LOIS: Pile Installation Begins

Installation of 321 new pile supports in the lake bed began in late August and will continue over the next seven months. Ultimately, these piles will support 4,000 feet of new interceptor sewer pipe that will be hoisted onto the piles during the lake draw down that starts in September 2010.

Pile work began in the west end of the lake and will generally move east. Given the geology of the lake bed, most piles can be vibrated into place to the depths needed for seismic strength. When the construction crew encounters a large boulder or when the pile needs to be driven into bedrock, a “down-the-hole” hammer will be used to minimize the need for more conventional and noisy pile driving equipment. Detours may be required for boaters in the shallower west end of the lake, but navigation ways will be maintained for all lake users.

Most of the piles will be installed in the west end of the lake near the southern shoreline. Pile installation in Blue Heron Canal will occur toward the end of October and will extend as far as South Shore Blvd.

In December and January, pile installation will continue in other areas, including near Twin Points, Diamond Head, Springbrook Creek, Lost Dog Creek and Half Moon Bay.

For a more detailed schedule, to comment, ask questions, or join our email list, visit the project website at www.loisnews.com or call 503-699-7466.