

# EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT

## San Vicente Dam Raise & San Vicente Pipeline

### Briefing Summary

**DATE:** February 3, 2010

**TIME:** 7 p.m.

**ORGANIZATION:**

Lakeside Community Planning Group

**MEETING LOCATION:**

Lakeside Community Center

**PRESENTERS:**

Andrew Oleksyn, SDCWA  
Kelly Rodgers, SDCWA  
Gina Molise, SDCWA

**STAFF RESOURCES:**

Jessica Berlin, Katz & Associates

Gina Molise, public affairs representative for the Water Authority, gave an update on the San Diego region's current water supply. Although we have had a wet January and snowpack in the mountains looks good so far, the drought is not over. There are still restrictions on pumping water from the north for nine months out of the year. So, everyone needs to continue to conserve water indefinitely and spread that message to your friends and neighbors.

Gina said the Water Authority continues to send project updates by mail and email to the community. So far, we have had very few, if any, community complaints about this project.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Andrew Oleksyn, construction administrator for the San Vicente Dam Raise project, showed photos of recent construction at the San Vicente Dam Raise project site and provided a brief update on the status of current construction.

Andrew said before the contractor can add concrete to raise the height of the dam, the dam has to be prepared for the concrete. The concrete on the dam has been out there for 50 years, so they're removing the old, weathered concrete because the concrete underneath will have a better bond with the new concrete. The contractor is using high-pressure water to blast away two to three inches of concrete from the face of the dam.

Andrew explained the process of cleaning the foundation rock with high-pressure air and water jets before the contractor places dental concrete in any cracks and crevices. The completed dental concrete allows for a more uniform surface for the first lift of the roller-compacted concrete.

In the old marina area, the pavement and buildings have been removed. The contractor is using the marina area to process the stockpile of material excavated from previous projects, crushing the large rocks and creating fill for other parts of the site. The contractor will mine rock from hillsides around the marina to make the concrete for the dam raise.

The city of San Diego lowered the water level of the reservoir in preparation for this project. The city is still using water from the reservoir for drinking water. The existing outlet tower for the dam will be under water once the project is complete and will be abandoned. The contractor installed a temporary cofferdam so work can take place on the upstream face of the dam. The contractor will be tunneling through the dam to create a new low-level outlet for the expanded dam.

Next, Kelly Rodgers, project manager for the San Vicente Dam Raise project, gave an update on the schedule for the project. Kelly said the Water Authority originally envisioned this as one big project. To facilitate construction and provide contracting opportunities for smaller companies, the Water Authority decided to split the project into smaller, separate phases.

The first phase was the test quarry; analysis confirmed the aggregate mined from the hillsides of the marina was suitable to be used to make roller-compacted concrete. Phase 2 is the current construction, preparing the dam for the raise. Phase 3 is the dam raise, including producing and placing concrete. We completed the design and advertised for contractors for Phase 3 last week.

In November, the Water Authority held a contractor outreach event at the project site to allow the potential prime contractors for Phase 3 to network with subcontractors. More than 100 people attended the event. Because this phase is such a large project and requires specialized construction methods, the Water Authority prequalified the prime contractors based on their experience. There are seven total teams prequalified, and the Water Authority expects to award the contract in April. Work is expected to begin in May and go through late 2012.

While the contractor is performing certain activities like placing the roller-compacted concrete, there will be times that they will have to work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We expect this to be for about six months starting in late 2010 or early 2011.

Phase 4 of the project is to build a new bypass pipeline for the city of San Diego because the existing pipeline will be under water once the project is complete. Phase 5 is to construct the new marina. Phase 6 is to restore about 110 acres of land that will be disturbed during construction.

With several phases in construction simultaneously, the Water Authority realized that each contractor would need to access the same areas at the same time. To avoid this, the project schedule has been changed. Phase 3 of the project will still be complete by late 2012, but the three smaller phases will take place between early 2013 and mid-2014. The reservoir will still reopen to recreation sometime between late 2014 and late 2017, depending on how quickly we are able to refill the reservoir to the new boat launch ramp. This new schedule still has construction ending about six months before the reservoir could reopen to recreation.

Andrew then gave a brief presentation about the status of the San Vicente Pipeline project. He showed a picture of the last piece of pipe to be installed in the San Vicente Pipeline tunnel in early January. The project had some delays along the way, but tunneling is complete and all the pipe has been installed in the 11-mile-long tunnel. To finish the installation of the pipe, the contractor is filling the area between the tunnel and the outside of the pipe with concrete and lining the inside of the pipe. The entire project is expected to be complete in August 2010.

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