Gina Molise, senior public affairs representative for the Water Authority, introduced herself as the new public affairs representative for the San Vicente Dam Raise project. She said the Water Authority hasn’t been to a Lakeside Community Planning Group meeting for over a year because there hasn’t been a lot of news to share. But, now the first contractor for the San Vicente Dam Raise project has been selected, and the Water Authority held the groundbreaking event for the project on July 9.

Gina then introduced Andrew Oleksyn, the construction administrator for the San Vicente Dam Raise project. Andrew explained the background on the San Vicente Dam Raise project and gave an update on upcoming construction work. He said the Water Authority will be raising San Vicente Dam 117 feet and there will be two major construction packages. The first construction package just started and is the preparation phase of the project. The contractor selected, Barnard Construction Company Inc., will be preparing the foundation of the dam, tunneling through the dam to create a new outlet tunnel, doing selective demolition on the existing dam to prepare the surface for new concrete, and other work to prepare for the dam raise. Barnard began its initial mobilization in June.

Part of the initial work includes blasting for the foundation preparation. The contractor will blast at the downstream toe of the existing dam and also in the area where the new saddle dam will be constructed. The contractor is planning to blast once per day and the blasting will typically take place in the afternoon. We anticipate that they’ll be blasting every day through December.

The initial blasts will be for the saddle dam area, which is to the east of the existing dam. Test blasting is expected to begin next week (week of July 20). Once the appropriate blasting level is established, normal blasting will begin.

The other contractors on the project site have been blasting at this site over the years for the surge control facility and pump station. The blasts that Barnard will be doing will be smaller than the blasts the other contractors have done in the past. Blasting near the dam will be controlled and closely monitored to protect the dam. We do not anticipate this blasting to cause any new impacts.
to nearby community members. We have not blasted by the dam before, so we are not sure about the acoustics in that area. Some community members may be able to hear these blasts.

The trucking route previously established for the other San Vicente contractors – Highway 67 to Vigilante Road to Moreno Avenue – will be the same for this new contractor as well. Trucks are not allowed on lower Moreno Avenue through the community, except in special circumstances and that will be on a case-by-case basis.

This phase of the dam raise construction is expected to be complete in July 2010. The next phase of the work, the contract that will place the concrete to raise the dam, is expected to begin in May 2010 and will go through late 2012. That contract will raise the height of the existing dam, construct the new saddle dam, and build other structures.

The San Vicente pump station and surge control facility project is almost complete. Kiewit, the contractor for that project, is scheduled to be demobilized from the project site by late summer.

The San Vicente Pipeline project is making progress. There is about 3,500 feet of tunneling left on the eastern portion of the tunnel and about half of the pipe is installed.

After questions from the audience about the project, Gina Molise gave a brief update on the drought and water conservation efforts. She said we are currently in a Stage 2 Drought Alert because we’ve had an eight percent cut in our water supply. The Water Authority is working with its member agencies, including the Lakeside Water District, to encourage customers to conserve and cut back on their water use. Gina stated there is an easy reference on the Lakeside Water District’s website about the drought and water supply information. She encouraged everyone to cut back on their water usage and to encourage their friends and neighbors to do the same.

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