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YLWD Breaks Ground to Replace One of Orange County's Oldest Reservoirs

***New Highland Reservoir will increase local supply reliability,
be placed underground to improve stability and views.***

YORBA LINDA, Calif. (June 13, 2008) -- The Yorba Linda Water District broke ground this week on a replacement for the 95-year-old Highland Reservoir -- one of the oldest water-storage facilities in Orange County. The new reservoir will increase local storage capacity by 1.4 million gallons and be placed underground to allow for improved structural stability and enhanced views for neighboring residents. Construction is scheduled for completion by June 2010.

The Highland Reservoir was originally built in 1911 as an open-air reservoir and was eventually covered with a roof and surrounding enclosure walls in the late 1950s. The aging 4.6-million-gallon reservoir will be replaced with a 6 million-gallon underground reinforced concrete reservoir that will bring added supply reliability to the central portion of the YLWD service area and improve views for customers in the western portion of Yorba Linda. The \$11.2 million-project will be funded through long-term revenue bonds.

"Having sufficient water storage capacity is critical to ensuring a low-cost, reliable supply," said YLWD General Manager Michael Payne. "Increasing storage capacity at our Highland Reservoir will benefit our entire service area since it sits at the highest point in our gravity-driven distribution system. Being able to do that while improving views is an opportunity that just made a whole lot of sense."

Necessary tree removal and clearing began earlier this year in preparation for the groundbreaking. In the coming weeks, two temporary steel reservoir tanks will be placed at the site to hold the Highland water while the new reservoir is constructed. Once they are in place, work will begin to demolish and remove the existing reservoir and old pipelines, and remediate several abandoned oil wells that once operated on the site.

"The Highland Reservoir was YLWD's oldest storage facility, and successfully operated far beyond anyone's original expectations," Payne said. "We're confident its predecessor will live up to a similar standard far into the future."

About YLWD

The Yorba Linda Water District traces its roots back to 1909 and is one of Orange County's oldest utility companies, providing water and wastewater service to more than 75,000 residents in portions of Yorba Linda, Placentia, Anaheim, Brea and unincorporated Orange County. For more information please visit www.YLWD.com.

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