

EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT
Lake Hodges Projects Update
Meeting Summary

DATE: February 8, 2006 **TIME:** 7 p.m.

ORGANIZATION: Del Dios Town Council

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

ATTENDANCE: 15

PRESENTERS: Joe Bride, SDCWA
Alex Newton, SDCWA

STAFF RESOURCES: San Diego County Water Authority
Kelly Rodgers
Jacobs Civil, Inc.
George Johnson
Katz & Associates
Jessica Berlin
Kiewit Pacific Corporation
Sean Menge

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Joe Ferguson, Del Dios Town Council co-chair, welcomed the Water Authority staff and consultants to the community meeting. He explained the community's concerns regarding the traffic signal the Water Authority is planning to install at the corner of Rancho Drive and Del Dios Highway. The community is concerned the traffic signal will increase the amount of commuter traffic that cuts through the Del Dios community.

Alex Newton, Water Authority public affairs representative, thanked the town council for inviting the Water Authority to their meeting and introduced the rest of the team. He also explained that Dave Chamberlain, who normally gives the presentations, was not able to attend the meeting due to a family commitment.

Joe Bride, the Water Authority's Construction Administrator for the Lake Hodges Projects, gave an update on the project. He said safety is the Water Authority's number one priority and they have not had any serious injuries or accidents on the site since the project began. He thanked the community for their assistance in keeping everyone safe while they are on the Coast to Crest Trail and on the roads in the community.

Joe explained that Kiewit Pacific, the tunnel and pipeline contractor, is currently conducting site development work to relocate Lake Drive and expand the site to prepare for pump station construction work. Currently the tunnel is about 2,300 feet long of a total of 5,800 feet. The tunnel is past Del Dios Highway now and headed toward Olivenhain Reservoir. There has not been much

groundwater intrusion in the tunnel – the contractor has measured about three gallons per minute, which is considered negligible.

Bids for the pump station project have been received and the Water Authority board is expected to award the contract at its February board meeting. Work on the pump station should begin by March. Joe mentioned that at the last Del Dios Town Council community meeting the team attended there were some questions about the layout of the site and where the pump station would be located. Joe brought plans for the pump station site and passed the diagram around for the community members to see.

The Coast to Crest Trail is currently closed due to safety. The Water Authority will evaluate re-opening the trail once the pump station contractor begins work. Once the Water Authority has awarded the pump station contract, the team will reevaluate opening the trail and discuss options with the new contractor. Currently, it is not safe to have the trail open to the public because the site development work is occurring right at the trail, next to the lake. To get updates on the status of the trail, go to <http://www.sdcwa.org/infra/esp-lakehodgeprojects.phtml>.

Joe said Hargas & Associates has been conducting the well-monitoring program for the project, and they may do additional monitoring as the project continues. Since the monitoring began, there has been no change in the status of the wells. Kiewit will continue to do pre-blast home surveys for homes along the tunnel alignment as the tunneling nears homes.

Joe discussed the traffic signal to be installed at the intersection of Rancho Drive and Del Dios Highway. He said the Water Authority recently received comments from the County of San Diego Traffic department, regarding the traffic light submittal. These comments are being addressed by the design consultant. The Water Authority also received the letter from the Del Dios Town Council regarding its concerns about additional commuter traffic on Lake Drive due to the installation of a traffic signal. The Water Authority will review the town council's concerns and submit their ideas to the county along with the additional changes requested by the county. There was some discussion among the town council members about their ideal solution – a sign that limits the times cars can turn right on Rancho Drive from Del Dios Highway and other ideas. The town council will further discuss their ideas and inform the Water Authority of their recommendation. The Water Authority will forward the recommendation to the county for its review.

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

- Q. When will you reevaluate the opening of the Coast to Crest Trail?
A. After the pump station contractor is on site, which should be in March 2006.
- Q. Is the trail closed at Hernandez Hideaway?
A. Yes.
- Q. Why was the trail closed?
A. The contractor has been moving rock material across the trail to relocate Lake Drive, per the design specifications.
- Q. Are you projecting the trail will be closed for a couple months or more than that?

- A. We will analyze the situation once the new contractor is on board. Around the middle to end of March we will reevaluate.
- Q. How much money are you willing to spend to keep the trail open?
- A. It's not a matter of money; it's a matter of safety. There will be two contractors on site once the pump station contractor starts working and they'll be moving back and forth across the site. It's really hard to know when we'll be able to open the trail until the new contractor gets on the site and gets settled in. Right now it is not safe to have the trail open.
- Q. Did Kiewit bid on the pump station contract?
- A. Yes, but they were the high bidder.
- Q. Can you open the trail when they're not working – on the weekends?
- A. No, it is not safe for people to walk on the trail through the construction site even when there is no construction. The area where the trail is located is not flat anymore, dirt and rocks are being moved and there is construction equipment along the trail area. It is not safe to have the trail open.
- Q. Have you made progress on the artwork for the tunnel face like what was done at Olivenhain?
- A. There will be a separate construction package for the landscape design and we will look to the town council to get the community's input on what should be done.
- Q. Did you say there has not been "any water" or "heavy water" in the tunnel?
- A. Two to three gallons of water per minute have been measured in the tunnel.
- Q. In our community there are inadequate water distribution supplies for major fires. Is there any way we can tap into the Lake Hodges tunnel to get a supply of water to keep on hand in case of fires?
- A. The Water Authority cannot have any outside interest tap into its pipelines because of the security risk it poses to the Water Authority's aqueducts. Since 9/11 security measures have been increased. The Water Authority's pipelines and aqueducts do not supply water to individual residences – the water is for the entire region.
- Q. My husband and I live near your project site and we have no problems with the added traffic. We appreciate the work you've done. We've been able to work well with the Water Authority and think you've been doing a good job. But, we have some questions regarding the biological interests at the site:
- 1) To what extent will you be restoring the site after the construction is completed? Will you be replanting the natural vegetation, etc.? Will there be permanent buildings down at the windsurfer area?
 - 2) We are also concerned about the openings in the fence for the wildlife. We are in the heart of the wildlife, in the migratory corridor and predators can trap little critters. Deer can't get through the fence you installed. So, we think you should make larger and more frequent holes in the fence.
 - 3) We feel the night lighting you have on the site is overkill, even for safety issues.
- A. The three questions were answered as follows:

1) We have the designs for the restoration of the site and we can show those at the next meeting we come to. The Environmental Impact Report and other documents address restoration of the site. The only permanent building on the site will be the pump station – no other permanent buildings will be down at the windsurfer area. We have a lease agreement with the city of San Diego which states we will provide a parking lot for 50 cars to provide access to the windsurfer area when we're finished.

2) The Water Authority's biologists from Greystone have looked at the fence and determined there are already enough holes in the fence for the wildlife. The construction management team has not seen any deer on the site.

3) The lights on the site point down directly to the construction area and Kiewit cannot do anything more. They were toned down since the last town council meeting. They are running lights 24 hours and Cal-OSHA requires a certain level of lighting because there are workers on the site at night. The lights need to illuminate any areas where there is vehicular or foot traffic in order to meet OSHA safety requirements. Also, the fog reflects the lights back up into the community and Kiewit cannot control that. There are also shields on the backs of the lights.

Q. Are you required to plant trees in the windsurfer parking area or will it just be an open, flat area?

A. We are not required to plant trees in the parking area.

C. We'd like to revise that requirement – there should be some trees.

A. When we discuss the landscaping plans with the community we can look into that further. The Water Authority will also need to get the city's input.

Q. Will the parking area be black asphalt?

A. No, it is planned to be a crushed rock surface.

Q. Who can we talk to about our concerns regarding the size and scope of the windsurfer area parking lot?

A. The Water Authority has a lease with the City of San Diego Real Estate Department, which includes the specifications for the parking lot.

Q. Can you use wood chips for the parking lot area, rather than granite, to make it more attractive?

A. Wood chips are less expensive, but require more routine maintenance. We can discuss this more with the community in the future. The Water Authority will also need to get the city's input.

Q. Can you bring the plans for the restoration of the site to the town council before you go to bid on the landscaping contract?

A. Yes.

Q. When the grouting process starts on the tunnel, when will the truck traffic be on the roads?

A. The grouting will start at the other end of the tunnel (the Olivenhain side) and will begin in the fall of 2006. Trucks will have a window from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for deliveries and will take Del Dios Highway to Mt. Israel Road.

- Q. How many concrete trucks will be driving on Mt. Israel Road?
A. There will be 12 trips a day for 35 days.
- Q. Will you get the community's input on the artwork for the site?
A. Yes.
- Q. Have you been in contact with the San Dieguito River Park regarding draining the lake for their project?
A. Yes, we have been coordinating with both Caltrans and the San Dieguito River Park for their projects.
- Q. What was the verdict on the fish killing incident in the lake?
A. A small school of fish got caught when the contractor put the silt screens down in the lake to protect the rest of the lake from the construction. The water heated up, which caused algae to form and decreased the amount of oxygen in the water causing the fish behind the silt screen to die.
- Q. Will you submit our ideas about the traffic signal to the traffic engineers?
A. Yes, we will submit the ideas from the town council to the County of San Diego traffic engineers for their review. Any updates on this issue will be filtered through Mimi Tackaberry and Joe Ferguson, co-chairs for the Del Dios Town Council.
- C. The board met with you a couple months ago, and we asked you to ask everyone on the project team to slow down on Lake Drive. Everyone has been driving slower and it has been much better, so thank you.
- Q. Are you still planning on keeping the rock from the tunnel on the project site?
A. Yes. We felt it was going to better benefit the community to eliminate much of the truck traffic by not hauling the rock off site. The Water Authority found there were no adverse affects to keeping the rock on the site and we're saving thousands of truck trips on the community roads.
- Q. I asked the Water Authority if I could get two truck loads of the rock, but I was told you have to sell it – you can't give it away. That material came from my property so why can't I have it?
A. The Water Authority cannot give materials to the public because we can be potentially liable for that material. For example, during the Olivenhain Dam project, the Water Authority removed non-native Eucalyptus trees from the area and community members wanted the wood, but we could not allow it. The Water Authority cannot get involved in personal favors for the community.

Joe Bride and Alex Newton concluded the session by thanking everyone for attending.

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