

EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT

San Vicente Pipeline San Vicente Pumping Facilities San Vicente Dam Raise Carryover Storage Project Briefing Summary

DATE: February 20, 2008

TIME: 7 p.m.

ORGANIZATION:

Lakeside Community Planning Group

MEETING LOCATION:

Lakeside Community Center

PRESENTERS:

Andrew Oleksyn, SDCWA
Shannon Reed, SDCWA

STAFF RESOURCES:

Jessica Young, Katz & Associates

Andrew Oleksyn, assistant construction administrator for the San Vicente Pipeline project, reviewed the plan for the San Vicente Pipeline, an 11-mile-long pipeline that will run between San Vicente Reservoir and the Water Authority's Second Aqueduct near Interstate 15 and Mercy Road. He explained that tunnel excavation is currently occurring in three directions using three tunneling machines. Approximately 50 percent of the tunnel is now complete. Since the last update to this group, ground conditions have improved, allowing for faster tunneling progress. The latest projected completion date for the project is March 2010.

Work is progressing on schedule for the San Vicente Pumping Facilities project. Currently, the walls for the pumping station are being constructed along with the walls of the large, concrete surge tank at the top of the hill. Also, the trench for the pipelines running up and down the hill to connect to the surge tank has been completed. The pipelines for these facilities will be installed within the next couple of months. The projected completion date for this project is early 2009.

In January, construction began for the San Vicente Reservoir Interconnect Pipeline, a small pipeline that will connect the reservoir to the pump station. Excavation has begun and pipe installation will begin in the next several months. The projected completion date for this project is early 2009.

Shannon Reed, public affairs representative with the San Diego County Water Authority, announced information about the Water Authority's 20-Gallon Challenge which encourages residents to save 20 gallons of water per person, per day. Shannon explained that even in times of rain, we're still in a drought and the Colorado River is still in a drought. She also passed around 20-Gallon Challenge tip cards and put fact sheets in the kiosk at Lakeside Community Center.

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

Q: How many openings are there for the next San Vicente Dam Raise tour?

A: The next tour is full, but we have a future tour sign up sheet with us. The project team will also be at the community event, "It's How We Live," on April 5, 2008. The next tour may be scheduled for April 12, 2008. **(Please note the next community tour will take place on April 26, 2008.)**

Q: What is the status of the Lakeside Historical Society's request for an archaeological dig near San Vicente Reservoir?

A: That request and other historical aspects are being addressed in the final environmental document that will be released in April. The city of San Diego owns the property, not the San Diego County Water Authority. The area being used for the San Vicente Dam Raise project will not be near where the town of Foster was. The Water Authority cannot conduct an archaeological dig because we do not own that land.** If anything is found near the dam while the foundation is being excavated, an archaeologist will record and preserve it, and send it to the San Diego Historical Society because it is city-owned land.

****Note: Water Authority staffed determined after the meeting that this answer needed some additional clarification, as follows.**

The issue is not with ownership of the property. The town of Foster was mitigated as part of the Emergency Storage Project's cultural mitigation program. Data recovery efforts were conducted on the town of Foster in 2001 and conclusions are contained in a report entitled "Above and Below the Valley Report: Data Recovery Efforts at San Vicente". Conclusions of the report found artifacts from Foster, however they were widely scattered and the site was not intact. The site was not eligible for the Historic Register and no further work is required. The Carryover Storage Project is also not going to be impacting the town of Foster, so no new or further mitigation is required. However, an archeological monitor will be on site during initial ground disturbance in case new artifacts are discovered.

C: The Water Authority's contractor on the San Vicente Pipeline project, Traylor-Shea, is doing a great job. Between Ennis Inc. and Traylor-Shea, all spoils from the tunnel are being completely recycled, and all rock is being crushed for resale.

Q: Janis Shackelford asked why any artifacts found near the dam would go to the San Diego Historical City, if it's not the city of San Diego's land.

A: The land where the town of Foster was located is owned by the city of San Diego. The Water Authority has purchased the land where it expects to do work on the dam. The town of Foster is not included in those areas. Additionally, the joint reservoir agreement between the Water Authority and the city of San Diego states that found artifacts will be returned to the city of San Diego, because the Water Authority did not purchase the land encompassing the town of Foster.

Q: The Water Authority will not be doing the archeological dig of Foster because it is not their land?

A: That is correct. The final EIR/EIS document will be released on April 11, 2008 and anyone who submitted a verbal or oral comment will receive a packet containing the response to comments. The packet will direct you to where your comment and response can be found in the document. It will also be available for viewing on the Water Authority's website (www.sdcwa.org).

Q: When is the Water Authority hearing for the final EIR/EIS?

A: The hearing will be part of a regularly scheduled Water Authority board meeting on April 24, 2008. The agenda for the meeting will be available on Monday, April 20, 2008. This issue will be heard in the Water Planning committee meeting and then voted on at the formal board meeting, which generally occurs around 3 p.m. Anyone can come to speak in front of the board members at that meeting. A postcard notification of this hearing will be sent to everyone on the mailing list and to anyone who has ever attended a San Vicente Dam Raise project site tour.

Q: There has been a lot of notoriety recently about earthen-filled dams that are prone to failure. Is this an earthen-filled dam over a stationary dam, with concrete covering it?

A: San Vicente Dam is made entirely of concrete. For the dam raise, roller-compacted concrete will be placed directly on top of the existing dam and above it.

Q: Has the final height been approved?

A: The final height for the dam raise will be determined at the April 24, 2008 board meeting. In 1996, the Emergency Storage Project EIR was approved, which authorized raising San Vicente Dam 54 feet. During this time, the water needs for San Diego County were analyzed, and it was determined that a higher dam raise would be beneficial for the region. The Carryover Storage Project EIR/EIS studied the environmental impacts of raising the dam a total of 117 feet, which will be considered for certification by the Water Authority board on April 24. That is what this environmental document is studying.

Q: If most of the significant historical artifacts have been removed, why would you look for something that isn't there?

A: The Water Authority isn't looking for any artifacts. The Lakeside Historical Society is interested in artifacts buried under the sand.

Q: Has the Water Authority been in communication with Betty McMillan from the Lakeside Historical Society? If something is found, will they be notified?

A: Yes, Jeff Shoaf, the project manager has spoken with her. If she submitted a comment during public review period, she will personally receive a packet that responds to her comment.
