EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT
Carryover Storage and San Vicente Dam Raise Update
Briefing Summary

DATE: Oct. 16, 2006  TIME: 7 p.m.
EVENT: Valley Center Community Planning Group
MEETING LOCATION: Valley Center Community Hall
PRESENTER(S): Jeff Shoaf, SDCWA

STAFF RESOURCES: Shannon Reed, SDCWA
Jessica Berlin, Katz & Associates

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Jeff Shoaf, project manager for the Carryover Storage and San Vicente Dam Raise Project at the San Diego County Water Authority, introduced himself to the group. He invited everyone to the open house and scoping meeting for the Carryover Storage Project environmental impact report/environmental impact study, on Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2006. The open house starts at 6:30 p.m. and the scoping meeting is from 7-8 p.m. at the Water Authority's Kearny Mesa office (4677 Overland Ave., San Diego, CA 92123). The open house will be an opportunity to meet with the project team and get information about the projects. The scoping meeting will also include an opportunity to provide comments about what the environmental study should include. Written comments can be submitted by mail, email, or fax no later than Nov. 9, 2006. All comments are equally weighted, so even if you cannot come to the scoping meeting, you can still send in your comments. Jeff provided copies of the Notice of Intent/Notice of Preparation for the Carryover Storage Project EIR/EIS and copies of the written comment forms to the group.

Jeff went on to explain the Carryover Storage and San Vicente Dam Raise Project. He said the Water Authority is planning to raise the height of San Vicente Dam 54 feet for the Emergency Storage Project. The dam raise is the fourth and final phase of the Water Authority’s Emergency Storage Project. The purpose of the Emergency Storage Project is to provide water to the region for two to six months in the event of an emergency.

But, the Water Authority has also identified a need for an additional 100,000 acre-feet of carryover water storage. Carryover storage refers to a process of accumulating water during wet seasons when it is plentiful, keeping it in storage, and carrying it over use in subsequent dry years. To fill this need, the Water Authority proposed raising San Vicente Dam an additional 63 feet over the 54 feet that it will be raised for the Emergency Storage Project. To do this, the Water Authority is required to study the environmental and community impacts of the project through an EIR/EIS. By law, the Water Authority is also required to look at other alternatives for this additional storage.

The additional San Vicente Dam raise is the Water Authority's preferred alternative, but because it is required to study additional alternatives, the Water Authority will also be studying the possibility
of constructing a new dam at Moosa Valley. The Water Authority looked at more than 20 different alternatives and those were narrowed down to four basic alternatives:

1. Raise San Vicente Dam an additional 63 feet to store 100,000 acre-feet of water (preferred alternative)
2. Construct a new dam at Moosa Valley to store 100,000 acre-feet of water
3. Raise San Vicente Dam to store 50,000 acre-feet of water and build a new Moosa Valley dam to store 50,000 acre-feet of water
4. "No-action" alternative, which means the Water Authority would proceed with constructing the Emergency Storage Project portion of the San Vicente Dam Raise only.

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

Q. When do you expect to start construction on the San Vicente Dam Raise?
A. Construction is scheduled to start as early as 2009, but we would first have to draw down the reservoir to about 40,000 acre-feet, which is more than half of the reservoir. The draw down may start in 2008. It will take about two to three years to construct the new dam and it may take up to five years to fill the reservoir back up.

Q. Will it be an earthen or a concrete dam?
A. The existing dam is a conventional concrete dam and the raised portion of the dam will be made of roller-compacted concrete, which is rolled out in layers like asphalt and is more economical.

Q. The last time there was talk about building a dam in Moosa Valley, it was going to create a huge lake. Would this lake be at that scale?
A. It would actually be even bigger than that one. At the beginning of the Emergency Storage Project, when Moosa Valley was originally studied, the Water Authority was looking at storing 52,000 acre-feet of water. Now we are looking at storing 100,000 acre-feet.

Q. What is the deadline for comments?
A. Nov. 9, 2006.

Q. If you just raise the height of San Vicente Dam, then that will create a problem if we have an earthquake and the dam fails. Maybe it would be better if we had another water storage facility up here so that if one failed we would still have another supply of water. Have you thought about splitting it between two places, rather than just putting all your eggs in one basket?
A. The dam will be designed to withstand an earthquake of a magnitude designated by the California Division of Safety of Dams. This agency regulates the construction of dams, looks at nearby faults and ensures that dams are built to the standards they dictate. The idea would be to design this dam so that in the event of a major earthquake the structure would not only remain operable but sustain no damage.
Q. We live at the bottom of Detro Road, which would be at the bottom of the lake if you built a
dam in Moosa Valley. Have you already started the environmental studies for the San
Vicente site and have you discovered any fatal flaws that would make that project infeasible?
A. Yes, we have been performing environmental and engineering studies and so far we have
not seen anything that makes us believe the San Vicente project is not feasible.

Q. If the Moosa Valley alternative was used, would the lake cover Detro Road?
A. That has not been determined yet. More studies still need to be done.