



LAS VIRGENES - TRIUNFO JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
4232 LAS VIRGENES ROAD, CALABASAS, CA 91302
(818) 251-2200



April 3, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for S. 479 Lifting Our Communities through Advance Liquidity for Infrastructure Act of 2021

Dear Chair Wyden:

On behalf of Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA), I write to share our support for S. 479 Lifting Our Communities through Advance Liquidity for Infrastructure (LOCAL Infrastructure) Act of 2021. This commonsense, bipartisan bill will assist special districts in utilizing the current low interest rates to beneficially refinance municipal bonds. As we continue to brace for the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to create refinancing provisions that allow infrastructure investments to not only continue without interruption, but also accelerate to meet the increasing service needs of the community. We are thankful of your support for water infrastructure investments.

The LOCAL Infrastructure Act would restore the ability of states, local governments, and special districts to refinance existing municipal bonds for better terms and conditions, and in turn, generate additional savings and free up cash. This act merely makes the federal tax code more favorable for smaller units of government and requires no federal appropriations. This tax code change would be welcomed by special districts like ours, which will be able to restructure financial plans and invest in much needed infrastructure projects.

Currently, the JPA is in the planning process of the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes – Triunfo. This revolutionary project will take surplus recycled water and process it through an advanced treatment facility to then be stored in the Las Virgenes Reservoir to later be used as drinking water. This forward-thinking infrastructure project is made possible in part by municipal bonds. With the passage of your bill, the JPA will be able to refinance outstanding municipal bonds to better borrowing rates. As a result, the advance refund will release capital that can be used for accelerating the Pure Water Project or to fund other new, revolutionary infrastructure projects.

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
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Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority thanks you for supporting local infrastructure investments. The JPA hopes to see this legislation move successfully through the legislative process and we look forward to continuing to work with you on innovative financial solutions for local governments and special districts.

Sincerely,



Joe McDermott, P.E.
Director of Engineering and External Affairs

Ray Tjulander
Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo
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April 7, 2021

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 737 Responsible, No-Cost Extension of Western Water Infrastructure Improvements Act

Dear Chair Grijalva:

On behalf of Las Virgenes–Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA), I write to demonstrate our support for H.R. 737 Responsible, No-Cost Extension of Western Water Infrastructure Improvements (RENEW WIIN) Act. When the WIIN Act passed in 2016, it provided a plethora of new water infrastructure investment opportunities and overhauled outdated water provisions. Many of these provisions proved to be successful. The RENEW WIIN Act will adeptly solve this issue by extending the deadline for the major California-focused water provisions, including the federal water storage projects.

In 1964, Las Virgenes–Triunfo Joint Powers Authority was established by Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Triunfo Sanitation District in order to collaboratively collect and treat wastewater for the two expansive service areas and provide biosolids composting. Las Virgenes Municipal Water District serves approximately 70,000 people within its service area. Las Virgenes Municipal Water District provides drinking water, recycled water, wastewater services. Triunfo Water and Sanitation District serves approximately 30,000 people in east Ventura County. Triunfo Water and Sanitation District provides sewage collection services and wastewater treatment, supplies potable water, and treats and sells recycled water.

In 2018, the JPA received a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation to complete a feasibility study under its Water Reclamation and Reuse Program. Currently, the JPA is in the process of receiving its funding from the Bureau as an authorized Title XVI project. The Pure Water Project is the exact project that will benefit from your legislation. The project will take surplus recycled water and process it through an advanced treatment facility to be stored in the Las Virgenes Reservoir to later be used as drinking water.

The project is eligible to receive funding authorized in the 2016 WIIN Act for water storage projects in California. As such, the JPA hopes to see this provision is extended for another five years before it is set

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to expire in December 2021. As you know, expansive, federally-supported projects, like the Pure Water Project, take several years of planning, engineering, securing finances, and government approvals before actual construction can begin. It is practical and logical to extend the deadline for water storage projects, which are supported by the federal government because of the fact that they are reliable and long-term.

The JPA hopes to see this bill move successfully through your committee and through the remainder of the legislative process and we look forward to working with you to continue to ensure water, wastewater, and water storage infrastructure is supported by the federal government.



Sincerely,

Joe McDermott, P.E.
Director of Engineering and External Affairs

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April 7, 2021

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for H.R.1015 Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act

Dear Chairman Grijalva:

I write on behalf of Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to demonstrate our support for H.R.1015 Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act. We are grateful of your co-sponsorship and dedication to this bill as it moves through the arduous legislative process.

The Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act will successfully improve the water funding issues related to Title XVI. The bill will reauthorize and permeate the Title XVI program, and importantly, it will increase the authorization from \$50 million to \$500 million. A major welcomed change is striking the requirement that projects must be designated in appropriations legislation, which is currently a difficult obstacle for projects otherwise competitive for Title XVI funding. The expansion of project priorities and funding will allow already authorized projects to rely on more Title XVI funding while also allowing new projects to successfully compete for the funding program. This bill is comprehensive and will provide major opportunities for water projects.

The JPA is in the planning process of the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes – Triunfo. This revolutionary project will take surplus recycled water and process it through an advanced treatment facility to then be stored in the Las Virgenes Reservoir to later be used as drinking water. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has demonstrated its support of the Pure Water Project in 2018 when it granted the Pure Water Project funding to complete a feasibility study. The Pure Water Project will accomplish many innovative water goals: water recycling, water supply, water conservation, and water storage.

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In order to ensure water resources in the short-term and long-term, we need to invest in new, innovative water projects. However, in order to accomplish this goal, the federal government needs to provide more funding opportunities that will be available for years to come. Projects take years to complete, and funding needs to be secured throughout each stage, from planning to full service. There are many resourceful federal grant and loan programs, but with limited funding, the competition between existing and new projects is fierce. With the passage of this legislation, more projects can begin securing finances, start the permitting process, and undergo construction. Further, the possibility of federal funding will inspire engineers and water managers to create even more innovative projects to solve our aging infrastructure and water resource problems.

The Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority thanks you for supporting water issues. Under your devout leadership, the future of water continues to expand with new opportunities and innovative development. We hope to see this legislation positively move through your committee and through the remainder of the legislative process to be signed into law. The JPA looks forward to continuing to work with you on Title XVI funding, as well as other water issues.

Sincerely,



Joe McDermott, P.E.

Director of Engineering and External Affairs



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April 14, 2021

The Honorable Julia Brownley
United States House of Representatives
2262 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 1881, legislation to modernize the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program

Dear Congresswoman Brownley:

On behalf of Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA), I write to share our support for H.R. 1881, legislation to modernize the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting program, sponsored by your colleague, Congressman Garamendi. The JPA requests that you join many of your fellow California colleagues in co-sponsoring this logical bill. This bipartisan legislation will help advance the infrastructure goals and needs of wastewater systems. This legislation will help remove some of the government red tape that adds unnecessary risks and costs toward advancing long-term water and wastewater projects.

The JPA has a long history of working with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. We have been and continue to be committed to meeting increasingly stringent discharge requirements. For wastewater agencies that have decades of regulatory compliance, obtaining NPDES permits should be straightforward and efficient, rather than the arduous and repetitive five-year renewal process that is currently in place. Increasing the permit lifespan to ten years would be better for public agencies, regulatory government agencies and the rate payers that ultimately cover the costs for building and operating wastewater facilities.

For example, the JPA's main wastewater facility, the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility, including the associated wastewater collection system and outfalls, was issued a NPDES Permit in 2017 and it is set to expire soon in 2022. As part of the NPDES permit compliance, the concept for a new off-site Advanced Water Treatment facility was approved to treat recycled water from the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility so that it could be reused for drinking water instead of being discharged to Malibu Creek. The project will not be completed until the year 2030, which will entail three cycles of NPDES permit applications. New requirements for permit renewals could delay the completion of design and construction of the project. This is costly for the agency as well as for the regulatory side; the five-year cycle is a poor use of technical, monetary, scientific resources, and labor. It creates longer term uncertainty that results in unnecessary risks and/or

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higher costs when trying to design systems that will not be operational for a decade or even longer.

Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority appreciates your commitment to water infrastructure and commonsense regulatory policy. The JPA hopes that you will join as co-sponsor to help this legislation move forward. The JPA would like to see this bill advance successfully through the legislative process, as a standalone bill or as part of a comprehensive water and infrastructure package.

Sincerely,



Joe McDermott, P.E.
Director of Engineering and External Affairs



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April 14, 2021

The Honorable John Garamendi
United States House of Representatives
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 1881, legislation to modernize the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program

Dear Congressman Garamendi:

On behalf of Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA), I write to share our support for your bill, H.R. 1881, legislation to modernize the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting program. The JPA thanks you for reintroducing this commonsense, bipartisan legislation that will advance the infrastructure goals and needs of wastewater systems. This legislation will help remove some of the government red tape that adds unnecessary risks and costs toward advancing long-term water and wastewater projects.

The JPA has a long history of working with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. We have been and continue to be committed to meeting increasingly stringent discharge requirements. For wastewater agencies that have decades of regulatory compliance, obtaining NPDES permits should be straightforward and efficient, rather than the arduous and repetitive five-year renewal process that is currently in place. Increasing the permit lifespan to ten years would be better for public agencies, regulatory government agencies and the rate payers that ultimately cover the costs for building and operating wastewater facilities.

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Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority appreciates your commitment to water infrastructure and commonsense regulatory policy. The JPA is pleased to see many California members as co-sponsors and is urging members of its delegation to join as co-sponsors. The JPA hopes to see this bill advance successfully through the legislative process, as a standalone bill or as part of a comprehensive water and infrastructure package. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Joe McDermott, P.E.
Director of Engineering and External Affairs



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April 14, 2021

The Honorable Ted Lieu
United States House of Representatives
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 1881, legislation to modernize the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program

Dear Congressman Lieu:

On behalf of Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA), I write to share our support for H.R. 1881, legislation to modernize the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting program, sponsored by your colleague, Congressman Garamendi. The JPA requests that you join many of your fellow California colleagues in co-sponsoring this logical bill. This bipartisan legislation will help advance the infrastructure goals and needs of wastewater systems. This legislation will help remove some of the government red tape that adds unnecessary risks and costs toward advancing long-term water and wastewater projects.

The JPA has a long history of working with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. We have been and continue to be committed to meeting increasingly stringent discharge requirements. For wastewater agencies that have decades of regulatory compliance, obtaining NPDES permits should be straightforward and efficient, rather than the arduous and repetitive five-year renewal process that is currently in place. Increasing the permit lifespan to ten years would be better for public agencies, regulatory government agencies and the rate payers that ultimately cover the costs for building and operating wastewater facilities.

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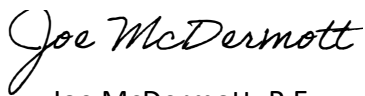
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Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority appreciates your commitment to water infrastructure and commonsense regulatory policy. The JPA hopes that you will join as co-sponsor to help this legislation move forward. The JPA would like to see this bill advance successfully through the legislative process, as a standalone bill or as part of a comprehensive water and infrastructure package.

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