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Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority Awarded Best Project of the Year for Process Air Improvements

The Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA) was awarded Best Project of the Year for process air improvements to its wastewater treatment process at the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility.

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Calabasas, CA – The JPA is proud to announce it was awarded **Best Project of the Year** by the American Public Works Association (APWA) of Southern California for process air improvements at the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility.

The project, completed in partnership with PACE Advanced Water Engineering, included the installation of more than 60 aeration grids and three new blowers, which reduce the amount of energy consumed at Tapia by 40%. Overall, the JPA and the communities it serves benefit from a return on investment of less than six years and an estimated savings of \$2.5M over the 20-year expected life of the new system.

“Efficient operations is one of our leading business values,” said LVMWD General Manager David Pedersen. “We prioritize capital improvement projects that ensure both the reliable delivery of water to our customers and the efficient treatment of wastewater thereafter.”

Tapia plays a key role in the JPA’s commitment to maximizing beneficial reuse. The 12 MGD (million gallons per day) facility treats wastewater through a tertiary treatment process, creating high quality, Title 22 recycled water. This allows the JPA to supplement its water supply to customers for landscape irrigation – which accounts for over half of all household water use – while helping to “close the sustainability loop” by reusing this critical resource.

Reducing costs and maximizing efficiency were key outcomes of the project, and these were achieved by a unique equipment selection technique called “Performance-Based Specifications”. This technique was developed to help select process equipment at a significantly reduced cost, which ensured the project would benefit substantially from a competitive, performance-based equipment selection process prior to full design implementation. The JPA saved approximately \$300,000 in equipment costs using performance-based specifications for this project.

“We are certainly proud to receive the distinction of Best Project of the Year,” commented JPA Chair and LVMWD Board President Jay Lewitt. “This project not only yields both capital and long-term cost savings for the JPA, but also energy savings that will ease the financial impact on our customers and continue our commitment to environmental stewardship. This is truly a win-win.”

The American Public Works Association awards program recognizes outstanding individuals, groups, and chapters representing the best in public works.

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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