



Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority
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For Immediate Release

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U.S. EPA Extends Malibu Creek & Lagoon TMDL Regulations to July 2

CALABASAS, CA May 20, 2013 – In a statement released Friday May 17; the U.S. EPA has announced an extension for the establishment of new water quality standards (TMDLs) for Malibu Creek and Lagoon to July 2, “to allow further discussion of the proposed terms of these TMDLs with stakeholders and to address public comments on the proposed TMDLs.” The EPA’s new TMDLs had been scheduled to be established on May 23.

David W. Pedersen, Administering Agent and General Manager for the Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA) said, “We appreciate the EPA’s decision to take additional time in considering this important matter, which will have enduring impacts in our service area. The JPA supports actions for the watershed based on sound science that will produce benefits in proportion to their costs.” Mr. Pedersen said he believes the EPA is being responsive to the concerns of the community and allowing more time to consider all the information submitted is an appropriate approach toward building consensus for actions that will benefit the watershed.

The proposed “Total Maximum Daily Loads” (TMDLs) for Malibu Creek and Lagoon were added to a consent decree reached in litigation between the U.S. EPA and non-government organizations seeking to speed up the implementation of water quality standards for watersheds in the Los Angeles area. In a court filing made earlier this year, the JPA contended the process related to Malibu Creek was flawed.

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A decision on that petition is scheduled for May 21. The JPA has also contended that the proposed TMDLs are not supported by science and would cost ratepayers over \$300 million in order to reach the targets proposed in a draft document issued by the EPA last December.

On May 1, some 160 persons attended an EPA workshop on the TMDL at Agoura Hills City Hall, where residents viewed presentations by EPA and the JPA. Many who attended expressed concerns related to the proposed standards and their costs.

The JPA is comprised of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Triunfo Sanitation District. It provides wastewater treatment, recycled water and biosolids composting to 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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EDITOR: EPA's statements can be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/water/tmdl/progress.html>