

Dave mentioned that during the period of active construction, windsurfing would not be allowed due to the safety issues.

Questions and Comments during Dave's Presentation:

- Q. You said during the EIR process (about five years ago), windsurfing would be closed 18 months; now you are saying it will be 48 months?
- A. The Water Authority will investigate what was previously communicated (check meeting records, EIR) and will answer the question at the next Council meeting.
- Q: Will equipment get stuck in the mud if you try to clear more trees?
- A: If necessary, the contractor will use truck equipment that can work in wet soils.
- Q: Is Santa Fe no longer taking water from Lake Hodges?
- A: Santa Fe Irrigation District and San Dieguito Water District are currently taking water from the Lake Hodges flume.
- Q: How will you drain the lake?
- A: Our preference for draining the lake would be for the water districts to use as much of the water as possible to prevent any wasting of the water. Depending on rain and water demands, some water may have to be wasted.
- Q: With fire season approaching, could you brush the area but not chip it?
- A: The contractor will be required to submit a Site Safety Plan. The plan will include procedures for removing potential brush fire fuel, whether chipping or smothering with track loaders.
- Q: Will you knock down the trees due to raptor nesting?
- A: We halted tree removal because we received calls from the community asking us to. It is rare for raptors to nest in eucalyptus trees but we halted the removal anyway. We are conducting additional biological assessments to determine if we need to cut down any remaining trees. We will try not to.
- Q: During the fire season all that grass will be a threat. What will you do about construction workers smoking and heavy, hot equipment?
- A: The entire construction area has been designated a no smoking area. Fines of \$1,000 will be imposed for each smoking infraction. The staging area will be developed by the contractor. The contractor will have water at the site for dust mitigation and fire protection.
- Q: Why will the brush be removed by the end of May even though the contractor won't be on board until June or July?
- A: EIR documents required us to clear coastal sage scrub prior to gnatcatcher breeding season, which extends from February through June.
- Q. If you do not drain the lake, will you build a coffer dam?
- A. We will build a coffer dam even if the lake level is not lowered.
- Q. What percentage of Lake Hodges has fallen to sedimentation?

- A. The lake originally held approximately 33,700 acre-feet of water. A 1999 study indicated the lake held approximately 30,250 acre-feet.
- Q. What level will the lake be maintained at once it is connected to the Olivenhain Dam?
- A. From September to February, the target elevation is 296. From May to June, the target elevation is 311.
- Q. In our local newsletter, an article mentioned the Water Authority was instituting condemnation to obtain the rights to an easement. Is this true?
- A. Yes. The tunnel alignment traverses under 12 properties. The Water Authority has reached an agreement with seven property owners. We have not reached an agreement with the remaining property owners, but will continue to meet and negotiate acceptable easement acquisition agreements. However, in order to acquire the easements prior to construction, the Water Authority may have to acquire the easements through the eminent domain process.

Dave then introduced Scott Creider from SDG&E.

Scott explained the recent rains have delayed SDG&E's construction schedule. He said grading will start Friday, March 11 because the ground appears to be dry enough for equipment. He explained that construction of the access roads will take about three weeks and, if the weather permits, the pads will be placed in late March or early April. Grading for the poles will occur in May and they will string the conductors in June.

Questions and Comments during Scott's Presentation:

- Q. Will there be a maintenance road under the poles?
- A. Yes, it will be constructed first.
- Q. Will you crush rock along Lake Drive?
- A. I am unsure about that, but I will look into that and report back.
- Q. The access road to Balboa is a place where people drop tree trimmings and extraneous materials. Will you have a barrier in place to prevent people from going up that road?
- A. We cannot block a public street.
- Q. Will the transmission lines be harmful to birds?
- A. We put mitigation on the poles to minimize this.

Dave Chamberlain concluded the session by thanking everyone for attending and stating that the Water Authority would return in June or July, when the contractor is expected to be hired, for another update.

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