EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT
San Vicente Pipeline Update
Briefing Summary

DATE: April 17, 2006  TIME: 7 p.m.

EVENT: Mira Mesa Planning Group

MEETING LOCATION: Mira Mesa Library

PRESENTER(S): Andrew Oleksyn, SDCWA

STAFF RESOURCES: Craig Balben, SDCWA
Rachel Kulis, Katz & Associates
Jessica Berlin, Katz & Associates

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Andrew Oleksyn, construction administrator for the San Vicente Pipeline project, explained the San Vicente Pipeline is an 11-mile-long pipeline that will connect the Water Authority’s Second Aqueduct to San Vicente Reservoir. When the pipeline is complete, the Water Authority will be able to move water more easily around the county and will be able to store additional water in San Vicente Reservoir for the Emergency Storage Project. The Water Authority’s aqueducts cross major fault lines, and the county could be cut off from its water supply if there was a major earthquake severing the aqueducts. The Emergency Storage Project will increase the water storage capacity within the county in case of emergencies.

The San Vicente Pipeline will be built within a tunnel and there are four access points along the route. The West Shaft, one of the four access points, is located at I-15 and Mercy Road. The contractor began excavating the West Shaft project site in late December, which took about five weeks. In late January they began excavating the shaft and at about 35 feet down they hit hard rock as expected. To get through the rock, they used a drill-and-blast method to continue the excavation. Currently, the shaft is about 85 feet in depth. The contractor has blasted five times at the site so far and there are about three blasts left. Because the site is in an urban area, there are many precautions taken by the contractor during each blast to ensure that no material leaves the site. The contractor puts a large metal grate over the top of the shaft and then a rubber mat on top of that. The contractor also coordinates with the police department, and they also inform the fire department and the 911 dispatch to let them know when the blast will occur. There are also two businesses within 400 feet of the shaft that get notified before each blast.

The contractor should reach the bottom of the shaft in about two to three weeks and then they will begin the starter tunnel, using drill-and-blast methods also, to prepare for the arrival of the tunnel boring machine. The starter tunnel will be 400 feet long and should be completed by the end of June. The tunnel boring machine is expected to arrive at the site in November and it will tunnel to the east.
Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

Q1. Where is the excess material taken to?
A1. Hanson Aggregates, off Miramar Road.

Q2. How deep will the shaft be?
A2. 115 feet from the surface.

Q3. If you disperse water from the top of Canyon Hills Park, can you please ensure that no vernal pools form?
A3. The Water Authority has an environmental monitor that specializes in biology. No vernal pools will form.