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MEMBER AGENCY OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Request for Tank Preliminary Injunction Denied; LVMWD Project Will Continue On Schedule

(CALABASAS, CA June 4, 2014) The request by a homeowner for a Preliminary Injunction seeking to stop construction of a 5-million gallon storage tank at Las Virgenes Reservoir in Westlake Village was denied at a Los Angeles Superior Court hearing conducted Wednesday, June 4. Superior Court Judge Joanne B. O'Donnell ruled in favor of the District on all points and approved the project to proceed. The Judge found that the District followed the proper process to approve the project, the process provided ample opportunity for the public to be heard, and delay of the project would pose increased fire risk to the area due to insufficient fire flow. The Judge also noted that the District performed a "thoughtful assessment" of the Valley Fever risk and that no credible evidence was presented to substantiate the alleged threat of Valley Fever. As a result, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) continues to move ahead with the project, which is nearly 30 percent complete.

"We're pleased the court confirmed the District followed a rigorous public process allowing ample opportunity for public input on the project," said David W. Pedersen, LVMWD's General Manager. "The District has been and continues to be committed to transparency, particularly when it considers major capital projects. As a public agency providing essential services to some 70,000 people, we cannot compromise or risk public health and safety when the facts indicate the need for a specific project," he said.

LVMWD Board President Charles Caspary said, "We are very pleased with a favorable ruling and confirmation that the District followed the appropriate process to approve the project. The District will continue to work with the community, including the litigant, to minimize inconveniences caused by construction and to complete the project as guickly as possible."

Construction began on the 5-million-gallon tank in March; it is scheduled to be complete in June 2015.

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District provides potable water, recycled water, wastewater treatment services and biosolids composting for some 70,000 residents of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village and surrounding unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.