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**For Immediate Release**

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**Las Virgenes – Triunfo JPA Recognizes Heal the Bay Watershed Report;  
Re-Releases 40-Year Watershed Study As An Additional Resource**

CALABASAS , CA March 25, 2013 -- The Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA) recognizes Heal the Bay for its recently released report on the Malibu Creek Watershed. “There is not another organization of its kind that has done a better job of creating awareness of the challenging issues facing our watershed,” said David W. Pedersen, Administering Agent/General Manager of the JPA.

The JPA has been collecting and analyzing water quality data for the Malibu Creek Watershed for over 40 years, and is re-releasing its report on “Water Quality in the Malibu Creek Watershed, 1971 – 2010” as an additional resource to aid discussions on the future of the watershed. The JPA report was originally submitted to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) in March 2011 and evaluates existing conditions, historical trends, and data inter-relationships for the Malibu Creek Watershed for a 39-year period. The complete study is available for download at [www.LVMWD.com](http://www.LVMWD.com); hard copies are also available for public review at the JPA’s headquarters.

The JPA report summarizes a significant body of knowledge on the many stressors affecting the watershed, using not only JPA data but also data collected by others such as Heal the Bay. Chapter 3 of the report provides a clear explanation of the effects of the local geology, namely the Monterey Formation, on water quality. The report links about one-third of the watershed’s 303(d) listed impairments with natural sources.

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**Michael McReynolds**  
Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo  
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Chair, Triunfo Sanitation District  
Board of Directors

**Charles Caspary**  
Vice Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo  
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President, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
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“We encourage customers and the public to review the report and consider all of the stressors affecting water quality, including those that occur naturally. There is substantial evidence linking the Monterey Formation to high natural levels of trace elements, including phosphorus, nitrogen, and sulfate,” said Mr. Pedersen.

Moving forward, additional evaluation and study of the natural stressors affecting water quality in the watershed are needed to ensure that a balanced approach is developed to address the problems. “This is a very complex system and caution needs to be exercised when drawing conclusions about cause-and-effect, particularly if the intent is to establish more stringent regulatory standards,” said Mr. Pedersen. The JPA has started a dialog with U.S EPA and RWQCB officials to discuss the additional evaluations and studies that are needed. Among those studies should be an estimation of the cost to the region’s residents and ratepayers for implementation of the recommended actions and an assessment of the economic impact weighed against any potential benefits.

The JPA provides wastewater treatment, recycled water and biosolids composting to some 100,000 residents of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Oak Park, Westlake Village and portion of Thousand Oaks, in addition to unincorporated surrounding areas of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

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