San Vicente Pipeline
Project Update
February 2009

The following project update is being provided to keep the community groups informed of the San Vicente Pipeline construction progress.

Tunneling Progress
The last remaining tunneling machine is continuing to excavate the eastern half of the tunnel. The machine recently reached a region of softer rock, so the excavation is progressing more easily than in the past. There are only two miles left to complete the tunneling work. Once tunneling is complete on the east side of the project, crews will begin installing pipe between the San Vicente Portal and Central Shaft. In Lakeside, the San Vicente Portal and Slaughterhouse Shaft are both supporting the remaining tunneling activities. Excavated materials are removed at the San Vicente Portal and trucked to a nearby aggregate company.

Pipe Installation
Pipe installation is well under way in the western portion of the tunnel. A team of specialists work together to install each 50-foot pipe segment. The installation process includes moving the 17-ton pipe segments as far as five miles through the tunnel, fitting the pipe to its precise location, and welding it in place. It's a complex and time-consuming operation, made a little easier with specialized equipment the contractor has designed.

To date, crews have placed about 65 pipe segments in the tunnel. This is 3,250 total feet of pipe -- the length of more than 10 football fields. Pipe segments will continue to be delivered to and lowered into the tunnel at the Central Shaft until this spring, when the contractor anticipates completing the five miles of pipe installation between the West and Central shafts. The Central Shaft is located south of the Beeler Canyon community within the StoneBridge Estates community. The West Shaft, located off Interstate 15 at Mercy Road, will be used for tunnel access and to support pipe installation activities when needed.
The Purpose of the San Vicente Pipeline
The 11-mile-long San Vicente Pipeline is a key component of the San Diego County Water Authority’s Emergency Storage Project. The pipeline will create a water supply link between San Vicente Reservoir and the Water Authority’s Second Aqueduct, allowing water to be delivered to agencies in the southern portion of the county in an emergency. The project will also improve the Water Authority’s ability to move large quantities of water into storage, when it is available. All work for the pipeline is scheduled to be complete in 2010.

If you have additional questions or would like to receive more information about the San Vicente Pipeline Project or the Emergency Storage Project, please contact Gina Molise, Water Authority senior public affairs representative, at (858) 522-6706. You can also call toll free (877) 426-2010, email ESPinfo@sdcwa.org, or visit the website at cip-esp.sdcwa.org (click on “San Vicente Pipeline”).