Project Background
The San Vicente Pipeline will be an 11-mile long underground pipeline that will connect the San Vicente Reservoir to the Second Aqueduct located just west of I-15 at Mercy Road. The pipeline will enable water stored in San Vicente Reservoir to be pumped out to the pipelines in the Second Aqueduct to use in emergencies. The pipeline will be constructed in a tunnel to minimize the environmental and community impacts. There are four construction access points. Two are located at each end of the pipeline, one near the base of the San Vicente Dam, called the San Vicente Portal and the other, called the West Shaft, is near the Second Aqueduct off of I-15 at Mercy Road. A third access site is located south of the Beeler Canyon community within StoneBridge Estates and is called the Central Shaft. The fourth is located off of Slaughterhouse Road in Lakeside and is called the Slaughterhouse Shaft.

General Progress
The contractor is about 25 percent done with tunnel. Approximately 9,000 feet has been tunneled at the east end of the project and about 3,600 feet has been tunneled westward from the Central Shaft. A 400-foot starter tunnel was created at the West Shaft last year in preparation of inserting a tunneling machine in it early this year. Two tunnels connected in early January from the San Vicente Portal and the Slaughterhouse Shaft. This was a significant milestone for the project.

West Shaft - Tunneling Machine to be transported in mid March
Now the tunneling machine’s work is complete on the east end of the tunnel, the machine has moved to the West Shaft near I-15 off of Mercy Road. The machine is currently being assembled in the tunnel. There will be an intensive inspection before the machine starts tunneling. The tunneling machine will dig about three-quarters of a mile from the West Shaft and it will be mining for about 10 to 11 months. 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 and will take place underground.

Central Shaft - Unexpected hard ground could delay project
The Central Shaft is located south of the Beeler Canyon community in the StoneBridge Estates community. A digger shield tunneling machine, with a pick and a shovel at its front, is being used for the tunneling efforts at this site. Since January, the construction team has been working in three eight-hour shifts, six days a week. The main access road for construction deliveries is through the Vulcan Materials driveway off of Kirkham.
Road with trucks continuing on StoneBridge Parkway for less than a mile. Deliveries are currently only allowed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The tunnel boring machine may work 24 hours a day inside the tunnel.

The construction team has hit harder ground than what was expected at the Central Shaft and progress has been slower than originally anticipated. It should be digging an average of 90 feet per day. Instead it’s averaging only 40 feet per day. This unexpected hard ground 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 mid 2009.