Tunneling Begins

Construction on the San Diego County Water Authority’s Mission Trails Pipeline Tunnel Project is proceeding. This project will upgrade water pipelines running beneath western portions of Mission Trails Regional Park. Activities are underway to excavate a new mile-long pipeline tunnel between the North and South Tunnel Portals (see map). The new tunnel will be created using a roadheader excavation machine and controlled blasting.

The roadheader uses metal spinning teeth to loosen rock and soil material. The material is then excavated from the tunnel using a conveyor belt system. In locations where the rock is too hard for the roadheader to tunnel, controlled blasting will be used. When needed, blasting could occur up to twice daily; once in the morning and again in the afternoon. Tunneling activities are expected to last approximately six months.

As always, the Water Authority will do everything possible to minimize disruption and impacts to the public. When blasting becomes necessary, an email will be sent to our Belsera community list prior to the first blast. To receive this pre-blast notification email, or to confirm you are on the Belsera community email list, please click on the “update profile/email address” at the bottom of this update.
important for trail users to abide by the trail closures that are clearly marked by signs in western portions of Mission Trails Regional Park. Access on the closed trails and inside construction areas puts both recreationalist's and construction worker's safety at risk. Thank you in advance for complying with the trail closure signs.