EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT
San Vicente Pipeline Update
Briefing Summary

DATE: July 11, 2007
TIME: 6 p.m.

EVENT: StoneBridge Estates Homeowners Association Meeting

MEETING LOCATION: Scripps Ranch Community Service Center

PRESENTER: Andrew Oleksyn, SDCWA

STAFF RESOURCES: Wade Griffis, SDCWA
Jessica Berlin, Katz & Associates

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Andrew Oleksyn introduced himself as the construction administrator for the San Vicente Pipeline project and provided the following overview of the Emergency Storage Project. Over the years, up to 90 percent of San Diego’s water has been imported from the Colorado River and Northern California. There are two aqueducts that bring water to San Diego County. In the early 1990s the Water Authority recognized that its system is vulnerable because those two aqueducts cross fault lines. If the aqueducts are severed because of an earthquake, some communities could be without water in as little as three days. To avoid this risk, the Water Authority is increasing its water storage capacity and is improving its ability to move water around the county through various capital improvement projects as part of the Emergency Storage Project.

Project Background
The first phase of the Emergency Storage Project, the Olivenhain Dam and Reservoir and related pipelines that connect to the Second Aqueduct, is complete. A pipeline connecting Olivenhain Reservoir to Lake Hodges so the Water Authority can use additional storage capacity in Lake Hodges is currently under construction. Another phase of the Emergency Storage Project, is the San Vicente Pipeline, which will allow water stored in San Vicente Reservoir to be pumped out to the Second Aqueduct to use in emergencies. The fourth and final phase of the Emergency Storage Project is to raise the height of San Vicente Dam in order to maximize the water storage capacity within San Vicente Reservoir.

Andrew stated the San Vicente Pipeline will be 11 miles long and will connect San Vicente Reservoir to the Second Aqueduct located just west of I-15 at Mercy Road. The tunnel will be about 12 feet in diameter. There are four construction access points – one at either end, the San Vicente Portal and the West Shaft, and two in the middle, the Central Shaft and Slaughterhouse Shaft. The Central Shaft, which is located within the StoneBridge Estates community, is 30 feet wide, 60 feet long, and 75 feet deep.
Central Shaft Work on Stonebridge Parkway
The tunneling machine has excavated about two miles from the Central Shaft. The contractor is working on the site in three, eight-hour shifts. The tunneling machine is operated up to 24-hours a day inside the tunnel. Evening activities are restricted to those that support the tunneling efforts to reduce community impacts.

While tunneling, the contractor is installing a concrete support system. The materials for creating the concrete support system need to be trucked to the Central Shaft site. After tunneling is completed, the contractor will install about five miles of pipe.

All the material from the tunnel will be used as backfill on the site, which will raise the site elevation to that of Stonebridge Parkway. Using the excess material on site will reduce truck traffic on nearby roads. A main access road for 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 Water Authority received some noise complaints from a property owner whose home overlooks the shaft site. We worked with our contractor to alter some activities to try to reduce the noise levels at night.

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

Q. What is the construction timeline?
A. Construction began in August 2005 and is scheduled to end in 2009.

Q. How are you getting material out of the tunnel and are you doing it at night?
A. The material is lifted out of the shaft by a crane and is then dumped outside. The materials must be removed from the tunnel 24-hours a day in order for the tunneling machine to continue operating.

Q. What specifically did you do to reduce the noise at night?
A. Earlier this year we were informed by a resident overlooking the shaft that they were being disturbed by nighttime activities. To reduce noise our contractor discontinued the use of back-up beepers at night, installed padding on dumping equipment, and modified the dumping procedures for excavated material. The dumping location has also been moved further away from the neighboring homes.

Q. What will the property at the Central Shaft be used for after construction?
A. At the end of the project, the shaft will be filled in and two small structures will remain for inspection, maintenance, and ventilation of the pipeline. The remaining property, zoned for institutional use, will be sold.

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