### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CONTROLLED BLASTING

LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT

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### **MEETING OUTLINE AND SCOPE**

- Description of Project
- Blasting Locations
- Excavation Methods
- Review Modern Blasting Technology
- Explosives Security, Regulations and Oversight
- Blast Effects Vibration and Noise
- Controlling Blast Effects
- Questions and Answers

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Brief project description (If not already done by others)

#### WATER TANK WORK SITE MAP



## **Excavation Methods**





Mechanical methods were considered but rock at site is too hard.

#### **Project Management Practices**

- Evaluate Area Property
  \* Pre-construction Inspections
- Apply Blasting Controls
  - \* Charge Weight Limits
  - \* Noise Control Measures
- Public Communication
  - Project Phone Number
    (XXX) XXX-XXX
  - \* Òpen Meetings
- Government Approvals
- Perform Work Safely
- Monitor Actual Blast Effects



#### **Modern Explosives Technology**





Modern explosives are much safer than the old "Dynamite and fuses" seen in Hollywood Movies

Blast effects are also much different than the fireball special effects seen in movies like Diehard

#### **Blasting Program Requirements**

- Only Proven and Safe Methods will be Used
- Prevent Damage to all Property and Facilities
- Minimize Impacts on Neighbors and Environment
- Ensure Explosives Security
- Licensed Blasters and Trained Inspectors will Oversee all Blasting Work



# Explosives Delivery, Transport & Storage Systems

- No Overnight Storage Allowed
- ATF Rules
- DOT Rules
- OSHA Rules
- Inspector and Consultant Oversight



## **Careful Oversight**



Trained Inspectors will Oversee Blasting Work and Explosive Handling Practices

#### **Blast Energy Reduces Rapidly with Distance**

Vibration reduces rapidly with distance



## **Comparison Between Earthquake and Controlled Blast Vibrations**



Earthquake Movement is over 3,000 times greater!

## Motion of Blasts Compared to that Caused by Normal Human and Environmental Forces



Data Sources: Oriard, 1999; Stagg et al, 198; and BSI Surveys, 2001

#### How Blasters Determine Charge Size to Control Vibration

500' BLAST BLAST For PPV Less than 0.5 in/s Minimum Scaled Distance = 65

W = (500 / 65 )^2 = 59 pounds

Closest Structure

## Charges are fired separately to reduce vibration

Detonators are hooked up to Blast is a series of many create separate firing times for time-delayed charges all charges



Many Holes are Drilled

### PUTTING BLAST VIBRATION INTO PERSPECTIVE



In a Controlled Test, Buried Raw Eggs and Light bulbs Survive Vibration 10 times greater than that allowed for this work (5.0 versus 0.5 in/s) Egg and light bulb buried next to a buried 11-lb charge survived motion 20 times higher than intensity of motion predicted at Properties closest to LVMWD Blasts

### **CONFINED BLASTS**

1) CRUSHED STONE STEMMING IS PLACED OVER EXPLOSIVE CHARGES TO CONTROL NOISE

2) BLAST MATS ARE PLACED ON TOP OF BLAST AREAS





#### SUMMARY: WHY CONTROLLED BLASTS DO NOT CAUSE DAMAGE

- Energy from many small time-delayed charges reduces rapidly with distance.
- Motion caused by controlled blasting is 1000's of times less than that caused by earthquakes.
- Everyday environmental and human activities create more stress in structure than that caused by controlled blasts.

#### Human Response to Vibration



After USBM RI 8507 (1980)

#### WATER TANK PROJECT BLASTING SCHEDULE AND WARNING SIGNALS

- One blasts per day, each lasting less than one second. Temporary road closures of XXX Rd will occur while blasting; time will be kept as short as possible
- No blasting on Saturdays, Sundays or Holidays
- Blasting will occur begin XXXX and end in late fall, 2011.
- Nearby residents may hear warning sirens shown below



## Noise & Vibration Monitoring



### **PROPERTY CONDITION SURVEYS**



Owners of properties located within 1000 feet of potential blast areas have the option to have the condition of their property surveyed and documented by a Third-Party Specialist.

### Summary of Blasting Procedures and Limitations

- Careful Geological Investigations
- Blast Planning and Review Procedures
- Blast Effect Controls are Applied
- Blasting Hours Limited :Daytime Hours no Weekends or Holidays
- Vibration and Noise Limitations
- Regular Inspections
- Results are Monitored

#### **RENDERING OF FINISHED TANK**

Tank Drawing Here

# **QUESTIONS?**