EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT
San Vicente Pipeline Update
Briefing Summary

DATE: August 5, 2008       TIME: 7 p.m.
EVENT: Miramar Ranch North Planning Committee
MEETING LOCATION: Scripps Ranch Information Center
PRESENTER(S): Andrew Oleksyn, SDCWA
STAFF RESOURCES: Jess Young, Katz & Associates

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:
Andrew Oleksyn, assistant construction administrator with the San Diego County Water Authority, provided an overview of the Emergency Storage Project. Over the years, up to 90 percent of San Diego County’s water has been imported from the Colorado River and Northern California through two aqueducts. In the early 1990s, the Water Authority recognized that its system is vulnerable because those two aqueducts cross earthquake fault lines. If the aqueducts are ruptured 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 within the county and is improving its ability to move water around the county through several projects as part of the Emergency Storage Project.

Andrew explained 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 12 feet in diameter and the pipeline is 8.5 feet in diameter. There are four construction access points to build the pipeline. Two are located at each end of the project: the San Vicente Portal and the West Shaft. There are also two in the middle of the pipeline: the Central Shaft (inside the StoneBridge Estates community) and the Slaughterhouse Shaft.

At the time of this meeting, the tunnel is approximately 73 percent complete, which means a little more than seven miles have been excavated. Andrew explained there are currently two tunneling machines working on the project, both tunneling west. One of the machines is directly under Scripps Poway Parkway, about 120 feet below the street surface. There are about 350 feet to excavate before two tunnel segments connect or “holethrough” under Scripps Ranch. Some controlled blasting underground will be necessary to break up hard rock material before the tunnel sections connect. The blasting is scheduled to begin around August 8, 2008 (Note: Blasting began on August 11, 2008). It will occur underneath Scripps Poway Parkway. As a precaution, the contractor will monitor vibrations from the blasting activities using seismographs to ensure they remain at very low levels.

Andrew showed a photo of one of the digger machines and explained that once the tunneling portion of the project is complete, pipe installation and welding will begin. Starting in late fall 2008, pipe will be delivered to the Central Shaft, lowered into the tunnel, and installed starting at the West Shaft, moving east.
Andrew also explained San Diego County is approaching drought conditions similar to the early 1990s. The Water Authority has embarked on a 20-Gallon Challenge program, encouraging residents to save 20 gallons of water per person, per day. He encouraged everyone to visit the website at [www.20GallonChallenge.com](http://www.20GallonChallenge.com) and try to reduce their water usage as much as possible.

**Questions and Comments During the Presentation:**

Q.  How many truckloads of pipe deliveries will there be at the Central Shaft and during which time periods?
A.  The delivery schedule will remain the same as the current schedule, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays. A high estimate would be 10 truck deliveries per day. The Water Authority will follow up with the group with a more accurate number. Work to install the pipe will be a single, eight-hour shift.

Q:  How will the pipe be delivered to the Central Shaft and will the community be able to see the pipe being installed?
A:  Residents in this area will see the pipe being delivered in pieces but will not see pipe installation. The trucks delivering pipe will take Scripps Poway Parkway from Interstate 15 to reach a special access route for large deliveries. From Scripps Poway Parkway, the trucks will travel on Kirkham Road to a private road through the Vulcan materials plant, then cross Beeler Canyon Road to get to Stonebridge Parkway.

C:  Our concern is about the big delivery trucks since we already have substantial traffic on Scripps Poway Parkway.
A:  The delivery trucks will be using an already established and approved route for deliveries. Currently the project has more trucks delivering concrete segments for installation in the tunnel than the trucks anticipated for pipe deliveries. It may sound like a lot of trucks, but averaged over the delivery period it would be about one truck an hour. It is unlikely that the community will notice any traffic increase in the area with the pipe deliveries. Once the pipe installation begins, the contractor will reduce the work shifts to one eight-hour shift per day.

Q:  What will the West Shaft site look like when the tunnel is complete?
A:  At that location, the tunnel is about 115 feet below the surface. There will be a 30-foot diameter concrete structure that will be about two feet above the ground to serve as a tunnel access facility for the Water Authority. Community members likely won’t see it from the road; the fence enclosing the front of the facility will probably be the only part that is visible. The shotcrete on the back slope will be filled back in with soil and then hydroseeded to restore a natural landscape. To get an idea of what the shaft site will look like, you can view an animation for the Rancho Penasquitos Pressure Control and Hydroelectric Facility on the Water Authority’s website ([http://www.sdcwa.org/infra/WMVFiles/PCHF%20Fly%20by.wmv](http://www.sdcwa.org/infra/WMVFiles/PCHF%20Fly%20by.wmv)). The pressure control / hydroelectric facility is located next to the shaft site. Toward the end of the animation, there is view above the West Shaft location. It will have the same type of landscaping and fencing as the pressure control/hydroelectric facility next door.
C: The committee would like to see a landscaping rendering or architectural plans for the structure at the West Shaft site for the next Water Authority presentation. (As follow up to this item, a landscape simulation video of the West Shaft was emailed to the chair of the group.)

Q: When will the Central Shaft site be completed?
A: The activities at the Central Shaft will cease for a while after the pipe welding is completed (expected to be late 2009). The site needs to remain operational, however, until the final tunneling machine finishes excavating toward the Central Shaft, where it will be removed once excavation is complete.

Q: When is the West Shaft going to be finished?
A: It will be finished in late 2009.

Q: Is the Water Authority involved with reclaimed water?
A: No, the city of San Diego operates reclaimed water facilities for this area. The Water Authority's planning department is looking into reclaimed water as a portion of the region's water portfolio.

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