



**Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority**  
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**For Immediate Release**

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## **L.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board Renews Tapia Permit – Additional Projects Required**

CALABASAS, CA - September 7, 2010 – The operating permit for the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility, which treats wastewater for customers of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Triunfo Sanitation District, was the subject of a hearing conducted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board on Thursday, September 2. After considering staff reports and testimony that lasted several hours, the Regional Board renewed the permit with conditions requiring a reduction in disinfection byproducts, a study on Malibu Creek watershed water quality monitoring and a mandate for additional monitoring of the watershed and Tapia’s effluent.

Supported by over a dozen local residents who spent the day at the hearing to render testimony, the Las Virgenes -Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA) came away with “a permit we can live with,” according to General Manager John R. Mundy. “The new permit is free of unexpected or costly surprises. In fact, as approved, the permit incorporates recommendations made by the JPA. To be sure, there will be some expense associated with meeting all the new terms and conditions but those elements are necessary to comply with state and federal regulations; a wastewater treatment agency seldom goes through the permit renewal process without additional mandates.”

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**Charles Caspary**  
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

Additional support for the JPA's renewal application came from the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council, the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village and Thousand Oaks. Heal the Bay was represented by Mark Gold who requested the Regional Board to increase monitoring and nutrient-reduction efforts in Malibu Creek, but was generally supportive of the JPA's permit renewal effort and its accomplishments toward expanding the use of recycled water.

While the full cost impacts of the permit's new requirements are not yet known, Mr. Mundy is hopeful they will not have a great effect upon sewer rates. "More volatile costs such as energy and chemicals can affect wastewater treatment rates annually. However, capital improvements related to this permit can be spread out over time, softening the impacts on rates," he said.

Customers of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District currently pay \$108 bimonthly, or \$54 per month for sewer service. Triunfo Sanitation District customers pay sewer fees as part of their county tax statement.

The Tapia Water Reclamation Facility currently treats approximately 10 million gallons per day, converting sewage into highly treated recycled water that complies with stringent state and federal standards. During the warm weather months, all of the treated

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effluent is used to irrigate parks, golf courses, highway landscapes and common areas. During the cooler, wet weather months, surplus effluent is discharged into the L.A. River or Malibu Creek. However, Malibu Creek discharge is only permitted between November 15 and April 15.

Mr. Mundy added the participation of area residents in the permit renewal process was important. "I believe there's great value in the Regional Board having direct contact with the public who will end up paying the bills when all is said and done. A showing of community support at the hearing is something few agencies can muster; we're very proud of the residents who gave up a full day to be part of the process."

The Las Virgenes – Triunfo JPA provides wastewater treatment, recycled water and biosolids composting services for the communities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Oak Park, portions of Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village and adjacent unincorporated areas of Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

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