June 16, 2006

Dear Community Member,

The tunneling machine for the San Diego County Water Authority’s San Vicente Pipeline has arrived at the Central Shaft, located in the StoneBridge Estates community. The Central Shaft is one of four tunnel access points along the pipeline route. The contractor has begun 24-hour construction work and will begin tunneling in the next two weeks.

The tunnel will not pass directly under any homes. To help reduce impacts to the community, all materials excavated from the tunnel will remain at the Central Shaft site and will not be trucked off the property.

Attached is a Frequently Asked Questions fact sheet for your information about what will take place at the San Vicente Pipeline’s Central Shaft during and after construction.

The project team will provide a project briefing at the StoneBridge Estates Homeowners’ Association meeting on Tuesday, June 27, at 6 p.m. at the Scripps Ranch Community Service Center on Cypress Canyon Road. We hope you can attend to learn more and ask questions about the project.

You can also 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
Central Shaft Frequently Asked Questions

The following answers are intended to respond to questions regarding construction activity at the San Vicente Pipeline’s Central Shaft, located within StoneBridge Estates on Stonebridge Parkway.

Q: What is the San Vicente Pipeline?
A: The San Vicente Pipeline is part of the Emergency Storage Project, a system of reservoirs, interconnected pipelines, and pumping stations designed to make water available to the San Diego region in the event of an interruption in imported water deliveries. The 11-mile San Vicente Pipeline will connect the San Vicente Reservoir in Lakeside to the Water Authority’s Second Aqueduct west of Interstate 15. It will function together with other Water Authority facilities near the reservoir to provide water during emergencies.

The large-diameter pipeline will be built in a tunnel at a depth ranging from 50 to 600 feet underground and will not pass directly under any homes. Tunneling, rather than cut-and-cover trenching, will enable the Water Authority to build the pipeline with fewer impacts to the surrounding communities.

Construction of the San Vicente Pipeline is scheduled from 2005 through 2008.

Q: What is the Central Shaft and why is it needed?
A: The Central Shaft is one of four access points that will be used to dig the San Vicente Pipeline tunnel and to install the pipe. It is also needed for a permanent access to inspect and maintain the pipeline after construction. A centrally located shaft enhances the safety of the project both during construction and for maintenance activities.

Construction work at this site will include inserting and extracting a tunnel boring machine; removing excavated materials from the tunnel; circulating air; and delivering equipment, liner segments, pipe sections, and concrete. Materials excavated from the Central Shaft will remain on site and will not be hauled off the property.

Q: What are the hours of operation at the Central Shaft?
A: Work at the Central Shaft may occur 24 hours per day, Monday through Saturday. The majority of the work will take place underground. This is particularly true at night, when activities outside the shaft are reduced to minimize disruptions to StoneBridge Estates residents.

Q: What are the anticipated noise and light issues?
A: Throughout the day and night, the contractor will use a crane to lift out the excavated material and to lower concrete liner segments into the shaft. To reduce nighttime noise impacts, material removed at night will be set aside for the day shift, when it will be spread out and compacted around the site.
The Water Authority will monitor daytime and nighttime noise levels to ensure that construction does not exceed permissible noise levels. Use of backup alarms on equipment is prohibited between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. The Water Authority is also committed to using other mitigation measures if needed to keep noise levels in compliance with city ordinances.

Lighting will be needed at night to provide safe working conditions. The majority of the lights will be at the back end of the construction site, pointed towards the shaft and away from the homes. Smaller lights at the front of the site near the trailers will also be pointed away from homes.

Q: What are the different phases and timing of construction at the Central Shaft?
A: There are two main construction phases for this project. The first is tunneling. Tunneling is scheduled to begin in early June 2006 and continue through the summer of 2007. Two work shifts, 10 hours each, are currently planned but the contractor has the option to work 24 hours per day, Monday through Saturday, except holidays. A tunneling machine will be used to excavate the tunnel. As the machine advances underground, precast concrete segments will be erected behind it to support the ground. A concrete-type grout is placed behind the segments to ensure they are in good contact with the surrounding soil. Excavated material will be placed on site rather than hauled away, which will significantly reduce the number of hauling trucks.

When the tunnel is done, the second construction phase will begin — pipe installation. Steel pipe segments will be inserted and welded in place inside the tunnel. The space between the pipe and the support segments is also filled with concrete. This work will continue until the end of the project, which is expected in December 2008.

Deliveries of concrete segments, steel pipe, and concrete products will follow a designated haul route from Kirkham Way, south across the Vulcan Materials’ property toward the site. A short section of Stonebridge Parkway will be used to get to the work site.

Q: What will happen to the site after construction?
A: At the end of construction, the shaft will be filled. A riser pipe will be installed to permit access to the tunnel for inspection and maintenance and to vent air from the pipeline. Air release valves will be housed in a small structure near the shaft site and a second small structure will cover and secure the permanent access.

The Water Authority plans to resell the majority of the work site parcel, which is zoned for institutional use. The agency intends to keep only the areas needed for the permanent inspection, maintenance, and air ventilation structures, and for access to these structures.

Q: Who do I contact to ask more questions?
A: For more information about the San Vicente Pipeline project, 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.”