

Tim then mentioned that the Water Authority has received numerous Lake Hodges water-level questions. He presented a GIS aerial survey map with colors that represent the different water levels. He noted that Lake Hodges would not be lowered for construction as long as the current water level remains low. He explained that the dark blue was the current lake level of elevation 275 feet above sea level. The light blue area represented elevation 290 feet above sea level as anticipated at the time of initial construction. The purple area represented elevation 296 feet above sea level, the anticipated water level in the winter upon completion of the projects in 2008. The red area represented elevation 311 feet above sea level as anticipated in the summer. Finally, the yellow area represented elevation 315 feet above sea level at the dam spill level. He acknowledged that during the winter months, the level would be lowered to elevation 296 feet above mean sea level, as indicated, to capture rainfall and pump it to the Olivenhain Reservoir. He commented that the Water Authority would be working with resource agencies to clear the trees and brush around the lake in compliance with the Environmental Impact Report.

Tim also presented the current project timeline:

January 2005:	Site clearing (before gnatcatcher breeding season begins).
February – July 2005:	SDG&E brings power to the site, Transmission Line construction.
July 2005 – July 2007:	Tunnel construction.
December 2005 – December 2007	Pump station, Inlet-Outlet, and Switchyard construction.
October 2007:	Trees and brush will be cleared from the lake, after the sensitive species breeding and nesting seasons.
January 2008:	Project completion.
January 2008:	Reservoir filling begins (gradual process).

Questions and Comments During the Meeting:

Q. Where are the Christmas Tree Farm and Evergreen Nursery on the map?

A. The Christmas Tree Farm is near the yellow area, east of I-15.

Q. Will you clear the trees east of I-15?

A. The environmental document requires the removal of the trees. However, there are more than originally anticipated. The final decision will depend on what the resource agencies feel is necessary. San Dieguito/Rancho Sante Fe is working with the City of San Diego (owner of Lake Hodges) on the tree issue. They're currently working to clear some of the trees down near the current waterline right now.

Q. Is the top of the dam 315 feet?

A. Yes.

Q. What happens if an earthquake hits the dam (Olivenhain Dam)?

A. The dam was constructed to endure a high magnitude earthquake.

Q. Do you have a smaller version of the map showing the water levels?

A. We do have a PDF version. It will be sent to Drusilla Cursi, the Chair of the Del Dios Town Council.

Q. Have you considered dredging Lake Hodges?

A. No, we have not because dredging would not result in a gain of any storage capacity. Anything below 280 feet is not useful.

Q. We are concerned about the pipeline affecting our wells in the Mt. Israel area by causing fractures.

A. There are very few wells that are in proximity to the tunnel. Any fractures intersecting the tunnel that could potentially receive water from other areas will be sealed with a grout mix. All wells in the proximity of the tunnel will be closely monitored throughout construction.

Q. Do you have the money budgeted to take the water in Lake Hodges to its original level?

A. Yes, the Water Authority has budgeted the money to fill both the Olivenhain Reservoir and Lake Hodges. It costs approximately \$6 million to fill Lake Hodges. It is included in the Water Authority's operating budget and is part of an agreement with the City of San Diego.

Q. Where will the water come from to fill Lake Hodges?

A. From the Second Aqueduct via the Olivenhain Reservoir.

Q. Will you use the same equipment you used for the San Vicente pipeline?

A. Yes, we will likely use tunnel boring machines, however, we will be dealing with different types of rock. The machine will move at a rate of approximately 50 feet a day. It is anticipated that the tunnel boring portion will take approximately four to six months to complete. It will always be operating at least 100 feet below ground.

Q. Can the other agencies draw more than their allotted amounts of water based on the new elevations in Lake Hodges?

A. No, the flume at Lake Hodges Dam controls the amount of flow to other agencies and the new water levels have no effect on this. The amount of water other agencies can draw is defined in an existing agreement between the other agencies and the City of San Diego.

Q. When will you remove the trees and brush?

A. We will remove the trees right before we fill the lake to prevent disturbing the temporary habitat prematurely.

Q. Is there any agency that handles the environmental impact? Who will manage the wildlife?

A. The Army Corps of Engineers is one agency that oversees the environmental impact.

- Q. Will a barrier or liner be added on the back of the Lake Hodges dam?
A. Lake Hodges is a concrete dam so a liner wouldn't function like the liner at the earthen Olivenhain Dam. Lake Hodges Dam won't be up for retrofit consideration until 2017 when it is 100 years old.
- Q. Because the use of this lake is for emergency storage, will recreational use still be allowed? Will power boats be allowed?
A. Because the water level will be higher, recreational use will be benefited and is likely to increase. Decisions on what types of recreation will be allowed and whether powerboats are allowed will be made by the City of San Diego.
- Q. Who will be providing emergency services for tunnel workers?
A. The contractor will hire emergency services.
- Q. What about the dust from construction?
A. The contractor will hire water trucks to control the dust.
- Q. How do you plan on controlling people coming through our neighborhood to bypass the temporary stoplight?
A. The stoplight will be timed to encourage traffic to remain on Del Dios Highway instead of turning on Lake Drive as a bypass.
- Q. Who makes the decision about the lake's recreational uses?
A. The City of San Diego decides on recreational uses. Jesus Meda at the city of San Diego is a good contact for finding out more information about the City's intentions.
- Q. I'd like to ask another traffic light question. Where will it be?
A. At Rancho Drive and Del Dios Highway.
- Q. Could you consider placing a "No Turn on Red" sign at the temporary light?
A. This suggestion is very good. We will present this idea to the County of San Diego. Also, remember State Route 56 opens on July 19, which may ease traffic on Del Dios.
- C. This is a very big issue. It is a huge safety concern. Perhaps early warning signs could be placed to suggest alternative routes.
- Q. Will the trucks impact the morning and evening commute?
A. No, the trucks will only run during non-peak traffic hours.
- Q. What will happen if we get a lot of rain during construction? Will you be off-schedule because the lake level is too high for construction?
A. No, if heavy rains occur, the lake will be drained to the level needed for construction, as stated in the original plan.
- Q. Are you coordinating with the San Dieguito River Park JPA on the trail portion of the project?

- A. Yes. The trail will be open until it is relocated. We currently working with the JPA and will continue to work closely with the JPA regarding limited trail access and safety issues when construction starts.
- Q. Are you still planning on closing the lake during the entire construction project?
- A. No, just a portion of the lake near the project site will be closed for recreational access.
- Q. When will the traffic light be installed and removed?
- A. The light will be installed in approximately July 2005 and will be removed after construction is complete in approximately December 2007.
- Q. Will the trail level ever be below the lake level?
- A. No, the trail will never go below the high water line.
- Q. Six years ago, the first project manager told us we would have to put in sewers. Will sewers be required after construction?
- A. I do not know. I will check with **Tom Lambert** at the county. I do recall that Tom mentioned that the County was not interested in installing sewers in the area.
- Q. Once the project is completed, who will manage it?
- A. After completion, the project moves from the Water Authority's Engineering Department (managing design and construction) to the Operations and Maintenance Department for operations management. As part of the Water Authority's agreement with the City, the City of San Diego will still own and operate the lake following construction of the project, but the Water Authority will own 20,000 acre-feet of water storage.
- Q. What is the main purpose of the water in the lake?
- A. The main purpose is storage of water for emergencies during which supply from Metropolitan Water District is not available
- Q. What is the evaporation rate?
- A. It is approximately 4,000 acre-feet per year.
- Q. Does emergency storage of water limit recreational use in the lake? Would the water be safe to drink?
- A. No, the water must be sent to a water treatment plant before consumption. In an emergency situation, if the water treatment system were unavailable, there is a chlorine injection system that could be used to provide safe drinking water..
- Q. Where do we receive most of our water?
- A. In San Diego, we receive most of our water from the Metropolitan Water District. They receive two-thirds of their water supply from Northern California and one-third from the Colorado River. The Water Authority is looking to diversify its water supply. Right now the Water Authority receives almost 90 percent of its water from MWD and we want to decrease the dependency through diversification such as the Imperial Irrigation District water transfer and desalination.

Tim concluded the session by thanking everyone for attending and stating that the Water Authority would return in three or four months with another update.

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