

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

**DATE:** January 16, 2008

**TIME:** 7 p.m.

**ORGANIZATION:**

Del Dios Town Council

**MEETING LOCATION:**

Del Dios Fire Station, Escondido, California

**ATTENDANCE:**

30

**PRESENTERS:**

Jeremy Shepard, Project Manager, SDCWA  
Scott Robinson, Public Affairs Representative, SDCWA

**STAFF RESOURCES:**

Jessica Berlin, Katz & Associates

### **PRESENTATION SUMMARY:**

Scott Robinson, public affairs representative for the Lake Hodges Projects, introduced the project team and then gave an overview of the San Diego County Water Authority. He discussed the importance of conserving water. He mentioned that about 90 percent of the water used in San Diego is imported. He said that both the State Water Project and the Colorado River have experienced dry years recently and now the courts have mandated water reductions from the State Water Project. The Water Authority has started a voluntary conservation program and is asking all residents to save 20 gallons of water per day.

Scott said that we need to store more water locally and that the Water Authority's Emergency Storage Project stores more water in case the region is cut off from its imported water supplies. The Emergency Storage Project includes the Olivenhain Dam, the Lake Hodges Projects, and construction of the San Vicente Pipeline and the San Vicente Dam Raise. Once the Lake Hodges Projects are complete, Hodges will store 20,000 acre-feet of water for emergency uses. One acre-foot is the amount of water used by two families of four people for a year.

The Lake Hodges Projects will create enough energy annually for nearly 26,000 homes, which is 40 megawatts of power. These projects will also allow water to be captured during wet years and stored in Olivenhain Reservoir, rather than having the water spill over Hodges Dam.

Scott announced that a Lake Hodges Projects update letter had been mailed out and that the final meeting with the Lake Hodges Community Landscape Committee would be held next week (January 24).

Jeremy Shepard, project manager for the Lake Hodges Projects, reviewed the projects in more detail. He said that there are three phases to the project. The first phase was manufacturing the hydroelectric equipment. The second phase was building the tunnel and pipeline between Olivenhain Reservoir and Hodges Reservoir, which is now complete. The third phase is constructing the pump station and inlet-outlet structure.

Jeremy said that SDG&E completed its part of the electrical switchyard. He said that the pump station is 120 to 130 feet deep – 10 stories down. He explained how the water that goes through the pump station will generate electricity. He said the water from the Olivenhain to Lake Hodges Pipeline will split into two pipes before it enters the pump station, go through the pump station turbines, which will generate the electricity that will go to the electrical lines. The water comes out into the reservoir through the tailrace tunnel, which are two concrete tunnels that exit the pump station and converge into one larger concrete-lined tunnel into the inlet-outlet structure. There will be a trash rack at the end of the inlet-outlet structure that will prevent large debris from entering the pump station.

Jeremy explained that the Water Authority's contractor constructed a cellular cofferdam within Hodges Reservoir in order to create a dry area in the reservoir to construct the inlet-outlet structure. While the contractor was digging within the cofferdam, crews hit softer ground than they expected. These unexpected ground conditions require additional work including installing shotcrete and rock bolts. This has delayed the project, although at this time we do not know how long the delay will be. We are working with the contractor to mitigate the amount of time it will take to build the support inside the structure. We will be sure to let the community know when do have a timeframe for the delay.

#### Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

Q. Have you settled the water quality issues with Olivenhain Municipal Water District? What are you planning to do?

A. The Water Authority formed a Technical Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from many of the Water Authority's member agencies, including Olivenhain. The committee has drafted an operating plan for the reservoirs, which includes some criteria for when water can be moved to and from Olivenhain Reservoir from Hodges Reservoir. The issue is not resolved yet, but progress is being made on how water quality will be measured and how the plan will be implemented.

Q. The dam keeper said that a portion of Lake Hodges could be emptied to improve water quality and then refilled. Are you seriously considering doing that?

A. There is currently no means to empty the reservoir and we have no plans to do that.

Q. What depth is the tunnel in the water (in Hodges)?

A. The bottom of the tunnel that goes into Hodges Reservoir is 250 feet and the top will be at 285 feet. The normal operating level of the lake will be at 290 feet, so the top of the tunnel would be five feet deep in the water. There will also be a buoy system around the area to keep boaters out of the area.

**\*\*\*Note:** After reviewing the plans after the meeting, it was determined that the top of the inlet-outlet structure tunnel will be at 281 feet, which means that at under normal operating conditions there will be nine feet of water between the top of the tunnel and the water level.

Q. What portion of the inlet-outlet structure is complete?

A. None of the inlet-outlet structure is complete. A cofferdam has been built around the work area to keep the lake water out and allow work to be done in a dry area. Right now, they are digging in the area.

- Q. Is the new support system within the cofferdam full of rebar?  
A. No, the contractor drills holes into the face of the rock and then inserts rock bolts, then grouts the holes to hold it in place.
- Q. How much do you have to do to support it vertically?  
A. It varies. Approximately up to 30 feet.
- Q. How much time is this adding to the construction schedule?  
A. We don't know yet. Right now, we are focusing on how to minimize the problem and we are working on ideas to resolve it.
- Q. What was the original completion date?  
A. It was the end of 2008.
- Q. Are these quagga mussels an impact for operations?  
A. They could affect the project inevitably, but they haven't been found in Hodges Reservoir yet.
- Q. What's the problem with mussels?  
A. They attach to pipes and other filters and are difficult to remove.
- Q. Is the water cycling and electrical generation primarily in the summer or year-round?  
A. We will generate it as needed from SDG&E on a standby basis. But, the primary purpose of the Lake Hodges Projects is for emergency water storage.
- Q. Will SDG&E pay you no matter how much you pump?  
A. Revenue is generated primarily because of the fact that we are available to supply an alternate source of power, in case it is needed.
- Q. You said you'll be generating electricity for 26,000 homes annually, so are you planning on pumping on a daily cycle?  
A. Yes. We have to be ready to pump or generate on a daily basis.
- Q. Was the project site damaged in the fires?  
A. Yes, the fires extended the contract by eight days. It didn't hit most of the project site, but there was about \$500,000 in damages.
- Q. Are you insured for this damage?  
A. Yes.

*Jeremy Shepard and Scott Robinson concluded the session by thanking everyone for attending.*

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