San Vicente Pipeline • West Shaft Update

Construction is under way at the San Vicente Pipeline West Shaft, located off Mercy Road near I-15. The San Diego County Water Authority’s contractor is currently excavating the shaft, which is now 34 feet deep. When complete, the shaft will be 115 feet deep. The contractor has been using an excavator to dig the shaft, but has now reached hard rock where controlled blasting is necessary to continue excavation. Controlled blasting for the shaft and later for the tunnel is expected to begin this week and continue through the end of June. Blasts will occur only once per day.

Safety is the Water Authority’s number one priority. To ensure safety during blasts, traffic eastbound and westbound on Mercy Road and on the I-15 southbound on-ramp may experience a two- to five-minute delay just before the once-per-day blast. Watch for traffic controls by the San Diego Police Department in that area during blast times.

This fall, a tunnel boring machine will resume tunneling operations from the West Shaft. Tunnel excavation from this site is slated to be completed by the end of 2007. The San Vicente Pipeline project will be completed by the end of 2008.

The San Vicente Pipeline is one component of the Emergency Storage Project, a system of reservoirs, interconnected pipelines, and pumping stations designed to make water available to the San Diego region in the event of an interruption in imported water deliveries.

For more information about the San Vicente Pipeline, please call the toll-free project information line at (877) 426-2010 or visit the Water Authority’s website at www.sdcwa.org.

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