

EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT
Lake Hodges Projects Update
Meeting Summary

DATE: May 14, 2008

TIME: 7 p.m.

ORGANIZATION:

Del Dios Town Council

MEETING LOCATION:

Del Dios Fire Station, Escondido, California

ATTENDANCE:

6

PRESENTERS:

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

STAFF RESOURCES:

Lesley Robin, Katz & Associates

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Scott Robinson, public affairs representative for the Lake Hodges Projects, gave an update on the current water supply situation in San Diego County. He said that to avoid drawing down our reservoirs this year, the region's imported water customers were in a Stage One conservation status, which asks for a voluntary 10 percent cutback. The 20-Gallon Challenge water conservation program asks that each person save 20 gallons a day, which is roughly 10 percent of the average daily water use in San Diego County. Scott mentioned that the Water Authority has the responsibility of supplying water to 3 million people and that conservation is very important.

Scott reviewed the current status of the San Vicente Dam Raise project. The San Vicente Dam Raise is part of the Water Authority's Emergency Storage Project, along with the Lake Hodges Projects. He said the Water Authority Board of Directors had approved the environmental impact report for the Carryover Storage Project to increase the height of San Vicente Dam another 63 feet in addition to the 54-foot increase already approved as part of the Emergency Storage Project. This brings the total increase to 117 feet above the current height of the dam.

Scott mentioned that security issues along the Coast to Crest Trail in the vicinity of the construction work were continuing and that the Water Authority had issued more notices on two online bulletin boards about the portions of the trail that were closed due to the Lake Hodges Projects. He said that new trail closure signs had been posted in the area to discourage trespassing and emphasized that different portions of the trail were closed for varying reasons. He asked that anyone observing trespassing to call the police or sheriff's office.

Scott reviewed the status of the delivery of a large piece of equipment to the construction site. The bifurcation pipe will be delivered on an oversized truck from Fontana, Calif. and be placed in the city of San Diego parking lot across the street from the Hernandez Hideaway restaurant until it can be transferred onto a smaller truck and driven into the project site. This aspect of the work will occur in the daytime hours. Scott said that the April 11 community update letter had first mentioned the upcoming delivery of this piece of equipment. He said that a letter from Jeremy Shepard had been mailed to the Del Dios community

residents on May 9 and it had also been posted on the Lake Hodges online bulletin groups and emailed to the Lake Hodges interested parties list. A follow-up notification letter with updated information was prepared and posted electronically on the Lake Hodges online news groups and emailed to the interested parties list on May 12. He said that the actual delivery date could change, but that the equipment was anticipated to arrive on May 19.

Scott said that door hangers would be delivered to homes in the close vicinity of the Hernandez Hideaway restaurant to be sure that those residents had received the advanced information about the equipment delivery. Scott and Jeremy displayed a diagram of the Lake Hodges Projects site that showed where the bifurcation pipe will be located, once it is installed adjacent to the pump station.

Note: Since the May 14 meeting, the delivery of the bifurcation pipe was delayed past the projected May 19 date. It arrived in the Del Dios area on May 28 and was delivered to the work site on May 30.

Jeremy Shepard, project manager for the Lake Hodges Projects, reviewed the construction activities. He said that the work had progressed on the pump station and cofferdam and that there were no significant project changes from the last presentation to the town council. He said that the area inside the cofferdam had to be excavated down 30 feet and the interior walls needed to be supported with concrete and soil nails. He said the excavation and supports were about one-half completed and should be totally completed in approximately one month. Jeremy said that crews were working on Saturdays to help mitigate the delays caused by encountering softer than expected ground conditions within the cofferdam.

In about one month, night work will begin on the remainder of the cofferdam exaction and tailrace tunnel. The work would involve some hauling and drilling holes inside the cofferdam excavation area. The contractor will perform all required noise mitigation for the night work. Jeremy said that this work would not be different from night work that had occurred previously during the pump station excavation. He said that blasting would need to occur over a few weeks span to finish excavating rock on the lake floor. The excavation is needed to complete a 40-foot section of the 200-foot tailrace tunnel that connects the inlet-outlet structure to the pump station. Jeremy anticipated that there would be only 9 or 10 blasts required over a two to three week period. All blasting will occur during the day. Jeremy said that the Water Authority would notify residents before the blasting begins.

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

- C. Members of the community told the Water Authority staff that previous night work had not been a problem for them and that they had not noticed any noise. They said they appreciated the efforts to keep the night work quiet.
- Q. How much more water will San Vicente Reservoir hold with all the additional height?
A. The reservoir will hold an additional 152,000 acre-feet above its current capacity. An acre-foot supplies the water needs for two average-size families with a home for one year.
- Q. Does San Vicente Reservoir hold imported water and runoff?
A. Yes, it captures runoff from the surrounding area, but primarily stores imported water.
- Q. What is the little lake that is visible as you drive into Rancho Santa Fe?

- A. It is not a Water Authority reservoir but could be a natural impoundment.
- Q. The water conservation measures are to cut back on imported water, correct?
- A. Our imported water supplies are typically split 60/40 percent between Colorado River and Northern California supplies. A federal judge ordered cutbacks on pumping water from Northern California in order to protect the Delta smelt, a threatened species of fish. The 30 percent cutbacks are for water deliveries originating from the Bay Delta.
- Q. Are the current court-ordered pumping restrictions imposed to save other endangered species, such as Salmon?
- A. The current pumping restrictions were ordered by U.S. District Court Judge Oliver Wanger in support of the Delta Smelt. Other species of fish were not part of the decision. However, impacts to other species of fish within the Bay Delta could affect future water deliveries to Southern California.
- Q. What caused the water cutbacks when we were in trouble about 15 years ago?
- A. The main reasons for strict conservation at that time were less snow pack in the mountains, a lack of storage to capture runoff, and a lack of interconnecting pipelines to move water around the local delivery system. The Water Authority is diversifying its water supply portfolio to become less dependant on imported water. We are looking into desalination and are supporting the desalination efforts of other agencies. The Quantification Settlement Agreement with other users of Colorado River water is also helping to diversify our water supplies.
- Q. What route will the pipe delivery truck take?
- A. It will travel south on Interstate 15 and then exit into the Lake Hodges area on Del Dios Highway.
- Q. How long will it take the delivery truck to get to Del Dios?
- A. The truck must drive very slowly and it is not possible to accurately predict when it will arrive. It may have to periodically pull off the road.
- Q. Will Lake Drive be closed at 6 a.m. on the day of the delivery?
- A. The road should be open completely until 7 a.m. because the crane cannot begin the transfer until after 7 a.m., which is the beginning of normal construction hours.
- Q. What will you do to notify people of the delivery date and time?
- A. On May 16, we plan to deliver door hangers to homes in the immediate vicinity of the restaurant and parking lot staging area. If the delivery schedule changes, we will notify the community.
- Q. Will there be traffic light boards on the roadways?
- A. The exact traffic plan has not been finalized at this time, but there will be signs in the city of San Diego parking lot advising when the lot will be closed so that it can be a safe staging area for the work.
- Q. How deep is the bottom of the pump station from ground level?
- A. The bottom of the pump station is 120 feet below ground level.
- Q. When will the blasting start?
- A. The blasting will start around the end of June.

- Q. What is the status of the electrical facility?
A. SDG&E is finished with its portion of the facility and the Water Authority is now working on its components of the electrical switchyard facility. Two step-up poles have been installed. The wires from the poles to the pump station won't be connected until later on in the project.
- Q. What is the status of the landscape design for the area?
A. The landscape design is about 50 percent complete. After that, there will be a design review period. Commercial operation of the Lake Hodges Projects is scheduled to begin in spring 2009. The contractor is scheduled to be out of the area and the work finalized in fall 2009. When most of the equipment is out of the way and it is an appropriate time, the landscape contractor can begin to install the plants. The planting will take about six months. The trail will be reopened as soon as it is feasible.
- Q. Where are the pictures of the landscape design posted so we can see what it will look like?
A. There were some considerations about posting the preliminary landscape design on the Water Authority website right now. The Water Authority decided not to post the design before advertising for bids for a landscape contractor. Additionally, the design might change between now and the time it is completed.
- Q. Has the community had enough opportunity to give input to the landscape design plan?
A. Yes, there was a committee with broad representation from the local area, including a representative from the community on the other side of the reservoir.
- Q. Who was on the committee?
A. The six-member landscape committee had representatives from the Lake Hodges Hills, Del Dios, the Lake Hodges Native Plant Club, and the San Diego Windsurf Association. Everyone came together to give input to the design, including ideas for the fencing, plant materials, and other suggestions.
- Q. It sounds like the committee did a good job and that the Water Authority clearly bent over backward to get input. Don't you agree?
A. We think it was a good process. The committee also understands that the design might change before it is completed and that is another reason not to post the current design on the Water Authority's website.
- Q. What was the impact to the construction site from last year's fires?
A. There was over \$500,000 in damages. It delayed the project by eight days. It had the potential to be a much larger problem. Insurance is covering the costs of the damages.

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

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