Dear Community Member,

The San Diego County Water Authority’s San Vicente Pipeline project is gearing up for the next phase of construction: tunnel excavation. Two of the three machines that will be used to excavate the San Vicente Pipeline tunnel will arrive between mid-April and May 2006. These massive tunneling machines are approximately 12 feet in diameter and 300 feet long. They will be shipped from Ohio and Washington in sections and will arrive at the Central Shaft and the San Vicente Portal on a number of trucks. Meanwhile, work at all four tunnel access points continues (see map on reverse). An update on each is provided below.

Central Shaft and San Vicente Portal Prepare for Tunneling Machines
Activity at the Central Shaft has been minimal since shaft construction was completed in January. Once the tunneling machine arrives, activity at the Central Shaft will increase. Workers will begin to assemble the machine, which will take several weeks. The machine will then begin tunneling to the west.

A 65-foot-long starter tunnel is being excavated at the San Vicente Portal using controlled blasts. The San Vicente tunneling machine will arrive in late May and be placed in the starter tunnel to move westward after being assembled.

Work Continues at West and Slaughterhouse Shafts
Tunneling activity is already under way at the Slaughterhouse Shaft using controlled blasting. Approximately one mile will be tunneled from Slaughterhouse using this method. Controlled blasting is slower than using a tunneling machine but it is necessary because the underground geology is not compatible with the type of tunneling machines used for this project. Once the tunnel reaches geology suitable for tunneling machine work at the end of 2006, a machine will be inserted to continue tunneling west toward the Central Shaft.

The West Shaft is also being developed using controlled blasting. In addition, blasting will be used to create a 400-foot starter tunnel to accept a tunneling machine in the future. When the San Vicente Portal tunneling machine reaches the Slaughterhouse Shaft, it will be removed in sections and reassembled in the West Shaft to begin digging eastward.

Web Page to Follow Tunneling Machine Progress
The Water Authority is preparing a web page to provide a regularly updated map showing the progress of the tunneling machines and their approximate location underground. An online photographic tour will also be provided to illustrate construction activity taking place. Please visit the San Vicente Pipeline web page (listed below) to access this information.

Kids’ Coloring Contest
In addition, the Water Authority is offering children ages 5 to 12 a chance to participate in a coloring contest. The winning drawings will be made into a decal that will be placed on one of the tunneling machines before it goes underground. Please see the enclosed flyer for details.
For more information, please call our toll-free project information line at (877) 426-2010, or visit the Water Authority's website at www.sdcwa.org: click on “Infrastructure,” then “ESP,” and finally “San Vicente Pipeline.”

Sincerely,

Kathy Schuler
Senior Engineer, San Vicente Pipeline
San Diego County Water Authority

San Vicente Pipeline

The tunnel and pipeline will not pass directly under any homes.

Three tunneling machines will dig the majority of the tunnel. A hard rock tunneling machine, called a main beam, will start at the San Vicente Portal. Two digger shields will excavate the softer ground beginning at the Slaughterhouse and Central shafts. When the main beam machine reaches the Slaughterhouse Shaft, it will be removed and reassembled in the West Shaft and dig eastward.
Kids’ Coloring Contest

Get your drawing on the San Vicente Pipeline tunneling machine!

A tunnel boring machine doesn’t have to be boring. Help us add color to our tunneling machine so it can start its trip with pizzazz.

All coloring contest participants will receive special giveaways, an activity book and other goodies. Contest winners will be recognized at a Water Authority board meeting and receive a special certificate.

What to Do:

1. You must be between 5 and 12 years old and live in the county of San Diego. The age of the artist will be taken into consideration by the judges.

2. Color the picture on the back side to the best of your ability. It must be your own work. For best reproduction results, use marker pens instead of crayons or colored pencils. Additional copies of the coloring page can be found at: www.sdcwa.org/infra/esp-sanvicente.phtml

3. When you are finished, clearly fill out the contestant information section and mail your picture to: San Diego County Water Authority, Attn: Rachel Kulis, 4677 Overland Ave., San Diego, CA 92123

4. By entering the contest, please understand that the Water Authority may reproduce your work.

5. Entries must be postmarked no later than April 28, 2006. If you have any questions about the coloring contest, please email to: rkulis@sdcwa.org or call (877) 426-2010.

Name: ___________________________________________________________ Age: _____

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

Phone: ________________________________________________________________________________
The 12-foot-high tunneling boring machine works by pushing itself forward against the rock. When the machine turns and the disk cutters spin, it breaks up rock. The rock pieces are carried out of the tunnel by a long conveyor belt and then train cars.