The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) plans to begin work soon on the seismic upgrade of two water pipelines where they cross the Hayward Fault in Fremont.

The pipelines, known as Bay Division Pipeline (BDPL) Nos. 3 and 4, cross three traces of the fault near the intersection of Mission Boulevard and I-680. Completed in 1952 and 1973, BDPL Nos. 3 and 4 are important water mains in the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System, which provides water to 2.5 million customers in Alameda County and throughout the Bay Area.

All work will take place in the SFPUC’s existing right of way or in nearby staging areas that the project has contracted.

It is very likely that a major earthquake on the Hayward Fault would impact one or both of these pipelines, causing major damage to this part of the Bay Area’s water-delivery system. The goal of this project is to make sure you and all of our Bay Area customers have reliable water delivery following a major earthquake.

What to Expect

Like many construction projects, this work will involve noise and possible traffic delays. Before pipeline construction begins in spring 2012, work crews will be performing environmental surveys of the project site. Also, modifications will be made to nearby electrical, sewer and water lines to avoid utility interruption during construction.

Construction areas will be swept at the end of each workday, and traffic controls will be in place due to lane closures and detours in the work zone. Access to residences and businesses will be maintained at all times; however, there may be temporary delays.

Improvements to the Pipelines

In 2007, the SFPUC constructed facilities on the pipelines to the north and south of the fault to allow operators to stop the flow of water were a rupture to occur. In the next phase of the Seismic Upgrade project, the SFPUC will replace large sections of the pipelines where they cross the Hayward Fault.

The SFPUC has designed a structure to protect BDPL No. 3 during an earthquake – a concrete box composed of sections that can shift and rotate. Inside the box, high-tech pipe elements will be constructed, allowing for pipe movement. This new design can absorb up to 6.5 feet of earth displacement. BDPL No. 4, an 8-foot-diameter pipe, will be upgraded and strengthened.

With these upgrades in place, the SFPUC will be able to provide water for fire fighting and other earthquake-related emergencies around the Bay Area.

Construction Details

Our project team is working closely with local municipalities to ensure construction schedules are timely and traffic and community inconveniences are minimized.

Future project newsletters and online updates will include more information about road closures and construction work. Here is the projected schedule to date:

- July 2011 – Environmental surveys begin
- Fall 2011 – Utility relocation begins
- Spring 2012 – Pipeline construction begins
- Summer 2014 – Expected completion of construction

Questions? Email us at baydivision@sfwater.org or call our 24-hour hotline at 800-571-6610.

Visit us online at www.sfwater.org/SeismicUpgrade.
The Water System Improvement Program

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission’s (SFPUC’s) Water System Improvement Program (WSIP) is a $4.6 billion bond-funded program to repair, replace and successfully retrofit our aging water infrastructure.

The seismic upgrade of Bay Division Pipeline (BDPL) Nos. 3 and 4 is one of more than 80 projects being undertaken as part of WSIP. The seismic upgrade reached 95% design in May, and design work is on track to be completed in August. Environmental surveys of the construction site could begin as early as July. Pipeline construction is expected to start in spring 2012.

Look inside to learn more about this important infrastructure project coming to your area.

Need More Information?

Contact our project team at:
(800) 571-6610 or baydivision@sfwater.org

Visit the project blog:
www.sfwater.org/SeismicUpgrade

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

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