

Why do we need to build the tank?

The 5-million gallon tank is one of several improvements to the district's "backbone" system. The district's 2000, 2007 and earlier potable water master plans identified the need to make improvements in the backbone system to meet an increase in peak demands and an overall growth in water demand. The backbone improvements will; 1) improve reliability by increasing the capacity to move water east and west across the district, 2) enhance the district's ability to provide service following earthquakes or other emergencies by allowing greater use of Las Virgenes Reservoir, 3) reduce the need for pumping thus reducing electrical costs, 4) increase needed storage in the backbone system that supplies your drinking water, 5) improve fire protection and 6) assure that peak demands are met.

What is the backbone system?

The backbone system is the district's main transmission, pumping and storage system that provides water supply to the district's distribution and fire protection systems. The backbone system spans the district and connects the district's water supply from our wholesale water supplier, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, with the Las Virgenes Reservoir and Westlake Filtration Plant.

What are the "backbone" improvements?

The backbone improvements include transmission pipelines in Agoura Hills and Calabasas, expansion of the Westlake Filtration Plant, modernization of Westlake Pump Station and construction of the 5-million gallon treated drinking water tank at Las Virgenes Reservoir. Construction of the pipeline in Agoura Hills is scheduled to start with in a few weeks.

Why have we not heard about this before?

Detailed planning for the backbone improvements started in 2009 with an Alternatives Study that considered various options and alignments for all elements of the program. The Alternatives Study became the basis of a program Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted by the district's board of directors in October 2009. The district met with the local cities, the county, school district and various homeowners association to share the information while preparing the Alternatives Study and adoption of the MND. The district is committed to continuing to work closely with local cities and communities while implementing the projects.

Why is the tank being built at Las Virgenes Reservoir, is there another location where it can be built?

Six different sites were considered in the Alternatives Study, two near Three Springs Park, two in Agoura Hills and two at the Las Virgenes Reservoir. The sites near Three Springs Park and in Agoura Hills were eliminated because they were either more costly, were very difficult to access for construction and operations, had greater visibility or did not provide the necessary hydraulics. It is necessary that the water level in the tank be at certain height in order for the treatment plant and pumps to work properly. This is what provides the proper water pressure to your homes, businesses and fire hydrants.

What are the differences between the two sites at the reservoir?

Site A is near the Saddle Dam, the smaller of the two dams and site C is located across the lake. Both sites are old borrow (excavated rock) sites created during construction of the dams. The tank at site A would be 30 feet tall and 170 feet in diameter, the top of the tank would not be any higher than the top of the filter plant. The tank at site C would be 40 feet tall and 152 feet in diameter and extend about 35 feet above the ground. Site C requires a longer inlet/outlet pipeline than site A. About 16,500 cubic yards of excavation is required for site A and about 4,800 cubic yards for site C, in either case the excavated material will be used on site. Access to site C will require construction of a road from the eastern abutment of the main dam to the site. Site A is less costly than site C but either fits well into the hydraulics of the backbone system.

Will I be able to see the tank?

That depends on the site selected and your perspective. The tank will be visible from portions of the surrounding community. However, several measures have been included in the design and siting of the tank to mitigate the view impact. The tank will be finished with a non-reflective material in earth tones. Night lighting will be shielded and only used for maintenance or security purposes. At site A, an engineered berm will partially shield the tank from view. The finished site will be re-vegetated with plants that match the surrounding environment.

Is it safe to build, will the dam be affected?

Because of the extremely hard rock at either site alternative excavation techniques will be necessary. The alternative excavation will use controlled blasting where the charge is carefully designed and controlled to exact limits, minimizing the intensity of the movement. This type of alternative excavation was used during construction of the dams in the early 1970s; it was also used when grading the lots for the Three Springs community in 1980s and the filtration plant in the late 1980s, with no effect on the dams. The dams were designed to withstand a M7.0 earthquake. The vibrations and ground accelerations from even a small earthquake are significantly higher than any vibrations created by the controlled blasting. Strict precautions will assure the safety of the community, homes and district facilities. An example of these precautions includes vibration monitoring of the dams, nearby properties and pre and post surveys of the community. If any damage results from these activities, the district will repair the damage. However, it is unlikely that there will be any damage. The district will work closely with the city and community in developing and implementing the alternative excavation plan to assure safety, property protection and community awareness.

What will be the community impacts during construction?

There will be some temporary impacts to the community because of increased truck traffic, noise and dust. To minimize these impacts there will be no staging of trucks in residential neighborhoods, construction traffic will be coordinated with other activities to avoid congestion such as school and commuter traffic, loads will not exceed legal limits to avoid damage to city streets and construction activities will occur during normal working hours. Dust will be controlled using strict dust control

measures; these include the use of water for dust suppression and suspension of dust creating activities if winds exceed 25 mph. All these activities will be coordinated with the City of Westlake Village and the community.

How much will the tank cost and how will it be paid for?

The estimated cost for the tank at site A is \$6,600,000 and at site C, it is \$7,500,000. The district has already set aside funds specifically for water system improvements that will pay for the project.

What permits or approvals are needed to build the tank?

The district's board approved the environmental document for the program in October 2009. Approvals from the California Division of Safety of Dams may be required but that determination cannot be made until a site is selected and the design is 30% complete. Approval is also required from the Department of Public Health, to assure the project meets all necessary health codes for potable water use. The district is self-permitting for water facilities, however close coordination with the city and the community will continue to assure the project is as compatible as possible.

When will construction start?

After selection of a preferred site, detailed design will be done by the middle of 2012. Construction should begin in late 2012 or early 2013 and be complete in about a year.