PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Mimi Tackaberry, Del Dios Town Council co-chair, welcomed the Water Authority staff and consultants to the community meeting.

Joe Bride, the Water Authority’s Construction Administrator for the Lake Hodges Projects, gave an update on the project. He informed the community there was a safety accident at the site involving a miner who lacerated his arm from some rocks. He thanked the community for their assistance in keeping everyone safe while on the site by avoiding dangerous areas and helping the Water Authority achieve the safety goals.

Joe explained that the tunnel excavation has advanced approximately 4,000 out of a total of 5,800 feet. There has been very little groundwater intrusion into the tunnel. The contractor has measured about five gallons per minute, which is considered negligible. The Water Authority has hired a hydrogeologist consultant who has implemented a monitoring program to determine whether tunneling operations have impacted domestic water wells. No impacts to domestic water wells have been identified. The work at the shaft has also begun, and there will be approximately five vehicles near the Mount Israel community until fall.

Joe reported that Kiewit was successful in permanently placing over half of the tunnel muck on site, therefore reducing trucking by 3,000 truck trips. Additional material will be used by Archer Western, which will reduce exports of material out of the site. Archer Western, the pump station contractor, is
mobilizing on the site as well. Archer Western employees have been instructed to drive down Rancho Drive to access the site per the request of the Del Dios community.

Joe also explained the trucking hours have been revised from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday to 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. This change will reduce trucks from queuing up along the haul route, help construction stay on schedule, and increase site safety. Concrete trucks will now be permitted to begin accessing the site at 7:00 a.m. which will decrease the amount of concrete pouring days.

Alex Newton explained the components of a new enforcement plan to help the excessive traffic problems on Lake Drive. The plan entails the Water Authority employing an off-duty California Highway Patrol officer, during peak traffic hours, to patrol and ticket individuals exceeding the speed limit on Lake Drive and also those violating the traffic signage limiting certain traffic movements during these hours. Alex also explained that this program proved to be very effective during the construction of the Olivenhain Dam and only a short time of being operational. This enforcement plan is expected to begin in early to mid-summer.

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

Q. When will Coast to Crest Trail be reopened?
A. The Coast to Crest Trail will be closed indefinitely. For liability and safety reasons the Water Authority’s insurance carrier will not allow the trail to be open during construction. Alex Newton explained that he is working with the city of San Diego to potentially reroute the trail to minimize liability issues.

Q. Will there be unforeseen environmental impacts as a result of keeping the excess material and dirt on the site?
A. No. There are designated areas for the excess material. For example, it will be used for site development work and will be placed in the cofferdam.

Q. Will the excess rock material be visible at the site?
A. Yes. We will use material from the lake as top soil over the rock material.

Q. Will there be landscape work done at the completion of the project?
A. Yes. There will be a separate construction package for the landscape design. The Water Authority will look to the town council to create a landscape committee to get the community’s input on landscaping as the project nears completion. Residents interested in being on the landscape committee should submit their contact information to Mimi.

Q. Will there be blasting used to create the 120-foot-deep shaft?
A. Yes. The Contractor expects to will excavate approximately 30 to 40 feet and then use a drill and blast method to finish the shaft.

Q. Will you develop a tunnel in the lake to use as an outlet structure?
A. Yes. The project includes installation of an inlet/outlet structure, in the lake. The structure will connect to the pump station.
Q. Last week I witnessed several vans coming down Lake Drive. Were those employees going to the project site?
A. Those vans were used for a special site tour that day. There were no Kiewit or Archer Western workers in those vans.

Q. Will the whole area be restored at the completion of the project?
A. Yes. The landscape committees will provide input on restoration at the site.

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

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