Dear Community Neighbor,

Construction of the San Diego County Water Authority’s San Vicente Pipeline continues to advance. In fact, two tunnels from the San Vicente Portal and Slaughterhouse Shaft have connected, completing the tunnel boring machine’s work at the portal. The tunnel boring machine will now be moved to the West Shaft and it will tunnel eastward from there.

The machine’s components will be transported in many sections by truck to the West Shaft. The haul route will be from Highway 67 to Scripps Poway Parkway to the site at Mercy Road and I-15. City of San Diego police officers will assist in controlling traffic at Mercy Road so trucks can safely deliver the machine. The first deliveries are expected around March 8 and will arrive periodically for up to four weeks as the machine is assembled again underground. All deliveries will avoid peak traffic times.

Work has been light at the West Shaft since the completion of the 400-foot starter tunnel in October 2006. Construction activity will resume now that tunneling is restarting. The tunnel boring machine will dig about three-quarters of a mile from the West Shaft and is expected to mine for 10 to 11 months.

Once the machine starts working at the West Shaft, there will be a nighttime maintenance shift. The materials that will be used for the evening maintenance will be in the tunnel by 7 p.m. and there will be no work on the surface after 7 p.m. Excavated material may only be removed from the tunnel during the daytime shifts.

If you have any questions or concerns about this activity or the project itself, please call the toll-free project information line at (877) 426-2010, or visit our website at www.sdcwa.org. Click on “Infrastructure,” then “ESP,” then “San Vicente Pipeline.”

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Project Background
The 11-mile San Vicente Pipeline will be a large-diameter pipeline connecting the San Vicente Reservoir in Lakeside to the Water Authority’s Second Aqueduct west of Interstate 15. The pipeline is being built in a tunnel at a depth ranging from 50 to 600 feet underground and will not pass directly under any homes. The San Vicente Pipeline is part of the Emergency Storage Project, designed to make water available to the San Diego region in the event of an interruption in imported water deliveries.

The tunneling machine cutterhead’s arrival in May 2006 at the San Vicente Portal.

The Water Authority is a public agency serving the San Diego region as a wholesale supplier of water. The Water Authority works through its 24 member agencies to provide a safe, reliable water supply to support the region’s $150 billion economy and the quality of life of 3 million residents.