



Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority
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For Immediate Release

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**Tapia Water Reclamation Facility Receives New Operating Permit
from Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board,
Paving the Way for Construction of an Advanced Water Treatment Facility**

(Calabasas, CA - June 9, 2017) The Tapia Water Reclamation Facility in Malibu Canyon has received a renewed five-year operating permit from the Los Angeles Regional Water Control Board (LARWQCB), paving the way for continued regulatory compliance through construction of a new Advanced Water Treatment Plant within 13 years. Estimated costs for the new facility and associated pipelines are approximately \$100 million.

Since 1997, the Tapia Plant has not been permitted to discharge recycled water to Malibu Creek from April 15 to November 15 each year, except for a requirement to maintain minimal flows for endangered fish during times of reduced creek flows. In recent years, nutrients have been the source of increasing regulatory focus, including during the winter months when Tapia discharges surplus recycled water to Malibu Creek. For this permit cycle, Tapia was faced with meeting some of the toughest nutrient standards in the country, which is very costly. Rather than treating the water to a very high standard just to dispose of it, the Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA) proposed building an Advanced Water Treatment Plant (AWTP) that will purify the recycled water to be used for drinking water, with the added benefits of reducing the region's dependence upon imported water and all but eliminating discharges to Malibu Creek.

“We view the new permit as a win-win for area residents and the environment,” said David W. Pedersen, General Manager and Administering Agent for the JPA. “When the project is complete, it will bring to a close decades of conflicts pertaining to the discharge of surplus recycled water to Malibu Creek while making beneficial use of a valuable resource that adds to the region’s water supply portfolio.”

Mr. Pedersen added that while the cost is significant, the JPA is actively seeking state and federal assistance in the form of grants and low-cost loans to construct the necessary elements. He said the JPA was recently notified it had been awarded \$450,000 from the federal Bureau of Reclamation to be used toward a feasibility study and demonstration facility for what is called the “Pure Water Project Las Virgenes - Triunfo”. The demonstration facility will also serve as a testing and training platform for the build-out of the AWTP. An early analysis indicates that through the use of long-term financing and loans, grants and perhaps bonds, the increased cost to customers will not be significant.

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James Wall
Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo
Joint Powers Authority
Chair, Triunfo Sanitation District
Board of Directors

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

“There is much to be done. The 13-year window seems generous, but we will be pressed to accomplish the financing, environmental, engineering and permitting processes before a shovelful of dirt is moved to build the AWTP facility. The JPA Board has a number of decisions to consider and staff is already at work assembling a list of steps that must be taken to comply with the terms of the permit.” Mr. Pedersen said.

The Pure Water Project Las Virgenes – Triunfo arose from a year-long study group comprised of residents, government entities, non-government organizations, staff and JPA Board members.

The Las Virgenes - Triunfo Joint Powers Authority is comprised of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Triunfo Sanitation District. The JPA provides wastewater treatment, recycled water service and biosolids composting for residents and businesses in Agoura Hills, Calabasas, North Ranch, Oak Park, portions of Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village, and surrounding unincorporated areas of eastern Ventura and western Los Angeles Counties.

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