



Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority
4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302
818.251.2100



For Immediate Release

For More Information:
Jeff Reinhardt 818-251-2150

Las Virgenes – Triunfo JPA Votes to Explore Advanced Water Treatment; Process Would Convert Recycled Water to Drinking Water

(Calabasas, CA – August 2, 2016) – Following an 18-month study and eight public stakeholder meetings, the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA) voted to select using advanced water treatment technology to transform recycled water to drinking water, which would be stored at Las Virgenes Reservoir, as the preferred alternative to reduce discharges to Malibu Creek. The JPA Board also directed staff to finalize the design report and report back on proposed next steps at the JPA meeting scheduled for September 6.

The stakeholder group, composed of city representatives, park agencies, environmental groups, technical experts, and other interested parties, considered five other alternatives, including use of Encino Reservoir in Los Angeles for storage and construction of a new reservoir, as part of their evaluation.

“This is an exciting initiative with multiple benefits,” said Glen Peterson, Chair of the JPA Board. “It would reduce the demand for imported water. Instead of discharging treated water to Malibu Creek and Santa Monica Bay, we will renew and reuse a precious resource. It recognizes the realities of drought management and reflects the community’s long-standing commitment to the environmental stewardship of the region.”

David W. Pedersen, General Manager for the JPA said, “Staff will explore the proposal from several perspectives. The project will require a full environmental and economic impact study. Based on experience, we already know ever-increasing water quality standards will be required when the operating permits are renewed for the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility in Malibu Canyon. Rather than spending money to discharge water to the creek, it makes good economic and operational sense to treat that water and reuse it locally.”

Mr. Pedersen added, “In February 2015, we started an exploration process to examine different ways to make better use of surplus recycled water. This comprehensive study was initiated by the JPA Board and conducted with public participation by community stakeholders. The JPA Board’s decision reflects careful consideration and conclusions drawn from that body of work.”

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Glen Peterson
Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo
Joint Powers Authority
President, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Board of Directors

Michael Paule
Vice Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo
Joint Powers Authority
Chair, Triunfo Sanitation District
Board of Directors

JPA Vice-Chair Michael Paule said “It’s appropriate to explore the regional benefits of this proposal. It will require interagency collaboration with the objective of achieving a long-term solution that’s in the best interests of our rate-paying residents and businesses.”

Factors that influenced the JPA Board’s decision include escalating costs to meet creek discharge water quality standards, beneficial local reuse of water in a region that has no usable drinking water supply, advancements in water treatment technology and an emergency supply during a curtailment of deliveries from the State Water Project.

The construction cost of about \$95M is less than the cost to build new facilities to meet water quality standards for discharging to Malibu Creek. In a related action, the JPA also accepted a proposal from an advocacy firm to provide state and federal lobbying services to assist in identifying funding opportunities and gain political support for the selected alternative.

The Las Virgenes – Triunfo JPA is comprised of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) and Triunfo Sanitation District (TSD). The JPA provides wastewater treatment, recycled water distribution and biosolids composting for some 90,000 residents of Western Los Angeles and Eastern Ventura counties. LVMWD serves the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village and surrounding unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County including West Hills and Chatsworth. TSD provides services to Oak Park, North Ranch, a portion of Thousand Oaks and Lake Sherwood.

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