EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT
San Vicente Pipeline Update
Briefing Summary

DATE: Aug. 15, 2006
TIME: 7 p.m.

EVENT: Poway City Council Meeting

MEETING LOCATION: Poway City Council Chambers

PRESENTER: Andrew Oleksyn, SDCWA Construction Administrator

STAFF RESOURCES: Craig Balben, SDCWA
Emily Powell, Katz & Associates

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Andrew Oleksyn provided an overview of the Emergency Storage Project. He stated up to 90 percent of San Diego’s water is 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.

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. A key feature of the San Vicente Pipeline is that the pipeline will be constructed in a tunnel to minimize the environmental and community impacts. 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 West Shaft is 36 feet in diameter and 115 feet deep. At this site, around 250 feet of 400 feet of tunneling has been completed. Once tunneling reaches 400 feet, a tunnel boring machine will begin work. The Slaughterhouse Shaft is 36 feet in diameter and 70 feet deep and blasting is occurring in two directions. After about a mile is completed, a tunnel boring machines will take over and tunnel about 4.25 miles from this site. At the San Vicente Portal a hard
A rock tunnel boring machine was launched about a month and a half ago. Once it bores about three-quarters of a mile it will be brought to the West Shaft.

The Central Shaft is 30 feet wide, 60 feet long, and 75 feet deep and is located south of the Beeler Canyon community in the StoneBridge Estates community. Andrew explained a digger shield machine is currently excavating the starter tunnel and has about 4.5 miles to dig at this site. While tunneling, the contractor is installing a concrete support system. The materials for 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, which will also be trucked to this location. All the material from the tunnel will be used as backfill on the site, and will raise the site elevation to that of Stonebridge Parkway. Using the excess material on site reduces truck traffic on nearby roads. Andrew showed various photos of construction work and equipment at each of the project sites and stated the contractor has been working two 10-hour shifts, six days a week at the Central Shaft. The main access road for construction deliveries is through the Vulcan Materials driveway off of Kirkham Road. Deliveries are currently only allowed from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. although the contractor has asked that deliveries be allowed as early as 7 a.m. Evening activities are restricted to those that support the tunneling efforts -- the tunnel boring machine may work 24 hours a day inside the tunnel.

Questions and Comments:

Q. Councilmember Betty Rexford lives on Creek Road near the Beeler Canyon community and she stated she has not heard noise from deliveries or construction work at the Central Shaft. She asked when the delivery of pipes will begin. She also appreciates the Water Authority's efforts to keep the community informed about the progress of the project and encourages them to continue to do so as the pipe installation begins.

A. There will be 4.25 miles of pipe from the Central Shaft and tunneling will occur until approximately November 2007, depending on the speed of the tunnel boring machines. Pipe installation is scheduled to start in early 2008.

Q. At the completion of the project will the Water Authority evaluate Scripps Poway Parkway and repair or give money to the City of Poway for damages that occurred as a result of construction activities?

A. It is the Water Authority's policy to repair roads damaged by our construction work. We conducted a pre-construction survey on roads around the site and will evaluate them at the end of the project to determine if damage occurred as a result of construction vehicles. We will also respond to complaints regarding damage from construction.

Q. What is the start time for deliveries to the project site?

A. Materials can be delivered to the site at 9 a.m.

Q. Is the project on schedule and on budget at this time?

A. The project is behind schedule right now, but the project team is hoping the tunneling machines will work fast and make up some time to put us back on schedule. We are on budget for this project at this time.

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