



Pure Water Project Las Virgenes – Triunfo Demonstration Facility Set to Open

After years of planning and preparing, the Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA) will begin showcasing the advanced treatment of recycled water to educate and inform the community of the future of potable water at its new demonstration facility.

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Calabasas, CA – As all Californians know, clean water is a resource that we all share. With increasing water demands driving competition for this finite resource and climate change creating weather pattern uncertainty, the JPA is committed to ensuring long-term water supply reliability for our communities.

The JPA's joint service area, including portions of Los Angeles County and Ventura County, receives 100% of its drinking water supply from the Sierra Nevada Mountains via the State Water Project. The water travels over 400 miles to reach us and requires a significant amount of energy to pump it over mountain ranges on its way.

Because of challenging and costly regulatory requirements regarding Malibu Creek and the continued threat of wildfires and drought, not to mention the potential for a major earthquake that could cut off our imported water supply, the JPA sought to create a local source of drinking water supply that protects everyone from a significant disruption in water service.

“The JPA has always been forward-thinking and proactive in finding solutions to emerging uncertainties to protect our communities and ensure reliable water and wastewater services, said Jay Lewitt, JPA Board Chair. “By bringing water full circle, this demonstration project provides certainty to our customers, while closing the sustainability loop through reusing recycled water as a drinking water source, rather than discharging it to Malibu Creek.”

Since 1972, the JPA has supplied recycled water for outdoor irrigation at our parks, schools, golf courses, medians, and athletic fields. The Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo will take the unused portion of that recycled water and advance treat it using the proven technology of ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet light to create a product that is quite literally, an H₂O molecule.

While the full-scale project is still years away from being built, the demonstration facility will serve to educate customers on the effectiveness and safety of the advanced water treatment process, test alternative treatment equipment to reduce long-term operating costs for the full-scale facility and train employees in the operation of a membrane treatment plant.

The total cost of the demonstration facility was \$3.2 million, but that amount was significantly offset through federal, state and local agency grants, totaling \$2.2 million.

Jay Lewitt

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

James Wall

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

“We are looking forward to providing tours of our new state-of-the-art demonstration facility to our community leaders and the residents of Oak Park, Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, Hidden Hills, and Calabasas. Because of the pandemic, we will be offering virtual tours beginning in October and eventually transitioning to in-person tours once we can do that,” said James Wall, Vice Chair of the JPA. “The full-scale project will eventually provide 15% of our region’s water supply, minimizing our need to rely as much on water from way up north.”

The JPA is holding a virtual ribbon cutting event on September 11, 2020 at 10:00am. Senator Henry Stern (D-27) is the keynote speaker, along with Mayor Alicia Weintraub of Calabasas, Mayor Illece Buckley-Weber of Agoura Hills, Mayor Bret Katz of Hidden Hills, Oak Park MAC Chair Seema Chandra and others. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. You can register to receive the Zoom link by going here: www.ourpureh2o.com/grandopening

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District provides potable water, wastewater treatment, recycled water and biosolids composting to more than 70,000 residents in the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village and unincorporated areas of western Los Angeles County.

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