment. If the contractor selects the "Tunnel Boring Machine" method, the deeper alignment will be necessary. Both vertical alignments offer identical hydraulic performances.

Also, the design continues to examine two alternatives for the finished tunnel diameter (10 versus 12 feet). The 12-foot diameter would allow for future project expansion. Jim also presented the pump station above ground structure size. It will be 25 feet high by 40 feet wide. However, the visual surface may end up being lower than 25 feet.



## **Questions and Comments Asked During the Meeting:**

**Q: How many feet will the tunnel be below the Nordstrom property?**

A: The tunnel will be approximately 100 feet below the property and in solid rock.

**Q: Which of the two options are you considering for generating electricity is the best?**

A: They are both about the same (hydraulically).

**Q: Is there a limit of electricity that you can guarantee?**

A: Yes. The project's hydroelectric permit, issued by the Federal Energy Regulation Committee, limits the turbine generating capacity at 40 megawatts.

**Q: Does expansion mean you will need a larger pipe?**

A: Expansion will allow the Water Authority to increase its capability of moving water back and forth.

**Q: Does this mean the size of the pipe into Lake Hodges won't be larger?**

A: We will not need a larger pipe.

**Q: Will residents be able to hear noise when electricity is being generated?**

A: It will be too far underground to hear. (A this point, Jim reviewed the underground profile using a project map.)

**Q: Is the spillway for Lake Hodges at 315 feet?**

A: Yes. Under the Emergency Storage Project, Lake Hodges will operate at Elevation 311 during the summer. It will operate at Elevation 296 during the winter to allow the reservoir to capture rainfall.

**Q: What is the current elevation of Lake Hodges?**

A: Elevation 270, which is lower than we need the lake to be for construction.



**Q: Has anyone estimated what percentage of the reservoir is useless because of sedimentation?**

A: That is referred to as dead storage and the City of San Diego is looking into that. There is some dead storage but I do not know the exact figures. After the meeting, we verified the dead storage volume below the weir at the Lake Hodges Dam is approximately 4,000 acre-feet.

**Q: Will the size of the pump station be similar to the size of this building (Del Dios fire station meeting room)?**

A: Without exact measuring, it appears this building is smaller than the pump station would be.

**Q: What was the original EIR size of the pump station?**

A: 40 feet by 200 feet. We have designed it much smaller than what was included in the EIR/EIS.

**Q: Where will the workers park?**

A: We have not identified an area for the workers to park. We are looking at City-owned property near the windsurfing area.

**Q: How long will the Coast-to-Crest trail and Lake Drive be displaced?**

A: Lake Drive will be closed during construction. The design team is working on reducing the duration of shutting down the Coast-to-Crest Trail. Safety is a serious issue.

**Q: Have you looked into driveways coming off the dirt road off Del Dios Highway?**

A: Our traffic engineer identified this as an extremely dangerous route. If used, we may need to install a temporary traffic light at Del Dios Highway and Rancho Drive to assist with traffic.

**Q: If you can install a traffic light there, why not at the dangerous intersection to the south, along Del Dios Highway?**

A: That intersection does not have adequate sight distance or a turning lane.

**Q: Will the road be paved for the construction trucks?**

A: Yes, we will do that to help keep dust minimized.



**Q: Has anyone looked at the turnouts off Del Dios that would go directly to the site?**

A: We do not own this property. This would cause the project's EIR/EIS to be reopened.

**Q: Can you reopen the EIR/EIS? Would it impact the project schedule?**

A: It can be reopened and it would cause great impact to the overall project schedule. Property acquisitions, survey work and appraisals are just a few areas that would need to be reevaluated if the EIR/EIS was reopened.

**Q: Why would you have to acquire the property? Could you obtain a temporary easement?**

A: It would still require the same type of process since the Water Authority must pay fair market value.

**Q: Why would you need to determine the fair market value to temporarily use a piece of property?**

A: The Water Authority is bonded to do this even for temporary usage of a property.

**Q: The project is not starting construction for awhile. What would a delay take - two years?**

A: Each process has its own effect and would be lengthy. It would be hard to guess how long the delay would be.

**Q: Is the property owned by private or public parties?**

A: Both.

**Q: When will you begin to truck out dirt?**

A: 2006.

**Q: Then why not put a road in that provides better access to the lake, may provide a contribution to the river park and minimizes impacts to residents? Why not reopen the EIR/EIS?**

A: We do not own the property, and the EIR/EIS did not address this route, however, we will provide ownership information at our next update. The road is not needed for the project, therefore



an environmental review would determine the least impactful alternative would be the Lake Drive route.

**Q: What do we need to do to start the process of reopening the EIR/EIS?**

A: As stated earlier, the project schedule, including agreements with the City of San Diego, would not allow reopening the EIR/EIS.

**C: This could be a project for combined use for the River Park and could help sway the City to help you use this land.**

**Q: If the River Park put in a road before you started construction, would you use it?**

A: We would consider using the road if somebody else built it.

**Q: If a better road becomes available before construction, will you consider it?**

A: Yes.

**Q: When is the no-turning-back point for making a final determination on which road to use?**

A: Before the trucks start driving on it.

**Q: Have you ever sat at Hernandez Hideaway during the week at 3 p.m. and watched all the near accidents?**

A: We have reviewed this area many times with our traffic engineers.

**Q: How much truck traffic will there be?**

A: Approximately four round-trip truck trips each hour.

**Q: Where will the material go?**

A: Once we hire a contractor, they will be required to find a site.



**Q: Once trucks arrive at Rancho Drive, do you know which way they will turn off Del Dios?**

A: That is not yet firm. Most likely they will travel north along Del Dios to Via Rancho Parkway.

**Q: What will the construction hours be?**

A: Work hours will be 7 a.m. to approximately 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. We tend not to work weekends or holidays.

**Q: Where will the trucks be waiting if there is a line to get into the site?**

A: This has yet to be determined, but trucks should be spaced out so lining up does not occur.

**Q: If you make any changes to the road, will it be restored to its original condition?**

A: Yes. The Water Authority typically requires the contractor to restore the road to pre-construction conditions.

**Q: Is construction expected to last two years?**

A: Yes.

**Q: During construction, will you bring water to the site for fire protection?**

A: Yes.

**Q: We are concerned the project will interfere with our wells, as we are a well community. Have you looked into this?**

A: It's our understanding that the local domestic wells are deep (up to 700 feet). Our project will not affect the deeper aquifers.

**Q: What is the location of the intake? Tim Smith has said in the past that he will look into this to help prevent any hazards to recreation activities on the lake.**

A. We intend to install a buoy system to protect the lake users from the inlet.

**Q: Will you cover the pipe or will fish be able to enter?**

A: We do not expect many fish. Regulatory agencies have not required us to use fish screens.



**Q: Won't you encounter other types of debris?**

A: We can use trash racks.

**Q: How can we put pressure on the City of San Diego to look into the condition of the trees in Lake Hodges before they grow to 80 feet and add debris to the lake?**

A: Several agencies, including the City of San Diego are reviewing this. Local elected representatives are the best resource.

**Q: When would the trees need to be removed to help you?**

A: 2007.

**Q: Has anyone thought about letting goats graze the area?**

A: Grazing animals provides another type of biological hazard for source drinking water.

**Q: Will the tunnel have any impacts on any land?**

A: No.

**Q: What is the velocity of water in the tunnel?**

A: 10 feet per second.

**Q: What type of rescue training will you have during construction?**

A: All rescue units will be trained.

**C: Rescue units are trained up to 300 feet. A 600-foot rescue is a mining rescue, and the nearest mining rescue area is located in the Montrose area near Glendale California.**

**C: OSHA will likely enforce restrictions.**

A: There will be other jurisdictions, too. A mining agency like OSHA will be involved.

###

