San Vicente Pipeline Project Update
May 2009

The following project update is being provided to keep the community groups informed of the San Vicente Pipeline construction progress.

Tunneling Progress
The tunnel is approximately 90 percent complete. The remaining tunneling machine is excavating the eastern half of the tunnel, and there is only one mile left to complete all the tunneling work. Once tunneling is complete on the east side of the project, crews will begin installing pipe between the San Vicente Portal and Central Shaft. In Lakeside, the San Vicente Portal and Slaughterhouse Shaft are both supporting the remaining tunneling activities. Excavated materials are removed at the San Vicente Portal and trucked to a nearby aggregate company.

Pipe Installation
Pipe installation in the western half of the tunnel is well under way. A team of specialists works together to install each 50-foot pipe segment. The 17-ton pipe segments are lowered into the Central Shaft and moved through the tunnel, fitted to their precise location, and welded in place. It’s a complex and time-consuming operation, made a little easier with specialized equipment the contractor has designed. Pipe installation on this portion of the tunnel is approximately 75 percent complete and is expected to be done in June. After the pipe is installed, the contractor will use grout to fill the space between the outside of the pipe and the tunnel walls to ensure the pipe remains in place and to protect it from corrosion. The final step in this process is to apply a one-half inch thick cement mortar lining to the inside of the pipe to further protect it from corrosion.

The western portion of the pipeline should be done by the end of 2009. The Central Shaft is located south of the Beeler Canyon community within the StoneBridge Estates community. The West Shaft, located off Interstate 15 at Mercy Road, is used for tunnel access and to support pipe installation activities when needed.
The Purpose of the San Vicente Pipeline
The 11-mile-long San Vicente Pipeline is a key component of the San Diego County Water Authority’s Emergency Storage Project. The pipeline will create a water supply link between San Vicente Reservoir and the Water Authority’s Second Aqueduct, allowing water to be delivered to agencies in the southern portion of the county in an emergency. The project will also improve the Water Authority’s ability to move large quantities of water into storage, when it is available. All work for the pipeline is scheduled to be complete in 2010.

If you have additional questions or would like to receive more information about the San Vicente Pipeline Project or the Emergency Storage Project, please contact Gina Molise, Water Authority senior public affairs representative, at (858) 522-6706. You can also call toll free (877) 426-2010, email ESPinfo@sdcwa.org, or visit the website at cip-esp.sdcwa.org (click on “San Vicente Pipeline”).