La Sierra Pipeline Project Construction Begins

Project will provide local water for 80,000 Inland Empire residents, motorists reminded of possible delays

RIVERSIDE – In late June, Western Municipal Water District (Western) will begin construction on the La Sierra Pipeline, a nearly $36 million project to increase local water supply. Construction is estimated to take just over 18 months to complete and will require lane closures and some traffic disruption along La Sierra Avenue.

“We know that additional traffic is frustrating, and we appreciate the public’s patience as we move forward with this important project that will provide a local, secure source of water in our region,” said Western’s General Manager John Rossi. “We will be communicating early and often with the community to ensure they have the information they need.”

The project calls for five miles of 30-inch pipe to run under La Sierra Avenue. The pipe will connect local water to local water users. Additional water, from the recent expansion of two Inland desalters, which remove impurities from the groundwater, will flow through the new pipeline that connects the Arlington Desalter and the Chino Desalter to the La Sierra Tank.

When complete, the project will provide a new, local, 3,500 acre-feet drought-proof water supply to 80,000 Western Riverside Service Area customers. The La Sierra Pipeline also will have the capacity to provide an additional 16,000 acre-feet of water in cases of emergency and to provide reliability in the event of a temporary outage of imported water supplies.

“The La Sierra Pipeline, part of Western’s long-term reliability planning, is an investment in the region’s future and will help us become more self-sufficient,” said Rossi. “Simply put, this project is a critical step toward helping meet current and future water needs, while helping to keep water rates controlled.”

Starting June 26, motorists can expect lane closures in the project area from El Sobrante Road to just north of Arizona Avenue.

While the project spans through winter 2018, work near Arizona Middle School is scheduled for this summer when school is out.

During construction, two lanes on La Sierra Avenue between Arizona Avenue and El Sobrante Road may be closed, leaving one lane open in each direction during working hours between 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. At times, one southbound lane may be closed during non-working hours. Motorists are asked to follow traffic control devices during construction and are encouraged to use an alternate route, if possible.

For more information about the project, construction and detours, please visit wmwd.com and search the keywords “La Sierra Pipeline.”