Kathy Schuler welcomed everyone and introduced herself as a senior engineer for the San Diego County Water Authority and the project manager for the San Vicente Pipeline.

Kathy gave an overview of the San Diego County Water Authority and the San Vicente Pipeline project that it is currently under construction. The San Diego County Water Authority provides up to 90 percent of the region's water supply. The Water Authority purchases imported water from the Metropolitan Water District and this water is imported from the Colorado River and the State Water Project.

Kathy explained the importance of the Emergency Storage Project. The purpose of the project is to increase the amount of water stored in San Diego County in case of an emergency. The aqueducts that import the majority of the water into the county cross fault lines so an earthquake could cause one of these pipelines to break. If this happened, some member agencies would only have three to four days worth of water supply. A disaster causing the pipelines to sever could interrupt the water supply for up to six months.

Kathy gave an overview of the Emergency Storage Project saying that it began in 1998. There are four phases to the project. Phase 1 included the construction of the Olivenhain Dam, which was recently completed. Phase 2 includes the San Vicente Pipeline and also includes a pump station and surge control facility. Phase 3 includes the Lake Hodges Pipeline and pump station, which is also under construction right now with Kiewit Pacific as the contractor. Phase 4 includes the construction of the San Vicente Dam raise, which is scheduled to begin in 2008.

Kathy explained that the San Vicente Pipeline goes from the Water Authority's second aqueduct near the I-15 Mercy Road exit and extends to the San Vicente Reservoir in Lakeside. The tunnel does not travel under any homes. The pipeline will be able to transport water in both directions – east to west or west to east. The pipeline will be 11 miles long and will be 102 inches in diameter. There will be four access points along the pipeline. The West Shaft is off Mercy Road, near I-15. The groundbreaking ceremony for the project took place at the Central Shaft, which is located on Stonebridge Parkway, east of Pomerado Road. The Slaughterhouse Shaft is located on Highway
67 at Slaughterhouse. The San Vicente Portal is at the base of the San Vicente Dam near the access road up to the reservoir.

Kathy stated that all contractors that bid on the San Vicente Pipeline project specialize in constructing tunnels. The three bids received for the contract were as follows: Shea-Traylor bid $198,366,900, Kenny-Obayashi bid $202,412,500, and Kiewit Pacific bid $234,924,000. The Water Authority's total Capital Improvement Program is $3.1 billion. The total Emergency Storage Project is $877.3 million and the San Vicente Pipeline project will be $304.8 million for construction. Kathy said that the design for this project commenced in March 2002 and the contract completion is scheduled for December 2008.

Kathy showed pictures of the type of material they would tunneling through and then explained that the contractor would be using tunnel boring machines to tunnel portions of the alignment. Some portions of the tunnel will be constructed through a drill and blast method. During the design process of the project approximately 43 trial borings took place to see what type of material would be along the tunnel alignment to determine what type of tunnel boring machine would be needed.

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

Q. How loud will it be?
A. If you're standing next to one of the four access points, then you'll hear some construction noise. But, the majority of the work (tunneling) will be done 50 to 350 feet underground so the noise along most of the alignment will not be significant. You'll hear the noise of the construction trucks and generators over the sound of the tunnel boring machine.

Q. How does the San Vicente Pipeline impact the Poway Business Park?
A. Trucks delivering materials to the Central Shaft site will travel on Scripps Poway Parkway through the Vulcan Materials Company access road. Construction work hours for the project are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and deliveries will begin at 9 a.m.

Q. Where will you be taking the material that comes out of the shaft/portal sites?
A. For the San Vicente Portal and the Slaughterhouse Shaft, Hanson Aggregates will be taking the material. The material that comes out at the west shaft will be trucked off site. For the Central Shaft, no muck will come out of the site and what does come out will stay on site and will be used to build up the site to grade with the roadway. No material will be trucked out of the Central Shaft site – only delivery trucks will be accessing the site.

Q. Will this type of tunneling affect/compromise faults?
A. The tunnel does not go through faults and is designed to survive through earthquakes. The tunnel will be a hole cut through the ground and then concrete segments will extend up to the rock, and then a lining will be placed on top of the concrete.

Q. Are the access points the only points where truck/construction traffic will be coming and going?
A. Yes.

Q. How long will construction of the San Vicente Pipeline take?
A. 42 months.
Q. Is the Olivenhain Dam complete?
A. Yes. The dam took 1½ years to complete.

Shannon Reed concluded the session by thanking everyone for attending and explaining that there will be future tour opportunities of the pipeline alignment once construction of the pipeline is under way.

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