EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT
Lake Hodges Projects Update
Meeting Summary

DATE: February 20, 2008	TIME: 7 p.m.
ORGANIZATION:	Del Dios Town Council
MEETING LOCATION:	Del Dios Fire Station, Escondido, California
ATTENDANCE:	7
PRESENTERS:	Gina Molise, Senior Public Affairs Representative, SDCWA Dick Rol, Manager of Planning and Design, Foothill Associates
STAFF RESOURCES:	Jeremy Shepherd, Project Manager, SDCWA Jessica Berlin, Katz & Associates Lesley Robin, Katz & Associates

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Gina Molise, senior public affairs representative for the Water Authority and the facilitator for the Lake Hodges Community Landscape Committee, introduced the project team and gave an overview of the current water supply situation in San Diego County. She emphasized that the region is reliant on water imported from hundreds of miles away. The pumps that deliver water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento Delta region to Southern California will reduce pumping operations this summer in order to help protect an endangered Delta fish. Recently a second endangered fish species has been identified in the Delta, which will extend the pumping cutbacks this summer. To avoid drawing down our reservoirs this year, which would reduce reserves that may be urgently needed next year, the Water Authority has launched a water conservation program: The 20-Gallon Challenge. The Water Authority asks all residents to save 20 gallons of water per day, per person, until the water supply situation improves -- which may not happen soon.

Gina showed a PowerPoint presentation about the work of the landscape committee. She defined the landscaping partners, reviewed the input from the committee and clarified the three areas on the project site to be restored with landscaping after construction is completed. The landscape committee provided 41 suggestions, of which 19 were high-importance items. Budget is always a consideration, but the Water Authority will use as many suggestions as possible. Gina emphasized that some remaining suggestions not yet approved may be considered as the project goes further.

Dick Rol, the Water Authority's landscape architect for the Lake Hodges Projects, explained his approach to the landscape design as a collaborative and inclusive design process. Both a landscape architect and an ecologist, he wants the design to be sensitive to the natural, scenic, and remote nature of the site. Drought tolerant plants have a better chance of survival when not irrigated and they blend in better as they fill in. He acknowledged that the recreational character of the site is very important. All the plants selected for the

landscape design are native, a mix of coastal sage scrub, and will cover the ground well and prevent erosion. The committee members had asked that the design include lots of trees and screening, so container plants will be used on the site to do that. There will be trees on either side of the hiking path. Coast Live Oaks are the only type of tree that will really do well on the project site, so they are only trees included in the landscape plan. They are native and will take a while to get established, but they are the best suited to survive without irrigation. Fast-growing shrubs will be planted to help fill in while the trees grow in.

Dick cautioned that some of the planted trees will not survive. The survival rate ten years after planting could range from a minimum of 50 percent to up to 90-95 percent if nature creates favorable weather conditions during those 10 years. The pump station will have water available for irrigation, and an irrigation schedule mimicking a typical rainy season will be established to get the plants used to a natural seasonal watering pattern.

One suggestion from the landscape committee that is incorporated into the conceptual landscape design is installing the security fence in a new location above the berm around the switchyard area so it is not so visually obvious to people walking on the trail. The design will include plans for an interpretive sign along the trail, but the content hasn't been determined.

Dick said that in the area of the windsurfing parking lot, hydroseed mix would be placed over the disturbed area. The mix and container plantings will help keep people from making footpaths over to the water. A water truck can use water from the pump station to hand-water this area.

Dick concluded the PowerPoint presentation with "before" and "after" still images of the three areas to be landscaped, based on computer modeling of the conceptual landscape design. The "before" images represented the project site after Water Authority construction before the landscaping is installed. The "after" images were of the project site 10 years after the landscaping has been installed.

Dick then showed an animated video model showing the project site both before, and ten years after, landscaping. The views shown in the animation included the pump station area, the windsurfing parking lot, and the trail access area, along the Coast to Crest Trail and a view from the Lake Hodges Hills community across the water toward the construction site.

Dick offered a preview of the next steps for the landscaping project. Since the landscape committee has approved the conceptual design and it has been presented to the Del Dios Town Council, the next step is for Dick to finalize the design and develop the detailed construction plans. That design will take about a year. Then, the Water Authority will go out to bid for a landscape contractor. After the work is awarded to a contractor, Dick will continue to provide oversight during construction and installation of the plant materials. Following the installation of materials, the site will be monitored to see how the plant materials are doing. Dick will support the bid process, provide some oversight during construction, and work with the contractor once the plant materials are in the ground. A company will be hired to do the routine monitoring of the site after all the planting is done.

After Dick's presentation, members of the audience commented that they were very impressed with the plan and the visual presentation, and acknowledged the work of the landscape committee. A committee member said that the presentation was very impressive and that the animation was especially appreciated.

Dick Rol and Gina Molise then provided a handout of the list of suggestions from the landscape committee for the audience to take (included at the end of the meeting summary).

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

Q. The pumps in the Delta are going to be shut down because of the Delta smelt?
A. The fish are endangered and a judge has ruled that the pump operations are harming their population.

Q. One area of the site has been hydroseeded already; is this part of the landscape plan?
A. It is not part of the future plantings, but when the planting does begin, if it not working out well, it will be reseeded.

Q. There are Coast Live Oaks in the area now?
A. Yes, there are many Coast Live Oaks already in the area.

Q. Have you made a decision to go with the one-gallon or five-gallon container plants?
A. The committee wanted one-gallon plants, which will allow for more plants to be placed on the site because they are less costly than the five-gallon plants. Dick said he had originally designed for five-gallon plants.

Q. Which direction does the land in that area drain?
A. Jeremy Shepard showed the area on a poster board and said that it drained toward the lake.

Q. Could you use the direction of the drainage to help water the plants in the parking area?
A. That is a good suggestion. We will look into that.

Q. In the simulation, is the security fence shown as high as it is supposed to be, even though you cannot see it once the plant materials have grown to cover it?
A. Yes, it is at the correct height.

Q. What type of computer program was used to make the animated plant growth projected visuals?
A. “Visual Nature Studio” program.

Q. Can the animated video simulation be put on the Water Authority’s website so that other people can see it?
A. We will look into putting it on the website or, if that is not possible, we will look into making a link to view it on the Foothill Associates website.

Q. Will there still be good security if the bushes get too big next to the fence?
A. The bushes will be kept trimmed so that the fence functions well as a security measure. The landscape committee also suggested installing prickly pear cactus at the fence edge as an additional security measure, and this has been included in the design.

Q. I’ve heard about water quality issues at the lake. Where would a pretreatment plant go?
A. Jeremy responded that treatment of Hodges Reservoir water is speculative at this time. There might be different options, even if a pretreatment plant is not implemented. It would take several

years to get a project like that under way. The Water Authority would be back to talk to the community if that were the case.

Gina Molise and Dick Rol concluded the session by thanking everyone for attending.

Attachment:
PowerPoint presentation (following the landscape plan images)

(The Lake Hodges Community Landscape Committee "Community& Committee Recommendations" and the PowerPoint presentation shown at the meeting are on the following pages.)

# # #

Lake Hodges Community Landscape Committee
Community & Committee Recommendations

From Sept. 27, 2007 Meeting

Committee members in attendance: Suzette Amon, Mike Kratz, Dave Risoff
Committee members absent: Joe Ferguson, Georgie Birch, Peter Jones

✱ = votes for top-priority suggestion; received from 5 committee members

✓ = Incorporated into conceptual design for landscape

Note: other suggestions may be incorporated into the plan as the design progresses

Goals & Desired Outcomes – broad suggestions

✓	✱ ✱	Focus on long term outcome instead of the short term results
✓	✱ ✱	Establish habitat for wildlife, including plants to create butterly garden – aschlepia fascicularis
	✱	Focus on maximizing survival of landscaping INSTEAD of creating wildlife habitat
✓		Maximize survival of plantings
✓		Focus funds and efforts on a visual buffer outside the security fence
✓	✱	Return the parking lot areas to natives; use local species

Planting suggestions

	✱	Use minimal or no hydroseeding
✓	✱	Use plants no larger than 5 gallons to increase survival and reduce costs
✓	✱	Plant as many sycamores as possible for variety
✓		Plant trees at the parking lot—provide shade along the shoreline
		Restore wildflowers along Lake Drive (i.e. Indian paintbrush, shooting star and fuschia gooseberry)
		Modify the hydroseed mix according to specific location to ensure maximum wildlife habitat, and ensure maximum survival rate of the germinating hydroseed
✓	✱	Plant native beavertail cactus outside fence – use local species like opuntia littoralis
✓		Plant ceanothus on north-facing slopes – use ceanothus verrucosus, ceanothus tomentosus
		Plant smaller oaks along with larger oaks (to reproduce size groupings observed in nature)
		Use sarcostemma cynanchoides (climbing butterfly plant, for fence hiding and butterflies)

Methods & Means – more detailed implementation suggestions

✓		Investigate irrigation options
✓	*	Leave room between the trees at the parking lot for windsurfing boards to be carried to shore
		Use pine or oak mulch around trees
		Use shredded mulch at plant bases
		Use local "A-1 Soils" to support local businesses
	*	Import Gorilla Hair mulch
		Allow community to review specifications for the landscape contractor
✓	* *	Relocate security fence located along Lake Drive (to west side of berm)
✓		Examine the grading plans to identify moisture areas capable of supporting sycamores
	*	Provide topsoil that can support plants
		Provide the parking lot grading plan
		Minimize visual impact of security fence by installing black fence fabric
		Grade earthen areas near proposed sycamores to collect water for trees
	*	Provide access for vehicle and foot traffic from parking loop to upper parking area at windsurf area
✓	*	Place trees in parking lot for shade
✓	*	Place trees (sycamore recommended) near shore on both ends of riprap that will line shore in front of pump station inlet-outlet structure
		Paint crane (currently designated yellow) to minimize its visual impact
✓	*	Plant oaks as close together as possible along berm in front of pump station
✓	* *	Screen structures with coastal live oak—as many trees as possible to hide the buildings
✓	* * *	Plant oaks along Lake Drive by pump station to create tree canopy, like along northern section of Lake Drive
✓	*	Provide irrigation at parking lot (perhaps via quickcoupler connection to water supply at pump station to supply water truck, or solar-powered pump from lake
		Investigate fungicide product to preserve mulch
✓		Provide educational signage along stretch of trail the Water Authority will restore
		Extend maintenance and irrigation period for new landscaping
✓		Avoid having fence at parking lot

San Diego County Water Authority

Del Dios Town Council Landscape Design

February 20, 2008

Lake Hodges Projects

Landscaping Partners

- San Dieguito River Park JPA
- City of San Diego
- Water Authority – especially security needs
- SDG&E
- Environmental restoration requirements
- Landscape committee & community
  - Del Dios, Lake Hodges Hills, Lake Hodges Native Plant Club, San Diego Windsurf Association

Landscape Committee Input

- Types of native plants
- Locations for plants
- Short-term vs. long-term results
- Trail restoration
- Other priorities

Landscape Areas

1. Pump station area
2. Coast to Crest Trail
3. Windsurfing area parking lot

LEGEND

- Work Area 1 - Relocated Coast to Crest Trail
- Work Area 2 - Pump Station Site
- Work Area 3 - Parking/Staging Area

Community Input in Conceptual Design

Committee provided 41 suggestions:

- 19 identified by committee as priorities
  - Of these, 14 now incorporated into design
- 8 additional suggestions approved
- Other remaining suggestions may be considered later in design process

Landscape Design Approach

- Environmental correctness
  - Drought-tolerant plants
  - Native plant palette
  - Appropriate material selection
- Context-sensitive design
  - Visibility of project site
  - Native habitat
  - Recreational uses of area
- Collaborative & inclusive design process