EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT
Lake Hodges Projects Update
Meeting Summary

DATE: June 8, 2005
TIME: 7 p.m.
ORGANIZATION: Del Dios Town Council
MEETING LOCATION: Del Dios Fire Station, Escondido, Calif.
ATTENDANCE: 14
PRESENTERS: Joe Bride, Dave Chamberlain, SDCWA
Scott Creider, SDG&E

STAFF RESOURCES: San Diego County Water Authority
Dave Chamberlain, Joe Bride
MWH Americas, Inc./Jacobs Civil, Inc.
Jim Lindell, George Johnson, Gregg Degan
Katz & Associates
Rebecca Cole
SDG&E
Scott Creider, Public Affairs Officer

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Purpose of the meeting

San Diego County Water Authority Project Engineer Joe Bride greeted the members in attendance and informed them the Water Authority has awarded the Lake Hodges Project contract to Kiewit Pacific Corporation (KPC), the same firm that built the Olivenhain Dam. KPC began initial work June 6, which consisted of brush removal, erosion control and storm drain work. Main project work will begin in July. Joe said the tunnel work from Lake Hodges to the Olivenhain Dam will begin early in August and end in fall 2006. Three shifts will work on the tunnel portion of the project. Work on the pump station will begin in January 2006 by Lake Drive and end in January 2008. Joe concluded by saying signage will be installed once the dirt portion of Lake Drive is closed and he asked the community to provide feedback on the signage.

San Diego County Water Authority Project Manager Dave Chamberlain said the Water Authority team members met with the Riverwalk JPA regarding the Coast to Crest trail last week. Dave said the trail will remain open until the Fourth of July weekend and on July 9 (to accommodate a community tour). The trail will be closed after July 4th, during working hours. The project team will try to establish a safe detour for the trail to be open on weekends, however, safety is top priority. Dave said the Water Authority revised its lease agreement with the city of San Diego. By doing so, the Water Authority gave a portion of land back to the city to accommodate windsurfers. The city and windsurfers are currently working on an agreement to possibly allow windsurfing on weekends.
The Water Authority will have to work with the windsurfers and the city to try to allow access to the windsurfing area on weekends, via Lake Drive. Access may not be granted, safety is top priority.

Scott Creider of SDG&E informed the group that three of the four transmission polls have been erected. The last poll is scheduled to be erected in the next 10 days and then stringing the conductors will begin. Scott said per residents’ request, SDG&E installed a gate on the Balboa side of Lake Drive.

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

Q. How will the Water Authority drain the lake?
A. We have spoken with the city of San Diego, Caltrans and the Riverwalk JPA regarding their respective projects and the need for the lowering of the lake. The pedestrian bridge work is set to begin in September but the lake is full. Caltrans also wants to lower the lake in January 2006. Cost to drain the full lake is expensive and talks continue about options to proceed.

Q: All promises the project team has made over the past years have been violated. Water trucks to mitigate dust, project hours, a contractor taking his girlfriend on a joyride, steeling water from our district and more has all occurred and I have examples of these violations with the time and day on video for any community member to see.
A: (From the Water Authority) We do not minimize the impacts that will occur to the community as a result of our projects. SDG&E’s contractor that began work on the transmission lines was a very aggressive contractor because they were so delayed from the rains earlier this year. There were violations from that contractor. We were notified by community members and we worked in conjunction with SDG&E to resolve the situation. After the initial complaints, we have heard of no other violations. If there are violations, please contact our information line. We also have placed George Johnson, a member of our construction management firm, at the site to monitor and manage work at the site. (George Johnson identified himself and provided his cell number to the group.) Currently, George is on site every day from the late morning until the early evening or as needed. Regarding reports that the contractor stole water, the contractor provided the contact information of the Del Dios Council person that gave them permission to use water from the Del Dios Water District. We will provide that information to the council. In regards to the Cain’s specifically, SDG&E was gracious and provided housekeeping and other services in response to their complaints.
A: (From SDG&E) It was our contractor who was problematic. The Water Authority clamped down on us, and we clamped down on our contractor. The problems reported by the community were caused by our contractor and we worked very hard to reconcile the situation, and we did. We are sorry for the initial work violations.

Q: Will kayakers have access to the lake?
A: No, kayakers access the lake from the boat ramp on the east side. Construction will not impact the boat ramp area.

Q: Who will cut the trees down?
A: If the lake is lowered, the Water Authority will. The Water Authority will clear trees within a band between elevation 290 and elevation 315 (which is the level the lake is when full).
Q: You mentioned there will be three shifts at one point on the project. During shift changes, will these workers be traveling through our community?
A: Shift change traffic will only produce approximately 10 passenger vehicles at the most. Equipment and material deliveries will occur during normal trucking hours.

Q: Is it possible to have shift change traffic use the road behind the dam keeper's house?
A: The city of San Diego has informed us the road is too hazardous.

Q: How long will the three shifts run?
A: Six to nine months.

Q: I thought the project was scheduled to take 18 months?
A: Construction has started and will be complete by January 2008, as scheduled.

Q: Will you construct a vertical fence to allow air to reach tunnel workers?
A: There will be a 150-foot vertical shaft with a ventilation system.

Q: Will you be using combustion engines?
A: The contractor will use diesel trucks with ventilators.

Q: Will dirt be taken out of the tunnel with conveyer belts?
A: The contractor will use muck loaders.

Q: Will you build the pipe as you go?
A: No, we will excavate first. Then install the pipe, weld and grout.

Q: So the shift work will be for which part?
A: The mining portion of the tunnel.

Q: What is the shoot portion of drill and shoot?
A: Explosives.

Q: What kind of rock did you find?
A: Granite diorite.

Q: I heard the rock has strength of 16,000 psi?
A: The rock has strength of 65,000 psi (pounds per square inch).

Q: How will you keep walkers/hikers off the trail during construction?
A: The contractor will use signage and fencing. We also hope the community will embrace the fact that they must stay off the road during construction Monday through Friday. Please respect the signage.

Q: When is the trail open?
A: The Coast to Crest Trail will be open except during work to relocate the road and to build the coffer dam.
Q. What method will be used to haul away the muck?
A. The contractor has proposed to process material on site and use it to grade Lake Drive and the future windsurfers staging area. The proposal is being reviewed by the city. The proposal could eliminate the need to export 60,000 cubic yards of tunnel muck from the site.

Q. What process will they use?
A. Rock crushers will be used to grind the material.

Q. Rock crushers are loud. Will they be used 24 hours a day?
A. No.

Q. Will they have batch plants on site?
A. The contractor will use ready mix material. The specifics are still being worked out with the contractor.

Q. Will you send us all the project requirements that you must abide by, such as hours of construction?
A. Yes, we will include that in the next community letter. (Those in attendance were shown a copy of the ESP Update, a quarterly newsletter sent to communities near Emergency Storage Projects and told about frequent letters sent to the Del Dios community about progress on the Lake Hodges projects, both which are posted on the Water Authority's Web site.)

Q. Are any more trees coming down?
A. No.

Q. Will you come back to the next meeting to report on the first month's worth of work?
A. Yes.

Dave Chamberlain concluded the session by thanking everyone for attending.

###