San Vicente Pipeline
Project Update
September 2008

The following project update is being provided to keep the community planning groups informed of the San Vicente Pipeline construction progress.

There are four construction access points to build the San Vicente Pipeline. One is located at each end of the project. The San Vicente Portal is located at the east end of the project near San Vicente Dam, and the West Shaft is near the Second Aqueduct off of I-15 at Mercy Road. The Central Shaft is located south of the Beeler Canyon community within the StoneBridge Estates community. The fourth access point is located off of Slaughterhouse Road near Lakeside.

Tunneling Progress
Approximately 75 percent of the tunnel has been excavated. A significant milestone for the project was achieved recently when tunnel segments from the Central Shaft and West Shaft were connected using a tunneling machine and blasting. The western half of the tunnel – nearly five miles – is now complete.

San Vicente Portal and Slaughterhouse Shaft
One tunneling machine is working to excavate the remaining three-mile section of tunnel for the pipeline. It is moving westward toward the Central Shaft from the San Vicente Portal and has completed approximately 7,150 feet. Tunneling efforts in this section are slower than anticipated due to the hard ground that is being encountered. In Lakeside, the San Vicente Portal and Slaughterhouse Shaft are both being used to support tunneling activities to excavate the final section of tunnel. Work at these two locations occurs 24 hours a day, Monday through Saturday. Excavated materials are removed at the San Vicente Portal and trucked to a nearby aggregate company.
Central Shaft
The contractor is currently removing equipment from the site and preparing the tunnel for pipe installation. When those activities are completed in late fall, pipe delivery will begin at the Central Shaft. The main access road for these construction deliveries is through the Vulcan access road off of Kirkham Way in the city of Poway. Deliveries are currently only allowed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Approximately eight to ten trucks per day will be delivering pipe to the Central Shaft over a five- to six-month period. The pipe segments will be lowered into the tunnel and hauled towards the West Shaft, and pipe installation will advance from west to east. It will take approximately one year to complete pipe installation in the tunnel section between the West and Central shafts. Work at the Central Shaft is performed 24 hours a day, Monday through Friday, with occasional maintenance work on Saturday. In late fall, work will be reduced to a single daytime shift.

West Shaft
Currently there is one 8-hour work shift per day, Monday through Friday. The future activities at the West Shaft site will be limited to removing the tunneling machine from the tunnel and supporting the welding, grouting, and mortar lining operations taking place inside the pipeline. The final activities at this location will include installing permanent surface structures and final site grading.

The Purpose of the San Vicente Pipeline
The San Vicente Pipeline is a key component of the San Diego County Water Authority’s Emergency Storage Project. The pipeline will create a water supply link between San Vicente Reservoir and the Water Authority’s Second Aqueduct, allowing water to be delivered to agencies in the southern portion of the county in an emergency. The project will also improve the Water Authority’s ability to move large quantities of water into storage when available. The San Vicente Pipeline will be 11 miles long and will connect San Vicente Reservoir to the Second Aqueduct near I-15 at Mercy Road. The tunnel will be 12 feet in diameter and an 8.5-foot diameter steel water pipe will be installed inside of the tunnel. When the pipeline is complete, imported water will normally be sent by gravity to San Vicente Reservoir for storage. During an emergency situation, water will be pumped out of the reservoir to the Second Aqueduct to serve the Water Authority’s member agencies. All work for the pipeline is anticipated to be complete in 2010.

If you have additional questions or would like to receive more information about the San Vicente Pipeline Project or the Emergency Storage Project, please contact Gina Molise, the Water Authority’s senior public affairs representative, at (858) 522-6706. You can also call toll free (877) 426-2010, email ESPinfo@sdcwa.org, or visit our website at www.sdcwa.org (click on “Infrastructure,” then “ESP,” then “San Vicente Pipeline”).