



NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Date: September 9, 2021

To: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties and Organizations

Subject: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo

Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA), a partnership of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Triunfo Water and Sanitation District, proposes a series of projects that will process surplus recycled water, currently discharged to Malibu Creek from the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility, through an advanced treatment facility and store it at Las Virgenes Reservoir for later use as drinking water – collectively, the *Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo (Pure Water Project)*. This project has the potential to impact communities within the Las Virgenes-Conejo Valley region, including Thousand Oaks. To adopt and implement the Pure Water Project, the JPA has determined that a Program EIR will be necessary pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The JPA requests your input on how the Pure Water Project may impact the environment. Specifically, input is being solicited relative to the scope and content of the planned environmental analysis as it pertains to your individual interests or agency statutory/regulatory responsibilities. Your input will be taken into consideration during the formulation of the environmental impacts to be addressed in the Program EIR. Attached for reference are a description of the Pure Water Project, location map, and preliminary identification of potential environmental impacts. Additional information about the Pure Water Project can be found at www.ourpureh2o.com.

Due to the time limits mandated by state law, you should submit your comments as soon as possible but no later than **October 11, 2021** or 30 days after receipt of this notice per CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b). Please send your written responses to:

Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo
Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority
4232 Las Virgenes Road
Calabasas, CA 91302
Attention: Eric Schlageter

Ray Tjulander
Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo
Joint Powers Authority
Chair, Triunfo Water & Sanitation District
Board of Directors

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

Responses can also be e-mailed to eschlageter@lvmwd.com.

A public Scoping Meeting will be held on September 23, 2021 at 6:00 PM, at the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District headquarters, located at 4232 Las Virgenes Road in Calabasas. The meeting will take place in the Board Room. Participants may attend in-person or can join the meeting virtually via Zoom at the following link: www.ourpureh2o.com/PureWaterLiveStream.

A virtual tour of the Pure Water Demonstration Facility will be provided as part of the meeting and can be viewed by on-line participants. Also, the virtual tour can be accessed by visiting www.ourpureh2o.com.

Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo Description

The Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo (Pure Water Project) will include a new advanced water purification facility (AWPF) to treat recycled water for indirect potable reuse and convey the purified water to the existing Las Virgenes Reservoir, where it will be blended with the existing drinking water supplies. Pipeline construction will be required to extend the existing recycled water system to the AWPF, convey purified water from the AWPF to Las Virgenes Reservoir located in Westlake Village, and convey the “reject” waste stream (aka brine) from the AWPF to the Calleguas Salinity Management Pipeline (SMP). While a portion of the brine pipeline will be constructed in the streets of Agoura Hills and Westlake Village, most of it will extend outside of the JPA’s jurisdiction and through the City of Thousand Oaks. An overview of the program is shown on Exhibit 1.

Tapia Water Reclamation Facility / Malibu Creek Discharges

The existing Tapia Water Reclamation Facility (Tapia WRF) is designed to treat approximately 12 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater from primarily domestic sources. The treated effluent is used as recycled water – primarily for landscape irrigation within Calabasas, Agoura Hills, and Westlake Village. Excess recycled water is either discharged to Malibu Creek, used in nearby sprayfields, or sent to the Los Angeles River.¹

The need for the Pure Water Project is driven, in part, by regulatory obligations associated with the discharge of recycled water from the Tapia WRF to Malibu Creek. The current regulatory standards allow discharge of excess recycled water to Malibu Creek from November 15 to April 15; discharge during the remainder of the year is prohibited except under an operational emergency qualifying storm event or to maintain minimal stream flows. Regulatory standards require discharge from the Tapia WRF to Malibu Creek from April 15 to November 15 to maintain a minimum stream flow of 2.5 cubic feet per second (cfs) to help support steelhead habitat. However, new regulatory standards for discharge to Malibu Creek are being implemented and will have the effect of further restricting discharges absent significant and costly improvements to the Tapia WRF.

Indirect potable reuse through advanced treatment of the excess recycled water was selected to redirect discharges from Malibu Creek, while improving regional water supply reliability and drought resilience.

Advanced Water Purification Facility

The Tapia WRF produces recycled water of sufficient quality for landscape irrigation, but additional treatment is needed for indirect potable reuse through reservoir water augmentation. The AWPF would provide the additional purification steps needed to meet the strict regulatory

¹ The Tapia WRF has an authorized discharge point at an open-channel storm drain along U.S. 101 near the Parkway Calabasas interchange. This storm drain is part of a system that discharges to Calabasas Creek and subsequently to the Los Angeles River.

standards adopted for reservoir water augmentation.² These steps are expected to include membrane filtration, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet disinfection with an advanced oxidation process.³ Ancillary facilities are expected to include influent screening, tanks, and chemical storage and feed systems. Specific designs are still under study to determine cost-effective approaches to optimize operations and meet current and anticipated regulatory standards.

These additional treatment needs will require a new facility that can accommodate the necessary equipment and produce purified water at an amount that will optimize the overall water system on a year-round basis. The AWPf will be sized to produce 6.0 mgd of purified water, which will require a site of approximately 2 to 3. The JPA has identified two alternative sites for the AWPf:

- Agoura Road (Option 1). The Option 1 site is located at 30800 Agoura Road on an undeveloped property on the south side of the street within the City of Agoura Hills, just east of the Westlake Village city limits.⁴ The site will be graded to accommodate the required facilities, with remainder areas maintained in a natural state or with added landscaping. In addition to the treatment facilities described above, the Agoura Road site will also include a pump station of sufficient size to deliver treated water to Las Virgenes Reservoir.
- Las Virgenes Reservoir (Option 2). Option 2 is located on an undeveloped site adjacent to Las Virgenes Reservoir on its eastern shore. The area is currently flat, due to prior grading to create the impoundment in the early 1970s. However, the site is not currently accessible and would require creating a new access road from Triunfo Canyon Road, within Triunfo Creek Park roughly along the alignment of Pentachaeta Trail within lands owned by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

At this time, the JPA expects to consider both sites in the Program EIR and will select one site to advance for detailed study at the completion of the Program EIR process.

Las Virgenes Reservoir / Westlake Filtration Plant

Las Virgenes Reservoir is currently filled with treated potable water that is purchased by the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). Purified water from the AWPf would be added to the existing MWD supply. Discharges would be governed by strict regulatory standards for necessary mixing ratios for dilution and reservoir detention times. A new multi-port outfall and diffuser would be installed deep within the reservoir. Additionally, new reservoir mixing improvements may be necessary.

LVMWD would continue to withdraw water from the reservoir and treat it at its existing Westlake Filtration Plant prior to introduction into the drinking water distribution system – consistent with its current practices. In addition to bolstering supplies within the JPA service areas, the project

² Article 5.3, Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations.

³ AWPf treatment processes are expected to be similar – at an industrial scale – to the Demonstration Facility that was recently opened at the Las Virgenes MWD headquarters in Calabasas.

⁴ The Agoura Road site was the subject of a development application for senior apartments – The Park at Ladyface Mountain – in 2016, prior to purchase by the JPA in 2018.

will provide an opportunity for neighboring agencies to convey a blend of imported water and purified water through interconnections, albeit infrequent and at low volumes.

Pipelines

The facilities described above will require new pipelines throughout the area to create the necessary conveyance infrastructure to operate the Pure Water Project. The following new pipelines are proposed.

- Recycled Water Pipeline to AWPf. The existing recycled water conveyance system does not reach either of the AWPf sites. Therefore, a new pipeline will be installed to connect the AWPf with the existing system.
 - Agoura Road. For the Option 1 site, two recycled water system connection options are under consideration:
 - Install a pipeline to the nearest point of connection – approximately 9,200 feet away – at the intersection of Lindero Canyon Road and E. Thousand Oaks Boulevard.
 - Install a new pipeline along Agoura Road to near Palo Camado Canyon Road (14,840 feet).
 - Las Virgenes Reservoir. For the Option 2 site, the same connection points would be considered but the new recycled water pipeline would also include segments on Lindero Canyon Road, Triunfo Canyon Road, and overland to the new site.
- Purified Water Pipeline. A new pipeline would be installed to connect the AWPf with Las Virgenes Reservoir.
 - Agoura Road. For the Option 1 site, the new pipeline would be installed along Agoura Road and Lindero Canyon Road. At Triunfo Canyon Road, the new pipeline would extend a short distance to the east, and then proceed overland for approximately 0.5 miles along the Pentachaeta Trail to the reservoir discharge point. For this option, emergency discharge points would be installed to divert AWPf flows into local storm drains or sewers in case of emergency.
 - Las Virgenes Reservoir. No new pipeline would be required for the Las Virgenes Reservoir AWPf site – the AWPf would simply connect to the new Las Virgenes Reservoir outfall.
- Brine Line. Water purification at the AWPf site will result in a “reject” stream of salty water that requires disposal. The JPA will install a new brine line that will connect to the existing Calleguas Salinity Management Pipeline (SMP) in Ventura County.
 - Agoura Road. For the Option 1 site, the new brine line would extend west along Agoura Road, and then either: (1) along local roads to Norwegian Grade (Moorpark Road) to connect to the Calleguas SMP, or (2) along E. Thousand Oaks Boulevard and through Thousand Oaks to connect to the Calleguas SMP near Hill Canyon Road. The pipeline options range from 62,800 feet to 72,000 feet long.
 - Las Virgenes Reservoir. For the Option 2 site, the new brine line would follow the alignment of the purified water pipeline (with adequate separation) to Agoura

Road, and then follow one of the optional routes to connect to the Calleguas SMP as described above.

Potential Environmental Impacts to be Considered

The JPA will prepare a Program EIR to analyze the potential environmental consequences of implementing the Pure Water Project. A Program EIR provides a higher-level evaluation of the potential impacts of a program as a whole. The Program EIR will include a detailed description of the program features, identify potentially significant impacts, and recommend measures to mitigate those impacts. Potential topics that will be addressed in the Program EIR include:

- **Construction Impacts to the Public.** Pure Water Project construction activities will be noticeable and will require evaluation in the Program EIR. For the AWPf site, nuisance impacts to the adjacent apartments may include noise and dust from onsite construction activities. All of the pipeline projects will generate traffic, noise, and vibration during construction, including along Lindero Canyon Road. The Program EIR will describe the intensity and duration of construction impacts and focus on the processes and procedures to be used to mitigate construction impacts.
- **Rare Plants and Oak Tree Removal.** The Agoura Road AWPf site and the purified water pipeline alignment within Triunfo Creek Park present special challenges regarding protected resources, primarily removal of oak trees (loss of oak woodland habitat) and several species of rare plants including Lyon's pentachaeta. The Program EIR will evaluate potential impacts to these resources and other natural resources that may be affected by the project.
- **Discharges to Malibu Creek.** Malibu Creek discharges are currently regulated by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit⁵ issued by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). No significant changes to the NPDES Permit are anticipated – creek discharges are expected to remain limited during the dry season and minimal stream flows will continue to be maintained to support steelhead habitat.
- **Cultural Resources.** The program area is sensitive for archaeological resources, with low sensitivity for historic (built environment) resources. These resources will be evaluated in the Program EIR. In addition, outreach to Native American tribes will be performed as required by state law.
- **Recreation Resources.** Under both AWPf options, disruption within Triunfo Creek Park is expected with the likely loss of access to Pentachaeta Trail for a short period of time. Although pipeline and access road details are still under development, the potential impacts will be considered in the Program EIR.

The Program EIR is expected to address other resources as well, including aesthetics and visual resources, air quality and greenhouse gases, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and potential wildfire impacts.

⁵ NPDES No. CA0056014, Order R4-2017-0124.

Other Agencies Whose Approval May Be Required

Several other agencies may have responsibility for carrying out approvals for the Pure Water Project or for individual projects within the program. These agencies are known as CEQA Responsible Agencies. Two key agencies with important regulatory roles in permitting the Pure Water Project are:

- State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and Division of Water Rights. DDW is responsible for the regulation of public drinking water systems and will review the Pure Water Project to ensure consistency with reservoir water augmentation standards for continued use of Las Virgenes Reservoir water for potable use. In addition, the Division of Water Rights consider a Wastewater Change Petition that will be submitted for a proposed change in the point of discharge of the treated effluent from the Tapia WRF.
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). The Regional Board is responsible for protecting water quality and will review the Pure Water Project for discharge of AWPf purified water into Las Virgenes Reservoir, consistent with reservoir augmentation standards.

Other CEQA Responsible Agencies are expected to include the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (a State of California agency) for overland access to Las Virgenes Reservoir, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for construction activities affecting streams and other natural areas, Caltrans for construction activities across state highways, Calleguas Municipal Water District for connection and discharge to the SMP, and local governments (e.g., cities of Agoura Hills, Thousand Oaks, and Westlake Village) for construction along city streets.

In addition to the CEQA Responsible Agencies described above, federal agencies also may participate in some aspects of the Pure Water Project. The Program EIR will be prepared with these federal obligations in mind, including any potential federal obligations associated with program funding.

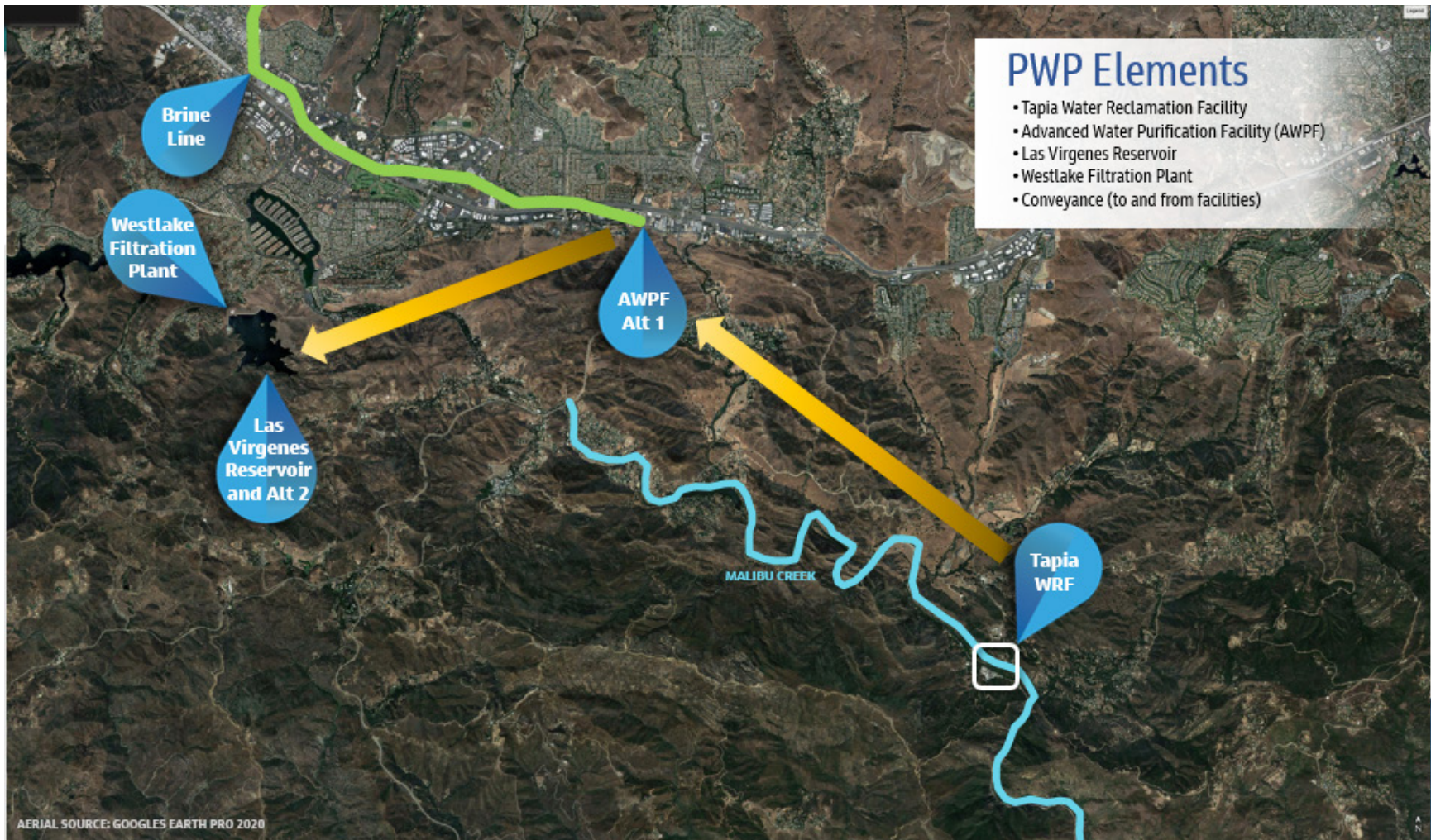


Exhibit 1. Pure Water Project Overview