EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT
San Vicente Pipeline Update
Briefing Summary

DATE: Jan. 22, 2007             TIME: 7 p.m.
EVENT: Mira Mesa Community Planning Group
MEETING LOCATION: Mira Mesa Library
PRESENTER(S): Andrew Oleksyn, SDCWA
STAFF RESOURCES: Shannon Reed, SDCWA
                Jessica Berlin, Katz & Associates

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Andrew Oleksyn, assistant construction administrator for the San Vicente Pipeline project, gave the group an update on the status of the project, focusing specifically the West Shaft. He said the project consists of an 11-mile tunnel and a large diameter water pipeline. The contractor is about 22 percent done with tunnel and the last time the Water Authority presented to the Mira Mesa Community Planning Group (in August 2006), the tunneling was about 12 percent complete, so the contractor has made good progress since then. Andrew said that about 9,000 feet of the tunnel is done on the east end, about 3,600 feet has been tunneled from the Central Shaft, and about 400 feet of the tunnel is complete at the West Shaft.

The hard rock tunnel boring machine (TBM) dug further than it was expected to from the San Vicente Portal and last Saturday, Jan. 13, the machine broke through and connected with the tunnel from the Slaughterhouse Shaft. This was a significant milestone for the project and now the TBM is done on the east end of the tunnel. The contractor will take the TBM apart, back it out of the tunnel and then it will be transported to the West Shaft. The TBM will start arriving at the West Shaft at the end of February or early March. It will take about a month to assemble the machine in the tunnel and it will have intensive inspection and maintenance before it starts tunneling again. The TBM will dig about three-quarters of a mile from the West Shaft and it will be mining for about 10 to 11 months.

Andrew said that once the machine starts working at the West Shaft, there will also be a maintenance shift in the evening when the workers will replace the cutterheads on the machine when they wear out. The contractor is restricted to only take material out of the tunnel during the daytime. The night work will be restricted to maintenance only. The materials that will be used for the maintenance will be in the tunnel by 7 p.m. and there will be no work on the surface after 7 p.m. There will no back-up alarms and all the work will be in the tunnel.

There is also a tunneling machine working at the Central Shaft, but it has hit harder ground than what was expected, so it has been going slower than originally anticipated. It should be digging about 90 feet per day, but instead it’s only been digging about 40 feet per day. Andrew said they are hoping to get out of the hard ground soon, but this could extend the project 5 to 11 months.
The project is scheduled to be complete in December 2008, but this delay could push the end date to late 2009.

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

Q. Do you ever give hardhat tours of the tunnel?
A. It's a very small space and it's hard to get in and out of the tunnel, so it's difficult to do tours of the tunnel.

Q. Are there people working on the machine the whole time it's down there boring?
A. Yes, there are men on the machine working and doing maintenance while it is boring.

Q. How much tunneling is occurring at the West Shaft now?
A. There is no tunneling at the West Shaft right now. They finished the 400-foot starter tunnel in October 2006 and there has been pretty much no activity there since then. The tunneling will begin again at the West Shaft when the TBM arrives.

Q. Have you hit much water in the tunnel?
A. No, there has been much less water than we expected. It's been about 10 to 15 gallons per minute.

Q. Do you anticipate that will continue to be the case as you keep going?
A. The volume will probably increase as we tunnel more.

Q. Have you been pumping the water to Canyon Hills Park?
A. We have not been pumping any water there so far, but as we continue, we may start doing that.

Q. If you start pumping water to Canyon Hills Park, will you please tell Ted Brengal, chair of the Mira Mesa Community Planning Group? We want to make sure no vernal pools form because of the water you'll be pumping there.
A. Yes, we can tell Ted when pumping begins. We also have an environmental monitor that will watch the site and make sure vernal pools do not form.