EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT
San Vicente Pipeline Update
Presentation Summary

DATE: Aug. 1, 2007                      TIME: 7:30 p.m.
EVENT: Rancho Peñasquitos Planning Board
MEETING LOCATION: DoubleTree Golf Resort
PRESENTER(S): Andrew Oleksyn, SDCWA
STAFF RESOURCES: Jessica Young, Katz & Associates

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Andrew Oleksyn introduced himself as the construction administrator for the San Vicente Pipeline project.

Andrew gave a basic overview of the Emergency Storage Project, explaining that up to 90 percent of San Diego's water is imported from the Colorado River and the State Water Project. Our current pipelines cross several fault lines and if an earthquake were to occur, those pipelines could be ruptured, potentially leaving San Diego residents without water within three days. In the 1990s, the Emergency Storage Project was developed so water could be stored within the county. The project includes building reservoirs, pump station facilities, and pipelines. Other phases of the project include connecting San Vicente Reservoir with the Water Authority's Second Aqueduct and increasing the storage capacity at the reservoir through the San Vicente Dam Raise project.

The San Vicente Pipeline is unique in that it is being constructed entirely underground. This was done to minimize impacts on communities and the environment. The San Vicente Pipeline will be an 11-mile tunnel, extending from Interstate 15 at Mercy Road to San Vicente Reservoir. The tunnel will be 12 feet in diameter and the pipeline will be 8 ½ feet in diameter.

There are four access point sites – the West Shaft at I-15 and Mercy Road, the Central Shaft in Scripps Ranch off Stonebridge Parkway in the StoneBridge Estates housing development, the Slaughterhouse Shaft off Highway 67 in Lakeside, and the San Vicente Portal at San Vicente Reservoir. The West Shaft is the site that is most relevant to the Rancho Peñasquitos community.

There are three tunneling machines currently working on the tunnel: one at the Slaughterhouse Shaft tunneling east; one at the Central Shaft working east (past Pomerado Road); and the tunnel boring machine, which is tunneling west from the West Shaft.

At the West Shaft, there is a hole that is 36 feet in diameter and 115 feet deep. Work is occurring in two 10 hour shifts, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. The mining of the tunnel occurs during the day, while evening work is done underground after 7 p.m. to maintain and repair the tunneling machine.
There have been some overall project delays as workers hit harder ground than expected and tunneling has moved slower than expected. The project is expected to be completed by late 2009. Tunnel excavation is 37 percent complete; once tunneling is done, a steel pipeline will be put in. The majority of this work will be done from the Central Shaft. There will be no pipe deliveries to the West Shaft, but work will occur there to support the installation of the pipe. The excavated tunnel material is usually stockpiled at the West Shaft until there is enough to efficiently haul off the site (to minimize impact to the surface streets). The material is typically trucked to the Miramar Marine Corps base using two to four 10-wheel dump trucks. The trucks will leave the West Shaft site via I-15 south. During this period of work, trucks will be arriving at the site every 10 to 15 minutes.

**Questions and Comments During the Presentation:**

**Q.** Will there be a lot of sound closer to Mercy Road?
**A.** The Water Authority operates a Pressure Control and Hydroelectric Facility that the pipeline will connect to underground. The short concrete structure at the West Shaft site will be pretty benign to that area. The existing facility has interior acoustical panels designed to minimize noise emission. The noise levels will be similar to what they are now.

**Q.** The West Shaft is acting only as an access point?
**A.** Yes, for the tunneling and then a permanent access point to inspect and maintain the pipeline.

**Q.** Will there be fencing around the structure?
**A.** There will be chain link fencing on the back side of the structure. The front of the structure will have something similar to Rancho Pressure Control Facility. The west shaft structure will barely be visible because it is raised up above the road a little bit.

**Q.** Will we receive more information about that facility (at Mercy Road)?
**A.** We can give updates and we have a rendering of the facility as well. The access road will be paved and there is a 12 foot wide circular road that encircles the structure that is 30 feet in diameter. There will also be about three or four parking spaces for access to the Resource Base Park.

**Q.** Are there any tours of the project site scheduled?
**A.** There are no tours scheduled, because the project is heavily into construction and it is very risky. Please contact the Public Affairs department at the Water Authority or visit www.sdcwa.org to get more updates.

**Q.** Will there be access to the tunnel through that building at the end of the tunnel?
**A.** No, the only access is through the circular concrete structure. It will extend two to three feet above the ground.

**Q.** Is there some sort of security for the structure (so there is no unauthorized access)?
**A.** The structure will have a concrete roof/pad with locked metal hatches and a fence around the facility.
Q: Where are the wastewater treatment plants in Poway and Santee in relation to Sycamore Canyon?
A: I’m familiar with some of the City of San Diego facilities such as the Reclamation Plant along I-805. If Santee has a facility, it is likely to be south of Sycamore Canyon near the San Diego River...

Q: Will the pipeline only have water flowing in it when it is an emergency or in certain conditions?
A: Normally, water will be sent to the San Vicente Reservoir for storage when it is available.

Q: Will water be pumped only in an emergency?
A: There may be situations when we would pump water during maintenance that requires a shutdown of the second aqueduct pipelines to the north. It is expensive to pump the water, but we do have that capability.

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