San Vicente Pipeline Update to Mira Mesa Planning Group
August 2, 2007

Project Background
The San Vicente Pipeline will be an 11-mile long underground pipeline that will connect the San Vicente Reservoir to the Second Aqueduct located just west of I-15 at Mercy Road. The pipeline will enable water stored in San Vicente Reservoir to be pumped to the Second Aqueduct pipelines to use in emergencies. Construction of the pipeline is being done in a tunnel to minimize the environmental and community impacts. The project is scheduled to be complete in 2009.

There are four construction access points. Two are located at each end of the pipeline, one near the base of the San Vicente Dam, called the San Vicente Portal and the other, called the West Shaft, is near the Second Aqueduct off of I-15 at Mercy Road. A third access site is located south of the Beeler Canyon community within StoneBridge Estates and is called the Central Shaft. The fourth is located off of Slaughterhouse Road in Lakeside and is called the Slaughterhouse Shaft.

General Progress Update
Tunneling is about 37 percent complete. Approximately 9,900 feet has been tunneled at the east end of the project, and about 10,500 feet has been tunneled westward from the Central Shaft. Two tunnels connected in early January from the San Vicente Portal and the Slaughterhouse Shaft. The tunnel boring machine used at the San Vicente Portal was removed and reassembled in the West Shaft in April.

Central Shaft – Tunnel Excavation Continues
The Central Shaft is located south of the Beeler Canyon community in the StoneBridge Estates community. Tunneling is occurring under the SDG&E power lines in Scripps Ranch and does not pass directly under any homes. A digger shield tunneling machine, with a pick and a shovel at its front, is being used for the tunneling efforts from this site. Tunneling from this site may take place 24 hours a day inside the tunnel.

Samples of rock taken using geotechnical drills have found that a 550-foot-long tunnel section is in rock that cannot be mined using the tunneling machine. This section must be tunneled using small, controlled blasts to break up the rock ahead of the machine. The Water Authority is requiring its construction contractor to perform an inspection of the 50 homes within 400 feet of blasting operations. The occupants of these homes have been offered pre-blast inspections of their homes. Blast vibrations will be kept far below levels that would cause any damage on these properties. The underground controlled blasts could begin as early as August and continue for three months to tunnel through the 550 feet of hard rock.

West Shaft – Tunnel Boring Machine Starts
The hard rock tunnel boring machine has tunnelled approximately 720 feet going east. Overall, it will dig about three-quarters of a mile from the West Shaft. An evening maintenance shift occurs to replace the cutterheads on the machine when they wear out. The contractor is restricted to only take material out of the tunnel during the daytime. The night work will be restricted to maintenance only and will take place underground.

**Slaughterhouse Shaft – Second Digger Tunneling Machine Launched**

A second digger tunneling machine was inserted into the Slaughterhouse Shaft and began tunneling in May. The digger machine has tunneled about 780 feet since being launched.

**For More Information**

If you have any questions about the project, please call our toll-free project information line at (877) 426-2010, or visit the Water Authority’s website at [www.sdcwa.org](http://www.sdcwa.org): click on “Infrastructure,” then “ESP,” and finally “San Vicente Pipeline.”