July 15, 2009

Dear Community Member:

Construction on the San Vicente Dam Raise project is now under way. The contractor, Barnard Construction, is starting foundation preparation for the new dam. This preparation work will include rock excavation using drilling and blasting operations. The contractor anticipates starting the drilling and blasting operation the week of July 20, although this schedule may change slightly.

A common blasting method, called “controlled blasting,” will be used for all of the work. Controlled blasting allows the use of explosives to remove rock near structures without causing damage. The blasting operation is designed and monitored to measure performance and confirm that everything is carried out as planned. The upcoming work will be very similar to the blasting already completed in the last couple of years for the new San Vicente Pumping Facilities.

Blasting will take place Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Typically blasts will occur once each day, most often in the afternoon. This first phase of the excavation and blasting is planned to continue through the end of this year. A second phase of excavation and blasting is planned for spring 2010 to complete the preparations for the other structures associated with the dam raise.

The Water Authority does not expect the blasting and other work for this phase of the dam raise to create new impacts to the community. Other construction at San Vicente is winding down, so the overall level of activity will remain similar to what has been under way during the past year.

For more information about the San Vicente Dam Raise project or for questions or concerns about this upcoming work, please call the toll-free project information line at (877) 426-2010, email ESPinfo@sdcwa.org, or visit the project web page at cip-esp.sdcwa.org and click on “San Vicente Dam Raise.”

Sincerely,

Gina Molise
Senior Public Affairs Representative
San Diego County Water Authority