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Construction Begins on Upper Northwest Interceptor Sections 3 & 4

Sacramento County – Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRSCD) is improving the sewer system in the Rio Linda and Natomas areas. Construction has begun on Upper Northwest Interceptor (UNWI) 3 & 4. The construction project will run along Elkhorn Boulevard (from Cherry Lane to Bridgecross Drive), with work continuing through early 2009.

The project will ensure reliable sewer service for northern Sacramento County, as the existing wastewater conveyance system is nearing capacity and could be at risk of overflow in severe wet-weather conditions. Improvements will be made to meet future demands for increased capacity.

The planned 3.55 mile construction route for UNWI 3 & 4 begins near Cherry Lane in Rio Linda and runs west along Elkhorn Boulevard to the East Drainage Canal, adjacent to Natomas Boulevard, heading south to Bridgecross Drive where it connects to UNWI 1&2. UNWI 3 & 4 includes 10,300 feet of 84-inch pipe, which will be tunneled into the ground using various construction methods. The project also includes the installation of 21 manholes and a junction structure for the future Rio Linda Interceptor.

UNWI 3 & 4 construction hours will typically occur between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturdays. Tunneling operations, however, can be performed 24-hours-per-day, 7-days-per-week. Construction work, which will only be visible at shaft locations, will be completed in phases, impacting only certain areas along the project route at any given time. Signs will be placed in these areas in advance of construction to notify and inform the public.

Maintaining communication with area residents throughout the construction process and responding to questions and concerns are very important to SRSCD. In addition to receiving information via public meetings, the Web site and hotline, affected residents can expect to receive door hangers, newsletters and postcards about construction activities in their specific area.

Residents' patience and cooperation during the construction process is greatly appreciated. If residents wish to communicate with SRSCD regarding an issue or impact, they are advised to call the toll-free, 24-hour hotline at (866) 479-0600. For more information, visit the project Web site at www.unwi1-4.com.

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UNWI 3 & 4 is part of the larger Upper Northwest Interceptor (UNWI) system. The UNWI system has been in design since the early 1990s and is broken into nine sections (UNWI 1-9) for easier design and construction. The entire UNWI travels approximately 20 miles from Citrus Heights, through North Highlands and Rio Linda to Natomas.

When complete, the interceptor will carry wastewater flows from northeast Sacramento County to the new Natomas sewage pumping station near the intersection of Interstates 5 and 80, from which flows will be sent to the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant in Elk Grove via the existing Lower Northwest Interceptor.

The entire interceptor is expected to be ready for service in 2010.