

EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT

San Vicente Pumping Station/Surge Control Facility Carryover Storage and San Vicente Dam Raise EIR/EIS San Vicente Dam Raise Briefing Summary

DATE: Oct. 18, 2006 **TIME:** 7:30 p.m.

ORGANIZATION: Lakeside Community Planning Group

MEETING LOCATION: Lakeside Community Center

PRESENTERS: Nicola Kavanagh, SDCWA
Kelley Gage, SDCWA
Jeff Shoaf, SDCWA

STAFF RESOURCES: Rachel Kulis, Katz & Associates
Emily Powell, Katz & Associates

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

San Vicente Pumping Facilities Update

Nicola Kavanagh, project manager for the San Vicente Pumping Facilities at the San Diego County Water Authority, explained the San Vicente Pumping Facilities is part of the overall Emergency Storage Project. Over the years, up to 90 percent of San Diego's water has been imported from the Colorado River and Northern California. In the early 1990s the Water Authority recognized that the main pipelines in the system are 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 improving its ability to move water around the county through various capital improvement projects. The Emergency Storage Project's main purpose is to be able move water stored in San Vicente Reservoir to the pipelines in the Second Aqueduct along the I-15 corridor and to the Helix Water District in case of an emergency.

Nicola explained the San Vicente Pumping Facilities includes a pumping station and a surge tank. Once this system is in place, water will be pumped to the top of the hill from the reservoir and then flow by gravity through the San Vicente Pipeline tunnel to connect to the Second Aqueduct. The pumping station will be located in the valley near the current San Vicente Pipeline Portal and will be visible from the San Vicente marina access road. The facility will have the ability to pump approximately 300 million gallons of water a day. It will include three pumps that each has 7,000-horse power capacity. Nicola also showed a design rendering of the pumping facility. The building will be 75 feet wide, 120 feet long, 25 feet tall and will be located at the base of the hill leading to San Vicente Reservoir. It will be painted to match the surrounding landscaping and vegetation.

The three million-gallon large round water storage surge tank will be located at the top of the hill. It will be partially hidden inside the hill and only 20 feet will be visible from the top of the hill. For construction and safety reasons, the marina access road will be closed during the off-season from October through April. The road closure will take place on Thursdays and Fridays beginning in January 2007. This project will take around two and a half years to complete.

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

- Q. If the electricity is coming from the SDG&E Los Coches substation, this substation will not be able to handle the electricity needed to power the 7,000 horsepower pumps. The amount of electricity the pump station needs poses a problem and SDG&E will not be able to provide quality electricity to the Lakeside community with these pumps in use.
- A. The electricity most likely will originate from the Los Coches substation. The Water authority is working with SDG&E. At the beginning, only one pump will be running until the substation's capacity increases.
- Q. Will the electricity lines be overhead or underground?
- A. The electricity lines will be overhead. It will feed off the existing poles in the area.
- Q. The final EIR/EIS mitigation section reads, "The pumping station will be designed with materials and colors that are compatible with the predominant architectural style of residences and structures in the area." Another quote was about ranch style homes. The design for the pump station you have displayed does not resemble a typical residential building in Lakeside.
- A. Nicola asked for a copy of the section of the final EIR she was quoting from. She said she would review the EIR/EIS language and respond in person. [After the meeting, Nicola followed-up with the board member and confirmed that the text the board member was referring to was for a different project outside of Lakeside.]

Carryover Storage and San Vicente Dam Raise Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement Update

Kelley Gage, an environmental project manager in the Water Resources Department, explained the Water Authority is beginning the environmental process to evaluate the impacts of potentially raising the San Vicente Dam higher than what is already planned. This would enable the Water Authority to store more water at the reservoir. The Notice of Preparation for the environmental impact report and environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) was sent out on Oct. 10, which began a 30-day comment period ending on Nov. 9.

As part of the Emergency Storage Project and the environmental process that took place in the mid-1990s, the San Vicente Dam is scheduled to be raised 54 feet. The Carryover Storage Project proposes an additional height raise of the dam that is not included in the original environmental documents. The EIR/EIS is a joint document between the Water Authority and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The open house and scoping meeting for the Carryover Storage Project will be held on Nov. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Water Authority office in Kearny Mesa. This is an opportunity for people to learn more about the project and get information about the projects. The scoping meeting will also include an opportunity to provide comments about what the environmental study should include. She said she is aware the scoping meeting is a scheduling conflict with the regular Lakeside Planning Group meeting and explained all comments are equally weighted. If a planning group member cannot come to the scoping meeting, you can still send comments. Kelley provided copies of the Notice of Intent/Notice of Preparation for the Carryover Storage Project EIR/EIS and copies of the written comment forms to the group.

Written comments can also be submitted by mail, email, or fax no later than Nov. 9, 2006. After the release of the draft EIR/EIS document in Spring 2007, a public hearing will be held at a Water Authority board meeting for people to provide comments on the document. The draft EIR/EIS will also be posted on the Water Authority's website (www.sdcwa.org) and will be available on CD.

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

- C. This is a major dam project in Lakeside, but the scoping meeting was scheduled in Kearny Mesa. It was scheduled without checking the Lakeside Planning Group meeting dates, which have been the first and third Wednesday of each month for years. The planned scoping meeting is inadequate. The meeting should be in Lakeside.
- R. Kelley apologized for the scoping meeting being a scheduling conflict with the Lakeside Planning Group meeting. She also stated the Water Authority had to consider the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers schedule, its partner in this project. She also explained the scoping meeting is informal with no board members present.
- Q. What are the recreational elements of the Carryover Storage Project that will be examined in the EIR/EIS document?
- A. The types of recreational impacts we will be examining include fisherman, hiking facilities, etc. We are also looking into constructing a new marina at San Vicente Reservoir.
- Q. The original San Vicente Dam Raise Project had a specific time frame of how long construction would disrupt our community. Do you have an estimated time frame for the additional dam raise project?
- A. Jeff Shoaf (briefing summary provided below) will discuss details of the project and the length of construction. The time frame will also be looked at in the EIR/EIS.
- C. Our community would like to understand the traffic impacts of the project. She would like to make sure truck traffic will be limited on Moreno Avenue during construction.
- A. Kelley suggested this comment be submitted in writing as a scoping comment.
- C. Will the EIR/EIS include plans to construct a new flood control channel? There have been plans for a channel that goes all the way down Moreno Valley for 20 years. He is required to build a channel in the middle of nowhere, with no beginning or end. The design for the

channel does not have a transition into the existing channel. He feels the city of San Diego and the Water Authority should build their portion of the channel like everyone else.

- A. Rick Smith, Lakeside CPG Chair, stated that the flood control issue is outside of the Water Authority's purview. The Water Authority only deals with water supplies and the County of San Diego is the appropriate agency to discuss this issue with.

San Vicente Dam Raise Update

Jeff Shoaf, project manager for the Carryover Storage and San Vicente Dam Raise Project, said the 54-foot dam raise will create 52,000 acre feet of storage to be used in an emergency. The other phases of the Emergency Storage Project (ESP) include the Olivenhain Dam in Escondido that holds 20,000 acre feet of storage and Lake Hodges that will hold 20,000 acre feet of storage. Once all the ESP components are completed, the region will have 90,000 acre-feet of stored water to use if there is an emergency that causes a disruption of water delivery. The Water Authority has also identified a need for an additional 100,000 acre-feet of carryover water storage. Carryover storage refers to a process of accumulating water during wet seasons when it is plentiful, keeping it in storage, and carrying it over to use in subsequent dry years. To fill this need, the Water Authority proposed raising San Vicente Dam an additional 63 feet for a total raise of 117 feet. To do this, the Water Authority is required to study the environmental and community impacts of the project through an EIR/EIS. The additional San Vicente Dam raise is the Water Authority's preferred alternative, but because it is required to study additional alternatives, the Water Authority will also be studying the possibility of constructing a new dam at Moosa Valley. The Water Authority narrowed it down to four basic alternatives:

1. Raise San Vicente Dam an additional 63 feet (beyond what's planned for ESP) to store 100,000 acre-feet of water (preferred alternative)
2. Construct a new dam at Moosa Valley to store 100,000 acre-feet of water
3. Raise San Vicente Dam to store 50,000 acre-feet of water and build a new Moosa Valley dam to store 50,000 acre-feet of water
4. "No-action" alternative, which means nothing would be done except raise the dam 54 feet.

Currently, San Vicente Reservoir is approximately 220 feet high. With the Carryover Storage Project it will be raised to about 340 feet with 242,000 acre-feet of water storage. The existing dam is a conventional concrete gravity dam, but the raised portion of the dam will be made of roller-compacted concrete, which is rolled out in layers like asphalt and is more economical. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2009 but depends on the completion of the San Vicente Pumping Facilities and the San Vicente Pipeline. It is scheduled to be completed in fall 2012, but the reservoir will take from two to five years to fill up again. If we have a several good rainy seasons, the reservoir could fill up in two years, but if we do not get consistent rain it could take up to five years. Starting in early 2008, the dam will be drained down to about 40,000 acre-feet, which is more than half the reservoir.

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

- Q. What is the proposed fluctuation of the water level at San Vicente Reservoir?

- A. Jeff explained the Water Authority is currently working with the city of San Diego on a reservoir-regulating plan. There are no solid numbers at this time, but it could fluctuate from 100 feet or more depending on how the water is cycled out between the Water Authority's system and the city's system. The city will continue to own and operate San Vicente Reservoir. The Water Authority will fund the project at the reservoir and will retain the storage rights for it. The pumping facilities will be owned and operated by the Water Authority. This project is a joint venture between the Water Authority and the city to utilize an existing valley already inundated to minimize the community impacts. The Water Authority is also working with the California Division of Safety of Dams, which governs all dams in California, to determine the fluctuation figures.
- Q. Will you please explain the new recreational facilities planned?
- A. The new marina facility will be larger than the current one and will accommodate approximately 200 boat trailers and cars. There will be picnic facilities as well. We are still working with the city on the details of the new marina. There will be approximately 64 boat slips for parking boats and additional fishing piers. The existing marina facility will potentially be moved up the valley.
- Q. What will the length of the boat ramp be at the new marina?
- A. Jeff explained we do not know the exact length of the new boat ramp at this time. However the boat ramp will most likely go from the existing elevation to an elevation of 660 feet, the existing spillway.
- Q. Can you clarify what you mean by 64 boat slips? Does that mean 64 dock spots or will there be overnight parking in the new marina?
- A. The city of San Diego will operate the marina, but the city will probably not rent parking slips out like they do at the Marina in the Bay. Jeff explained boat slips will be used for people to park their boats during the day. Currently, the city has 30 boat slips, so with the new marina the boat parking area will probably be doubled.
- Q. What happens to the Lakeside community in an emergency when the water is moved around to other communities in an emergency?
- A. The Lakeside community will be serviced as well during an emergency. There are two aqueducts from the North and member agencies purchase water from the Water Authority. Then the agencies draw off of water stored in San Vicente Reservoir to the pipelines. The 11-mile San Vicente Pipeline tunnel will connect the aqueduct system to the San Vicente Reservoir once it is completed. This connection will allow water to flow to different areas of the county in an emergency.
- Q. Will Lakeside residents be charged for the movement of water in and out our community?
- A. Lakeside residents will not be specifically charged. To pay for all of the Water Authority Capital Improvement Projects, the ratepayer does pay the rate to their water agency and the agency pays the Water Authority. It is also included in your property taxes.
- Q. How many parking spaces are at San Vicente Reservoir currently?
- A. There are a little over 100 parking spaces now, but the new marina will hopefully double the parking spaces. We are also trying to add parking spaces for non-boaters.

- Q. Can you provide more details about the improvements to the access road?
A. Currently the access road is steep and windy. We are planning to lower the grade of the road to 12%, because now has as high of a grade of 20% in certain sections of the road.
- Q. The dam spillway would be about 16,000 acre-feet. I assume the number is based on a 100-year flood-rain scenario. Can you clarify this?
A. Jeff explained none of the dams in San Diego are build for flood control purposed. The dams and reservoirs in the county were built only for storage. San Vicente Reservoir has spilled five times in its history. Our intent is to never have the dam spill again.
- C. A water management plan should be included in the EIR/EIS document. It would describe how the Water Authority and the city plan for the dam to never spill and impact the Lakeside community.
A. Jeff explained it is impossible to build a dam and guarantee it will never spill. The operating plan with the city of San Diego the intent will include a process to lower the dam in anticipation of the winter rains. The drainage basin for San Vicente Reservoir is about 74 square miles. The dam is not a flood control dam, so operators low it to a level they think is sufficient based on the predicted rainfall, but some factors cannot be anticipated.
- Q. What percentage of surface area is going to be added to San Vicente Reservoir?
A. Jeff explained about 500 acres of surface area will be added. The existing acreage is about 1100 acres.
- C. When the dam spilled last time, the operator said they been pumping millions of gallons of water in a day and did not shut it off.
- Q. Why will the dam not be a flood control dam?
A. The San Vicente Dam was built in 1943 for storage purposes. It would be a significant cost to operate the dam using a flood control method. The dam was never meant to be operated that way. We are trying to utilize an existing dam and in some ways we are confined to its original purpose.
- Q. Why is water purchased by the water agencies in November?
A. Water is purchased in November because rates are lower at that time.
- Q. Is the Water Authority liable if they keep pumping water in to the dam and it spills?
A. Chairman Rick Smith said the community would have to prove the Water Authority was liable.
- Q. When the dam is being drained, where will the water go?
A. The city of San Diego will take the water to the Alvarado or Miramar Water Treatment Plant and then it will be dispersed to cities to use.
- C. If a new dam is going to be built, and this dam raise is essentially a new dam, it should be operated using flood control methods. There is a procedure to anticipate how high the water level should be during certain rainy months so it does not overflow.

- Q. Chairman Rick Smith asked how the Lakeside Planning Group can provide input into a water management plan.
- A. The first step is for committee members to provide comments in the scoping period for this project, including adding this to your official written or oral scoping comments. The Water Authority will be working with the city and this planning group throughout the project.
