

# ESP UPDATE



Spring 2008 Edition



## Lake Hodges Electrical Switchyard Complete

Page 2

## Next Steps for Carryover Storage Project

Page 2

## San Vicente Reservoir Closure Update

Page 3

## Tunnel Blasting Complete in Scripps Ranch

Page 3

*The Emergency Storage Project is a system of reservoirs, interconnected pipelines, and pumping stations designed to make water available to the San Diego region in the event of an interruption in imported water deliveries.*

*The Emergency Storage Project is part of the San Diego County Water Authority's Capital Improvement Program to enhance and increase the operational flexibility of its water delivery system.*

*This newsletter is one way the San Diego County Water Authority is keeping communities like yours informed about the project's progress.*

*For more information, please call toll free*

**(877) 426-2010**

*or visit our website at*

**[www.sdcwa.org](http://www.sdcwa.org)**



San Diego County  
Water Authority

Capital Improvement  
Program

## A Real Water Crisis – Save Water Now

Did you know that water restrictions could be in Southern California's future? Yes, it's true. This winter's rainfall barely made a mark in our water supply situation, since our semiarid region relies heavily on imported water. Last year, a whopping 83 percent of San Diego County's water was imported from the Colorado River and Northern California's Bay-Delta.

Despite recent rain and snowfall, the Colorado River is in its ninth year of drought, and historic dry conditions continue in California. Further impacting the water shortage this year are unprecedented court-ordered pumping restrictions that will cut the amount of water we receive from the fragile Bay-Delta by as much as 30 percent.

Our water supply situation is so serious, in fact, that maintaining existing supplies in local reservoirs is of paramount concern. Saving water now preserves these stored supplies for later, when we may have to rely upon them to avoid mandatory water conservation.

What does this mean to you? The Water Authority urges everyone to participate in the 20-Gallon Challenge to save 20 gallons of water per person, per day. If your family or business already practices water conservation as a way of life, we thank you! But remember – the more water we all save now, the more water we can keep in our local reservoirs for future dry periods.

The Water Authority is taking a number of actions to provide the region with the resources and flexibility to cope with dry conditions. We are promoting aggressive water conservation programs, investing in new local water sources and alternative imported supplies, and improving infrastructure, like the Emergency Storage Project.

Please join the "20-Gallon Challenge" and take the pledge to save 20 gallons per day at **[www.20gallonchallenge.com](http://www.20gallonchallenge.com)**. You can learn more about conservation tips, incentive programs, and money-saving vouchers on the website. And please pass the word on to your friends and neighbors: It's time for all of us to conserve water. 💧



*The "bathtub ring" around Lake Mead measures an unprecedented 10 stories high, providing vivid evidence of drought in the Colorado River system.*

## Wetlands Project Considered for Tijuana River Valley



As part of the Emergency Storage Project, the Water Authority is preparing an environmental impact report for a proposed wetlands project that will create about 45 acres of native wetlands in the Tijuana River Valley. The creation of wetlands is an environmental requirement that addresses

*See WETLANDS on page 2*

*The Water Authority's Manchester Wetlands project, shown here after 1.5 years of growth, created six acres of wetlands in North County to mitigate for the Emergency Storage Project.*

## WETLANDS *continued from page 1*

the environmental impacts of constructing the pipelines, reservoirs, and pumping stations that make up the Emergency Storage Project.

Wetlands are low-lying areas of land that become saturated or flooded during heavy rains. They filter out water pollutants, replenish the ground water table, provide flood control, and are an important wildlife habitat. An earlier Water Authority wetlands project established six acres of wetlands in Encinitas in 2004.

### Environmental Impact Report Schedule

<b>Summer 2008</b>	<b>Draft EIR document available for public review and comment (45-day review period)</b>
<b>Late 2008</b>	<b>Final EIR scheduled for completion; Water Authority board considers certifying EIR and approving the project</b>

The new environmental report will examine three possible sites to establish wetlands within the Tijuana River Valley. The draft report is expected to be ready for public review and comment in summer 2008.

For more information about the Tijuana River Valley Wetlands Mitigation Project, please call the toll-free project information line at **(877) 682-9283, Ext. 7007**, email [CIPinfo@sdcwa.org](mailto:CIPinfo@sdcwa.org), or visit the Water Authority's website at [www.sdcwa.org](http://www.sdcwa.org), click on "Infrastructure," then "CIP," and finally "Tijuana River Valley Wetlands Mitigation Project." 💧

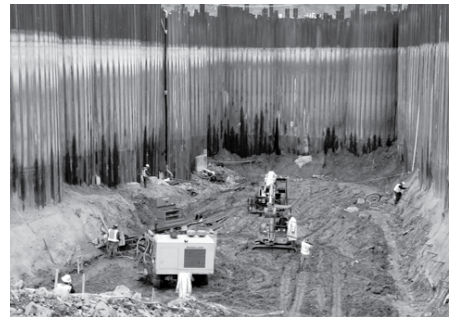
## Lake Hodges Electrical Switchyard Complete

The Lake Hodges Projects reached a significant milestone with the February completion of the San Diego Gas & Electric switchyard. Once the other Lake Hodges projects are finished, water flowing down from Olivenhain Reservoir to Hodges Reservoir will generate hydroelectric energy from the pump station. The energy will flow through the new switchyard to serve an estimated 26,000 homes annually. The switchyard will also provide power to the pump station, so that water from Hodges Reservoir can be pumped uphill into Olivenhain Reservoir.

### The Lake Hodges Projects Include:

- ✓ **Lake Hodges to Olivenhain pipeline**
- ✓ **SDG&E electrical switchyard**
- **Water Authority electrical switchyard**
- **Pump station**
- **Inlet-outlet structure**

✓ = Complete



*The temporary cofferdam holds back Hodges Reservoir water during construction of the inlet-outlet structure.*

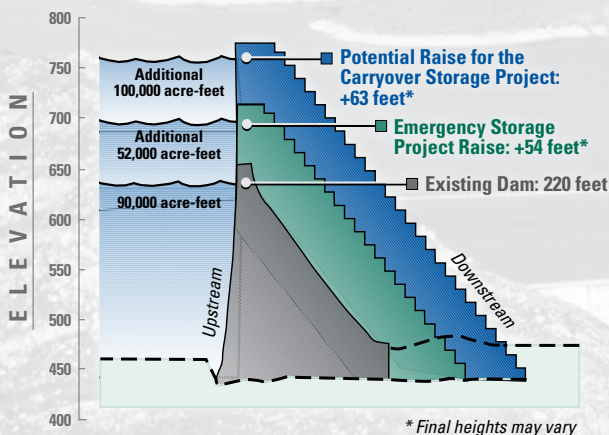
Elsewhere at the Lake Hodges project site, softer-than-expected ground conditions have slowed progress within the cofferdam where the inlet-outlet structure will be constructed. When complete,

*See LAKE HODGES on page 4*

## Final Carryover Storage Environmental Study is Slated for Certification

Southern California's current water crisis has underscored the need for additional water storage in the region. Protection from a prolonged drought is one of the main drivers for the Water Authority's Carryover Storage Project. If approved, the

### Cross Section of San Vicente Dam Raise



Carryover Storage Project will provide the Water Authority the ability to collect and store an additional 100,000 acre-feet of water during wet years, when it is plentiful, and "carry it over" for use in subsequent dry years when there is a shortage. This is enough water to supply nearly 30 percent of San Diego County's population for one year.

An environmental study has been prepared as part of the approval process for the project. The study, called an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) will be available in its final form in mid-April. The preferred alternative identified in the study is to raise San Vicente Dam an additional 63 feet, beyond the 54 feet already planned and approved as part of the Emergency Storage Project.

The Water Authority board is scheduled to consider certifying the EIR/EIS and approving the project at the April 24, 2008 board meeting. The public is welcome to attend. The time of the board meeting will be posted on the Water Authority's website one week prior to the meeting. Copies of the final environmental document can be accessed after April 16 at [www.sdcwa.org](http://www.sdcwa.org) or requested by calling the toll-free project information line at **(877) 426-2010**. 💧

## Summer Recreation Schedule at San Vicente Reservoir Starts in May

San Vicente Reservoir will resume its summer schedule on May 1, 2008 (see closure schedule below). In mid-2008, or whenever the water no longer reaches the boat launch due to the reservoir drawdown required for construction, the reservoir will be closed to all recreation. Construction for the San Vicente Dam Raise project is scheduled to begin in 2009 and will take about four years. The reservoir will reopen to recreation after construction sometime between 2014 and 2017, as soon as the water level reaches the new boat launch. The amount of time needed to refill the reservoir will depend on rainfall and water supply and demand.

For up-to-date San Vicente Reservoir recreation information, please visit the San Diego City Lakes' website at [www.sandiego.gov/water/recreation/fishbulletin.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/water/recreation/fishbulletin.shtml).

## Scripps Ranch Tunnel Blasting for San Vicente Pipeline Complete

January 16 marked the last day controlled blasting was needed to excavate a short 550-foot tunnel section in Scripps Ranch for the San Vicente Pipeline project.

Blasting was necessary in that area due to hard rock conditions. The Water Authority was pleased that blasting was completed with no complaints from residents living near the tunneling activity since it began in mid-September 2007.



A team member shares project information at San Vicente Reservoir.

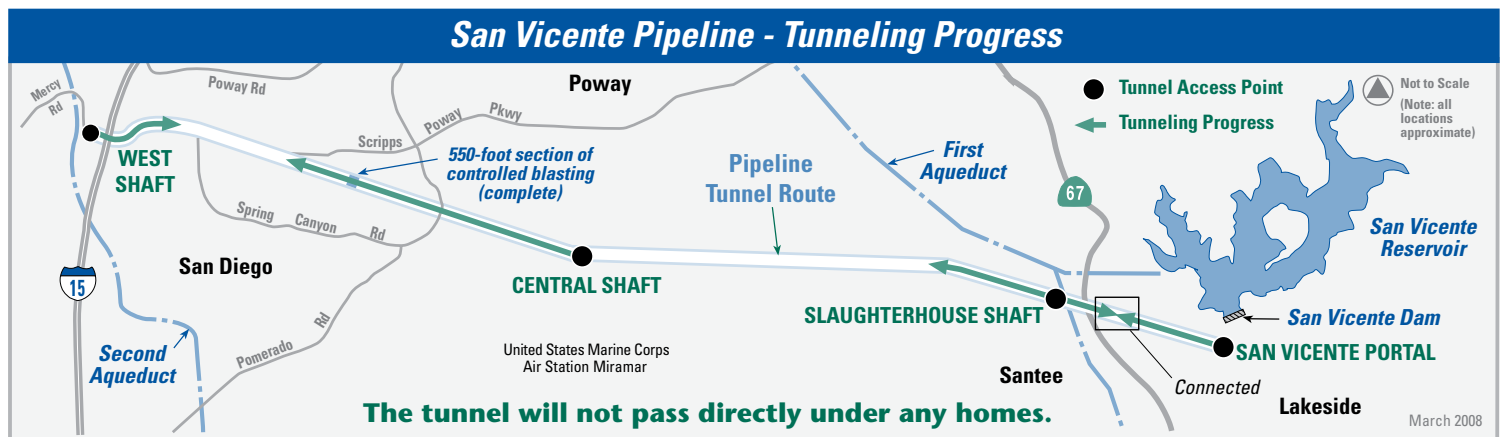
The westward blasting took

## San Vicente Reservoir Closure Schedule

	Thurs. & Fri.	Sat. & Sun.	Mon. - Wed.
Through April 2008	Closed	Sat: Fishing/Water Contact Sun: Fishing Activities Only	Always Closed
May 2008 - Mid-2008	Thurs: Fishing Activities Only Fri: Fishing/Water Contact	Open for Water Contact Only	Always Closed
Mid-2008 through Construction and Refill	Closed	Closed	Always Closed
The reservoir will reopen to recreation sometime between 2014 and 2017, as soon as the water level reaches the new boat launch.*			

\*The amount of time needed to refill the reservoir will depend on rainfall and water supply and demand. The Water Authority is working with the city of San Diego to reopen the reservoir to recreation as soon as possible.

place more than 200 feet below the surface, but was not directly under any homes (see Tunneling Progress graphic below). Seismographs placed above ground to measure the vibrations of the blasts recorded readings far below the required limits. Now that blasting is complete, a tunneling machine has resumed operation to excavate the tunnel section that will meet up with the tunnel being mined from the West Shaft. To date, 5.5 miles of the 11-mile tunnel are now excavated and project completion is scheduled for 2010.



The San Vicente Pipeline is an 11-mile tunnel and a large-diameter pipeline that will connect San Vicente Reservoir in Lakeside to the Water Authority's Second Aqueduct. The pipeline will function with other Water Authority facilities to provide water to the region in an emergency.



## LAKE HODGES *continued from page 2*

the inlet-outlet structure will move water in and out of the reservoir. The temporary cofferdam was constructed in the reservoir to hold back the water while the inlet-outlet structure is built. The contractor is installing additional support within the cofferdam so the excavation work can continue. Work within the cofferdam will be ongoing for the next several months.

### Community Members Guide Landscaping

The Water Authority formed the Lake Hodges Community Landscape Committee to get local input on a landscaping plan



*Committee members review landscape plans.*

to restore the project site after construction is complete. The six committee members, representing communities around Hodges Reservoir, provided design recommendations from their respective communities. The Water Authority's landscape architect incorporated many of the committee's recommendations into a conceptual landscape plan and is currently developing the final landscape plan. 💧

# For more information

about the San Diego County Water Authority's  
Emergency Storage Project,  
please call toll free **(877) 426-2010**,  
email **ESPinfo@sdcwa.org**,  
or visit our website at: **www.sdcwa.org**.

Photographs © 2008, San Diego County Water Authority.



**San Diego County  
Water Authority**

**Attn: Public Affairs  
4677 Overland Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92123**

*The Water Authority is a public agency serving the San Diego region as a wholesale supplier of water. The Water Authority works through its 24 member agencies to provide a safe, reliable water supply to support the region's \$157 billion economy and the quality of life of 3 million residents.*



*Olivenhain Dam and Reservoir*

### Got 5 minutes? Check out the ESP video!

Learn more about the Emergency Storage Project by viewing a five-minute video available on the Water Authority's website. Go to **www.sdcwa.org**, click on "Infrastructure," then "ESP." Click on "ESP Video – Protecting Our Future." The video explains each phase of the multi-year Emergency Storage Project and shows footage of the Lake Hodges and San Vicente Pipeline construction projects.

PRE-SORT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #475  
Escondido, CA



Mixed Sources  
Cert no. SCS-COC-001087  
© 1996 FSC  
www.fsc.org



Printed on  
recycled paper