

EMERGENCY STORAGE PROJECT

Lake Hodges Projects Update

Meeting Summary

DATE: June 13, 2007

TIME: 7 p.m.

ORGANIZATION:

Del Dios Town Council

MEETING LOCATION:

Del Dios Fire Station, Escondido, California

ATTENDANCE:

20

PRESENTERS:

Joe Bride, Construction Administrator, SDCWA
Jeremy Shepard, Asst. Construction Administrator, SDCWA
Scott Robinson, Public Affairs Representative, SDCWA
Juanita Hayes, Public Affairs Manager, SDG&E

STAFF RESOURCES:

Jessica Berlin, Katz & Associates, Inc.
George Johnson, Jacobs Civil, Inc.

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Joe Bride, construction administrator for the Lake Hodges Projects, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new team members to the community. Scott Robinson is the new public affairs representative for the project. Alex Newton, the former public affairs representative, retired earlier this year. Jeremy Shepard is also a part of the construction group and will be giving the construction update. Juanita Hayes works for SDG&E and will be giving the update on SDG&E's work on the project site.

Joe said that construction is on schedule and about 70 percent of our construction expenditures are complete. Joe reviewed the major regional benefits of the Lake Hodges Projects. He said this project is a part of the Water Authority's Emergency Storage Project, which will provide about 90,000 acre-feet of water storage in San Diego County, to be used if the region's water supply is cut off during an emergency. The first phase of the project was the construction of Olivenhain Dam and Reservoir, which is complete and now holds about 18,000 acre-feet of water. The Lake Hodges Projects will connect Hodges to Olivenhain Reservoir, which will connect Hodges Reservoir to the Water Authority's Aqueduct System. The Water Authority will then be able to store another 20,000 acre-feet of water at Hodges Reservoir for use during emergencies.

The Emergency Storage Project also includes raising the height of San Vicente Dam and storing an additional 54,000 acre-feet of water at San Vicente Reservoir. The Water Authority is also connecting San Vicente Reservoir to the Second Aqueduct via the San Vicente Pipeline.

The Lake Hodges Projects also have a pumped storage benefit. Olivenhain Reservoir is about 700 feet higher than Hodges, so the Water Authority will use that difference in elevation to produce 40 megawatts of hydroelectricity. That capacity is being sold to SDG&E in a power purchase agreement.

Joe said for the Del Dios community, the biggest benefit will be that the water level in Hodges will be kept at a more consistent level throughout the year. For example, Olivenhain Reservoir is still full now, even though we haven't had much rain this year. Hodges Reservoir will be similar when the projects are complete.

Next, Scott Robinson, public affairs representative for the Lake Hodges Projects, said new project business cards are available with the project information line phone number, email address, and website. The project information line number is (877) 426-2010, the project email address is ESPinfo@sdcwa.org, and the website is www.sdcwa.org. The project information line number is answered live by an on-site worker from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. If the community has any questions or concerns, please call the information line or send an email to the project email address.

Jeremy Shepard, assistant construction administrator for the Lake Hodges Projects, gave an update on the status of the construction projects. He said there are three construction contracts for the Lake Hodges Projects. The first contract was awarded to GE Hydro in September 2004 and was for the procurement of the hydroelectric mechanical equipment for the pump station. The equipment came from all around the world and included pumps, turbines, motor generators, and transformers. We have received all of the equipment on the project site, except for the transformers, which are currently being stored off site. This contract is mostly complete, but GE Hydro will be monitoring the installation of their equipment in the pump station and will assist with the start up and testing for commercial operation.

The second contract was awarded to Kiewit Pacific in May 2005 and was completed in June 2007. They constructed the 1.25-mile Lake Hodges to Olivenhain tunnel and pipeline, which connects the two reservoirs. They have demobilized from the project site and only a few minor items are left to complete.

Jeremy went on to discuss the third contract, which was awarded to Archer Western in February 2006. Archer Western is constructing the pump station and inlet-outlet structure. The pump house excavation is complete and they are now beginning to build the pump station building. The contractor poured the first concrete for the pump station building on Tuesday, June 12. Archer Western is also excavating the tailrace tunnel, which connects the pump station to the inlet-outlet structure in the water. The pump station will also connect to the pipeline tunnel that Kiewit completed.

The tailrace tunnel is about 200 feet long and about 160 feet has been excavated from the pump station side. Now the final 40 feet of the tunnel need to be excavated from the cofferdam side. The excavation of the tunnel should restart within two to three weeks. The cofferdam is a horseshoe-shaped temporary barricade that keeps the area dry so the contractor can work on floor of the lake. The construction of the cofferdam is complete.

Archer Western is also working on the switchyard pad, which is above the pump station construction area. They have poured the foundations for the switch rack, which will connect to SDG&E's switch rack and then to the power lines on the power poles that SDG&E already installed.

Next, Juanita Hayes, public affairs manager for San Diego Gas & Electric, presented an update on the work SDG&E is conducting on the Lake Hodges Projects site. She said in May, SDG&E started building the switchyard. Black & Veatch is SDG&E's subcontractor for the project and they are expected to be complete in February 2008. About six people will be working on the site for this part of the project.

This project will produce 40 megawatts of electricity, which is enough to sustain about 26,000 homes annually. The switchyard will connect to the existing 1.25-mile power line that was installed in the beginning of the project.

Finally, Jessica Berlin from Katz & Associates, the public affairs consultant to the Water Authority, discussed the plans for the Lake Hodges Community Landscape Committee. Jessica said she has been working with Kelly Rodgers, the project manager, and public affairs staff to plan for the landscape committee.

Water Authority staff has selected a landscape architect for the project, and the Water Authority's board of directors is scheduled to review and potentially approve the contract at the June 28 board meeting. The firm was selected based on their technical expertise, but they also have a lot of experience working with community groups.

The purpose of the landscape committee is for the community to help the Water Authority develop a plan for landscaping the site after construction is complete. There are three main areas of the site that will be landscaped and that the Water Authority needs input on.

There will be five community members on the landscape committee. Del Dios will have three representatives: Suzette Amon, Joe Ferguson, and Mike Kratz. The Lake Hodges Hills community and the Lake Hodges Native Plant Club will also each have one representative on the committee. The committee members will be asked to get input from the rest of the community and then relay that information back to the committee and the landscape architect. Community members are encouraged to work with your representatives to provide input during the schedule of the meetings, so the final design meets the community's expectations.

There will be about three or four meetings, beginning in August through October or November. They will be weekday, evening meetings held at the Del Dios Fire Station. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings as observers, but the meetings will be conducted for the benefit of the committee members. The Water Authority will be getting in touch with the committee members once the meeting dates are confirmed.

Questions and Comments During the Presentation:

- Q. What will the minimum water level be at Lake Hodges when the project is complete, compared to what it is now?
- A. During normal operation, the minimum elevation for the water level will be 290. Right now, the water level is at about elevation 305. These numbers are being finalized in the reservoir operating plan, which the project team can send to the Del Dios Town Council when it is finished.
- Q. Will you dredge the lake?
- A. Not outside of the cofferdam.
- Q. What will the daily fluctuation of the water level be?
- A. About four or five inches from the Hodges side.

- Q. Are the power lines above ground or under ground?
A. They are above ground, but the berm around the switchyard will hide a majority of what you see from Lake Drive on the diagrams.
- Q. The power lines from the pump station to the switch racks will be above ground?
A. Yes.
- Q. What's the purple structure (on the diagrams shown at the meeting)?
A. That is the inlet-outlet structure.
- Q. Is that a deceleration zone for the water coming from the pump station?
A. Yes.
- Q. Is the rectangular space around the inlet-outlet structure (on the diagram) about the same size as the cofferdam?
A. Approximately, but it's a little smaller because the inlet-outlet structure ended up being a little smaller.
- Q. How big is the opening of the pipeline at the inlet-outlet structure?
A. It is approximately 30 feet high and 30 feet wide.
- Q. When the water is low, will you be able to see the top of pipeline?
A. No. The elevation of the pipe will be about 250, and the normal minimum lake elevation will be 290, so you should never be able to see the pipeline in the water. There will also be a hazard buoy system around the structures, so boats won't be able to get too close to the structures.
- Q. Will there also be a mesh barricade in the lake?
A. Yes. There will be a trash rack installed at the end of the inlet/outlet structure to prevent major debris from entering the pump station from the lake during intake.
- Q. So, if I'm kayaking nearby, I won't get sucked in to the pipe?
A. No, the energy dissipates in the inlet-outlet structure. Furthermore, no kayakers should be in the area inside of the hazard buoy perimeter.
- Q. Will you pump water and generate electricity, even if the water quality issues at Lake Hodges haven't been resolved yet?
A. A technical advisory committee is reviewing the water quality issues. A limnology study has been developed and the reservoir regulating plan will address these issues.
- Q. Is it true that Olivenhain Municipal Water District is suing the Water Authority over the water quality issues?
A. Not that we have heard about. OMWD is part of the technical advisory committee also and the Water Authority is working with them to resolve these issues.
- Q. When do you expect to be online with pumping the water?
A. September 2008.

- Q. How will you bring the quality of the water back up?
A. The technical advisory committee will look into that.
- Q. How tall are the two last electrical poles that the Water Authority will install?
A. They will be smaller than the poles that are already installed; approximately 40 feet high.
- Q. What will the staffing level of the pump station be?
A. The pump station is designed to operate remotely from the Water Authority's Operations and Maintenance office in Escondido.
- Q. Will you have any presence at the pump station?
A. There will not be a 24 hour presence, but maintenance workers will need to be at the site from time to time.
- Q. Will there be razor wire around the whole site?
A. That is not the plan, but the landscape committee will be able to review that.
- Q. Is the criteria you used to evaluate the landscape architect available for us to review?
A. Yes, we can provide a copy of that to the Del Dios Town Council.
- Q. When we toured the project site, we were told we could get a description of what's included in the hydroseed mix. Are we still going to get that?
A. Yes, that will be included in the materials given to the landscape committee at the first meeting.
- Q. Is it the same hydroseed mix that the pump station contractor will use?
A. Yes.
- Q. When will the project be done?
A. December 2008.
- Q. Will the Water Authority hydroseed the windsurfing area?
A. Yes, in accordance with the plans being developed by the landscaping committee.
- Q. At the tour, they said that it's already been decided that there won't be any artwork on the pump station building. Is that true?
A. It is not the Water Authority's policy to put public art on its facilities. The pump station building will be textured and stained desert varnish, which is the same color the Olivenhain Dam was stained. We can try to show the landscape committee a sample of what the outside of the building will look like.
- Q. When will the Coast to Crest Trail be opening?
A. After the project is complete in December 2008.

Joe Bride and Scott Robinson concluded the session by thanking everyone for attending.

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