San Vicente Pipeline
Project Update
June 2008

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

**Tunneling Progress**
The San Vicente Pipeline will be 11 miles long and will connect San Vicente Reservoir to the Second Aqueduct near I-15 at Mercy Road. The tunnel will be 12 feet in diameter and an 8.5-foot diameter steel water pipe will be installed inside of the tunnel. When the pipeline is complete, imported water will normally be sent by gravity to San Vicente Reservoir for storage. During an emergency situation such as an earthquake or severe drought, it will be pumped out of the reservoir to the Second Aqueduct.

There are four construction access points to build the San Vicente Pipeline. Two are located at each end of the project; one near the San Vicente Dam, called the San Vicente Portal, and the other, near the Second Aqueduct off of I-15 at Mercy Road, called the West Shaft. The Central Shaft is located south of the Beeler Canyon community within StoneBridge Estates. The fourth access point is located off of Slaughterhouse Road near Lakeside and is called the Slaughterhouse Shaft.

Two tunneling machines are currently working simultaneously to excavate the tunnel for the San Vicente Pipeline. One tunneling machine is excavating westward from the Central Shaft. A second machine is also tunneling westward toward the Central Shaft from the San Vicente Portal. Approximately 67 percent of the tunnel has been excavated. However, harder-than-anticipated ground conditions have delayed the project, with completion now scheduled for 2010.

**West Shaft**
The West Shaft is 115 feet deep and 36 feet in diameter. Currently there is one 8-hour work shift per day, Monday through Friday. In April, the tunneling machine completed approximately 4,400 feet of excavation through hard rock in the eastward direction to finish that section of tunnel. Since then, there has been less
activity at the West Shaft because rock is no longer hauled out from that location. Construction crews finished disassembling and removing the tunneling machine from the West Shaft in early June.

Another section of tunnel coming from the Central Shaft will meet the tunnel that started from the West Shaft. This connection is expected to be completed by August. Once that section of the tunnel is connected, the contractor will begin preparing for pipe installation, which should begin in October. The pipe will be delivered to and installed through the Central Shaft site. The future activities at the West Shaft site will be limited to supporting the welding, grouting and mortar lining operations for the pipeline.

Central Shaft
The Central Shaft is 75 feet deep, 30 feet wide, and 60 feet long and is elliptically shaped. Work here is performed 24 hours a day, Monday through Friday, with occasional maintenance work on Saturday. The tunneling machine has excavated approximately 19,000 feet of the 22,000-foot tunnel section that will meet up with the recently completed section coming from the West Shaft. By August, all the tunneling will be completed between the Central Shaft and West Shaft.

After the tunnel has been cleaned and prepared for pipe installation, pipe delivery will begin at the Central Shaft. The pipe segments will be hauled down the tunnel and installed at the west end first. Pipe installation will then move towards the Central Shaft. It is estimated to begin in late fall and will take approximately eleven months to install, grout, and line the sections of pipe between the two shaft sites. The main access road for these construction deliveries is through the Vulcan access road off of Kirkham Road. Deliveries are currently only allowed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The material excavated from the tunnel will be used to raise the elevation of the Central Shaft site and be used as shaft backfill. There will be permanent structures on the site to allow for inspection, maintenance, and air ventilation of the completed pipeline. The Water Authority intends to sell most of the property after the project is completed. The McMillin Companies has the first right to purchase the property. The site is zoned for institutional use, which means it could be used as a school or church.

San Vicente Portal and Slaughterhouse Shaft
The San Vicente Portal and Slaughterhouse Shaft are both being used to support tunneling activities to excavate the project’s longest tunnel section measuring 21,750 feet. Work at these two locations occurs 24 hours a day, Monday through Saturday. A tunneling machine is excavating west of the Slaughterhouse Shaft towards Central Shaft and has completed approximately 5,800 feet. Tunneling efforts in this long section are slower than anticipated due to the hard ground that is being encountered. Excavated materials are removed at the San Vicente Portal and trucked to a nearby aggregate company.

The Purpose of the San Vicente Pipeline
The San Vicente Pipeline is a key component of the San Diego County Water Authority’s Emergency Storage Project. The Emergency Storage Project will protect San Diego County by increasing the amount of water available for use if the region's imported water supply is severed by earthquakes or significantly reduced, such as by drought. The pipeline project 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 available.
For more information about the San Diego County Water Authority's Emergency Storage Project or the San Vicente Pipeline Project, please call toll free (877) 426-2010, email ESPinfo@sdcwa.org, or visit our website at www.sdcwa.org. Click on “Infrastructure,” then “ESP,” then “San Vicente Pipeline.”