

**EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT**  
**Lake Hodges Projects Update**  
**Meeting Summary**

**DATE:** October 12, 2005                      **TIME:** 7 p.m.

**ORGANIZATION:**                              Del Dios Town Council

**MEETING LOCATION:**                      Del Dios Fire Station, Escondido, Calif.

**ATTENDANCE:**                                14

**PRESENTERS:**                                Dave Chamberlain, SDCWA  
Joe Bride, SDCWA

**STAFF RESOURCES:**                      San Diego County Water Authority  
Alex Newton  
MWH Americas, Inc./Jacobs Civil, Inc.  
George Johnson, Gregg Degán  
Katz & Associates  
Rebecca Cole  
Jessica Berlin  
Kiewit Pacific Corporation  
Sean Menge

**PRESENTATION SUMMARY:**

Project Manager Dave Chamberlain provided responses to questions from the July Del Dios Town Council meeting. Regarding the well and groundwater monitoring program, the Water Authority will continue monitoring the wells that were monitored during the Olivenhain Dam project. Letters have also been sent to additional well owners along the tunnel alignment asking if they would like to participate in the program. Hargis & Associates, the well monitoring consultant from the Olivenhain Dam project, will continue to monitor wells during the Lake Hodges Projects. The report from Hargis & Associates on the previous well monitoring program has not been finalized yet, but it should be complete in the next couple of weeks. Well owners and other interested parties may receive a copy of the final report by contacting Alex Newton.

Regarding the Metropolitan Water District's Inland Feeder pipeline project, Alex handed out information to those who were interested. Another question from the last meeting was about adding a higher placed signal switch for horse riders on the temporary traffic signal that will be installed at Del Dios Highway and Rancho Drive. Dave Chamberlain said the project team looked into the horse button option and it is possible. The final question from the last meeting was regarding the status of the horse trails in the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. Alex Newton said Joey Randall, an Olivenhain Municipal Water District ranger, would give a briefing on the trails at the Olivenhain Town Hall, on Oct. 17. Joey Randall said he will take any questions or give tours of the reserve to anyone interested. His cell phone number is 760-415-6303.

Dave Chamberlain explained we are now several weeks into construction. Our goal is to meet with the community regularly throughout the project. The tunneling project is scheduled for completion in March 2007. The contract to build the pump house is currently out to bid and is expected to be awarded at the end of this year. Work on the pump house is scheduled to begin in January 2006 and extend until January 2008.

Joe Bride, Water Authority Construction Administrator for the Lake Hodges Projects, gave a construction update for the project. He said the first phase of the project was SDG&E installing power lines, from March to June 2005. The second phase of the project is the construction of the tunnel and pipeline. Kiewit Pacific is the contractor. Sean Menge is Kiewit's superintendent on the project. The tunnel will be 5,800 feet long and the contractor is currently 350 feet into the tunnel. The contractor is currently working two shifts, with blasts scheduled about 8 a.m., 1 p.m. and 9 p.m. The contractor is expected to begin working 24 hours in November 2005. The Water Authority requested permission from private homeowners to conduct pre-blast home surveys on four homes within 400 feet of the blasting. Permission was only granted on two homes.

Joe Bride explained that the Water Authority is working with the City of San Diego and other agencies to leave some of the material removed from the tunnel on the site, which will reduce the truck traffic required to haul it off site. Improvements have been made to the project entrance at Lake Drive and Rancho Drive. About 400 feet of asphalt was placed to reduce the noise and dust. Lake Drive was widened to about 10 feet to give trucks a better turning radius. This allows more equipment to be transported directly into the site instead of being offloaded at the parking lot across from Hernandez Hideaway. Rock was also installed in the parking lot across from Hernandez Hideaway. The Lake Drive access gate was moved further back from the road, away from residential property and rock was spread on part of the access road in order to reduce dust.

The Water Authority has been working with the River Park Joint Powers Association regarding access to the Coast to Crest Trail. Currently, the trail is open on weekends, but there may be times it could close on weekends for safety reasons. The contractor is trying hard to safely wrap everything up by Friday night in order to open the trail for the weekends. The current status of the trail is posted on the Water Authority's website at [www.sdcwa.org](http://www.sdcwa.org) (click on Infrastructure, then ESP, then Lake Hodges Projects). Fencing has been installed between Lake Drive and the trail to isolate the construction site for safety.

#### **Questions and Comments During the Presentation:**

- Q. Is the traffic signal at Del Dios Highway and Rancho Drive already installed?
- A. No, it is scheduled to be installed in December 2005 or January 2006.
  
- Q. Will the traffic signal be permanent?
- A. No, it is a temporary traffic signal that will be removed at the end of the project. It's being installed to mitigate traffic impacts associated with trucks turning onto Del Dios Highway.
  
- Q. Last weekend (Oct. 8-9) the trail was closed for part of the weekend. They opened it eventually, but it was closed for part of the day on Saturday.
- A. We will investigate that occurrence with the construction manager and the contractor.

- Q. How far into the tunnel are you now?  
A. We're currently 350 feet into the tunnel. The entire tunnel will be a total of 5,800 feet.
- Q. Approximately how much water is the tunnel yielding?  
A. None.
- Q. Both mine and my father's wells (the Detwilers) were on the well monitoring program last time, but this time my father's well is not on the list for the program. I would suggest that you include his well because it's not that much further down and it wouldn't cost you much more to do his as well.  
A. We can look into that.  
*(His father's well was subsequently included in the program.)*
- Q. You put the fence up along the trail, but now wildlife, like coyotes, can't access the lake to drink the water. They have to go out on the road at Lake Drive and Rancho Drive, which could be dangerous for them. Can you cut some holes in the fence so they can get through?  
A. We will have one of our environmental consultants evaluate the situation.  
*(The Water Authority consulted with its biologists who determined that cutting holes in the fence is not necessary. There are natural ravines along the fence line and wildlife can still access the lake.)*
- Q. There is a lot of light pollution coming from the site at night. Can you lower the lights at night or have motion sensors on the lights?  
A. We have had vandalism on the site at night so we must have the lights out there, but we'll talk to the contractor about lowering the lights so they don't shine into the community.  
*(The contractor has adjusted the lights to ensure they are pointed down towards the work area and not toward any homes. There are times when fog has settled into the area and the lights reflect off the fog. This could be part of the reason that nearby residents can see the lights shining up out of the site at night. It is necessary to keep the lights on throughout the night for security and safety reasons.)*
- Q. At what point will you be able to open up the trail during the week?  
A. When it is no longer a safety hazard for people to be on the trail we'll reopen it during the week again.
- Q. If you're going to start working 24 hours, does that mean you'll blast 24 hours?  
A. We'll begin working 24 hours when we're 800 feet into the tunnel (currently 350 feet into tunnel) and there will be three blast sequences per day. The last blast is typically scheduled for 9 p.m., however it could happen anytime.
- Q. Will we be able to acquire any of the material that's coming out of the tunnel? I'd like 20-30 tons if I possible.  
A. Possibly – talk to George Johnson to discuss logistics.

- Q. When will the trucks start to export the material?  
A. We're trying to eliminate all of the exporting, so there wouldn't be any trucks exporting the material.
- Q. Will you still need the stop light if you're not exporting the material?  
A. Yes. We will still have material and equipment deliveries.
- Q. Can you clarify the schedule for the blasting?  
A. Currently, the contractor blasts twice a day and eventually they will be blasting three times a day.
- Q. How many days a week do you work?  
A. Five days a week, but the contractor can go in on Saturdays, for maintenance and administrative work if they need to.
- Q. At what point do you do something about the groundwater intrusion? What is excessive?  
A. We do not expect groundwater intrusion to be excessive. The groundwater monitoring program will tell us if the tunnel project is affecting the local aquifer.
- Q. If you get into the aquifers for our wells and drain our wells it would take years to refill. How would you mitigate for that?  
A. We will monitor groundwater inflows throughout the project. We don't expect to impact any aquifers. If there is a proven correlation between tunnel inflows and reduced well water production, the Water Authority would accept responsibility for any damages to affected wells.
- Q. Where is the fault line that crosses the tunnel alignment?  
A. Dave Chamberlain pointed to the fault line's approximate location on the figure.
- Q. How far into the tunnel are you going each day?  
A. Approximately 20 to 30 feet a day.
- Q. What does the well monitoring entail?  
A. The monitoring process is described in the letters that were sent out.
- Q. What is the mitigation project going on near the San Elijo Lagoon?  
A. That is the Manchester Wetland Creation project, which is one of the mitigation projects the Water Authority underwent as part of the Emergency Storage Project. For more information about that project go here:  
<http://www.sdcwa.org/infra/esp-environmental.phtml>.
- Q. How come you're spending mitigation money there? Are there any mitigation projects going on here?  
A. In many cases, the mitigation projects the Water Authority takes on are developed from a regional list with priority established by the resource agencies. Our preference would be to do mitigation on site, but these same resource agencies would rather have the Water

Authority provide mitigation adjacent to other large tracts of land that are preserved from future development.

- Q. The blasting affects the dogs and horses in the area. Will it get better as you get into the tunnel further?
- A. We have been working directly with the Nordstrom family and their horses. We monitored early blasts to see if the horses were spooked and we brought specialists in for the horses. From the initial blast there was no impact to the horses. We haven't heard about any impacts on dogs. As we get further into the tunnel, the noise and vibrations will diminish.
- Q. Is the entire tunnel going up hill?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How many feet is it from Lake Hodges to Del Dios Highway?
- A. Approximately 1,500 feet.
- Q. The tunnel will be finished in 2007, but will the excavation be finished in 2006?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Can you put smaller charges in for the blasting and have less of an impact?
- A. Blasting is closely monitored and charges will be reduced to assure that blasting intensities stay below specified maximums.
- Q. If my next door neighbor is shooting a 22-caliber gun, how does the sound of the blasting compare with that?
- A. The blasts sequence lasts about five to six seconds, and within that time you may hear about six or seven distinct pops.
- Q. Who's in charge of the restoration of the site, including landscaping the area, etc. after you're done?
- A. The Water Authority is responsible for that. It will probably be a separate contract, and it'll be the last item of work in early 2008.
- Q. What is the tonnage on the trucks that drive on Rancho Drive?
- A. They are within the legal load limit.
- Q. In 2008, will the 400 feet of pavement on Lake Drive be taken out and put back to dirt?
- A. No.
- Q. There are two sets of trailers out on the site – whose are they?
- A. One set of field offices is for Kiewit, the contractor, and the other set is for the Water Authority.
- Q. Are the power lines up?
- A. Yes.

Q. Are they going to move?

A. No.

Q. What is the pump station going to look like?

A. We have the architectural plans, and we can bring them to a future meeting.

Q. Will the Coast to Crest Trail be between Lake Drive and the pump station?

A. The trail will stay along the lake side of Lake Drive.

Q. Where will the pump station go?

A. It will be where the pile of rocks and material from the tunnel is currently placed.

Q. How big will the pump station be?

A. It will be 50 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 18 feet tall. In the certified EIR for the project, the pump station was approved to be 200 feet long, 50 feet wide, and 18 feet tall. It will be 120 feet below ground. The pump station is now planned to be much smaller than what was originally certified in the EIR.

Q. Will you be building a dam or will you be dropping the level of the lake to build the inlet/outlet structure?

A. The contractor will probably build a coffer dam in order to construct the inlet/outlet structure.

Q. Aren't they going to have to do something with the trees on the other side of the lake?

A. At some point, when the lake level goes down, the trees will be removed.

Q. Is there a restoration plan somewhere for the construction site?

A. Yes, we can bring it to a future meeting.

Q. The pump station building is going to be 18 feet high out of the ground? Will there be a lot of trees around it?

A. We can work with you on the architectural enhancements and landscaping around the pump station. We want to work with you and your input is encouraged.

Q. The pump station will be 120 feet below ground, so it'll be 138 feet tall total?

A. Yes, with the bulk of the pump station below ground.

Q. During the Olivenhain Dam construction, an art project was incorporated in – is something like that planned for the pump station?

A. No art work is planned for the pump station. However, we would encourage your input for the pump station. The Water Authority didn't have a part in the decision making process for the art project during the dam construction. It was an Olivenhain Municipal Water District project.

Q. But, if we come up with a neat idea, you'll listen?

A. Yes.

Q. How deep is the inlet/outlet structure?

A. About 120 feet below the lake.

Q. On those issues that you were going to look into, how will we find out the answers?

A. Regarding the two most urgent issues – the lights on the project site and the holes in the fencing for wildlife – we'll look into those right away and when we have an answer we'll let Sue Scott, president of the Del Dios Town Council, know the answers. We'll also continue to update you through community letters and quarterly updates at the Del Dios Town Council meetings.

*(These things were both completed – Sue Scott was notified of the answers and a community letter was sent Nov. 4, 2005. The letter is also posted on the website. If you did not receive the community letter and you are interested in receiving future letters, please call the project information line at 1-877-426-2010.)*

*Dave Chamberlain concluded the session by thanking everyone for attending.*

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