Commissioner of Reclamation Robert N. Broadbent today announced award of a $9.2 million contract to construct the Santa Clara Tunnel, a key feature of the San Felipe Division, Central Valley Project, California.

The contract was awarded to Shank-Artukovich, a joint venture from Littleton, Colorado, based on the firm's low bid of $9,233,432.

The work will include excavating and constructing a 1-mile, 8.5-foot-diameter concrete lined tunnel to serve the Santa Clara Valley Water District. In addition to the tunnel, Shank-Artukovich will excavate for and construct a reinforced concrete box culvert, portal structures, and access roads from Highway 152 to the inlet and outlet portal areas.

The tunnel project, scheduled for completion by fall 1983, will connect the Santa Clara service area to San Luis Reservoir via Pacheco Tunnel (now under construction) and the Pacheco Pumping Plant and Conduit (to be constructed).

About half of the water conveyed to Santa Clara County will be percolated to underground supplies for agricultural and municipal uses and the balance will be treated for direct municipal and industrial deliveries.