

Issue #1 - 2020

THE CURRENT FLOW



NEWS FOR THE VALUED CUSTOMERS OF LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT



What's Inside

- ✓ Demo Facility Update
- ✓ Employee Spotlight
- ✓ Missing Piece
- ✓ Compost Program Update
- ✓ Spring Events

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Digital rendering of the entrance to the Demonstration Facility
Grand Opening September 11, 2020

Pure Water Demo Facility On the Horizon

Construction of the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes – Triunfo Demonstration Facility is well under way at LVMWD's headquarters! The demo facility, with a capacity to serve up to 20 gallons per minute (GPM) of Pure Water, will serve as a training opportunity for staff members to become familiar with the advanced purification process and gain experience with the technology involved. The facility will also serve as a learning opportunity for the public to view the process up close and gain an understanding of the effectiveness and viability of the technology.

The Pure Water Project Las Virgenes – Triunfo utilizes indirect potable reuse to create an additional water supply that increases reliability and ensures a sustainable future

for our customers. The advanced treatment process takes high quality recycled water and sends it through three additional purification steps: membrane ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet disinfection, creating the purest water attainable. At this point, the water is so pure that it becomes aggressive, so the water will be mixed with treated water at Las Virgenes Reservoir, with a 2-6 month residence time before being distributed to customers.

The full-scale Advanced Treatment Facility is slated to begin operation in 2030, with the capacity to process up to 6 MGD. Tours of the demonstration facility will be available in late spring/early summer, with a grand-opening ceremony slated for September 11, 2020. 📍

Employee Spotlight: Jeff Helgager



Jeff Helgager
Water Distribution Operator III

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District is as much a part of the communities we serve as they are of us. Having been founded in 1958, many of the current tracts and developments weren't even a thought as the area remained a place where independent minded people could escape metropolitan Los Angeles and live among the natural scenic beauty of the Santa Monica Mountains. For Jeff Helgager, Water Distribution Operator III for LVMWD, this remarkable area has been both his childhood home and workplace for almost his entire life.

In 1964 a young Jeff moved with his parents into a house just north of the 101 Freeway off Malibu Canyon Road. Jeff attended local schools until his junior year of high school when he transferred to LA Lutheran High School and graduated and worked locally at Bob's Big Boy and Sperling Nursery. After high school Jeff joined the United States Marine Corps where he served until being medically discharged after suffering a separated shoulder.

With Peter Gabriel's track "Sledgehammer" number one on the Billboard top 100, Jeff began his career in water with LVMWD on July 23, 1986. Starting on the Operations crew, Jeff soon found himself a part of the 6-person construction crew that was supporting the rapid development of the

Las Virgenes area. As Jeff continued to work through the busy days of installing 4-5 service lines a day, what started for him as merely a job morphed into a career. He returned to the Water Operations Department where he has risen to the level of Water Distribution Operator III and become a valued leader and mentor.

Over such a long career there are many opportunities to go above and beyond what is listed in a job description, and none so more than in the time of emergencies and disasters. Jeff was an instrumental staff member through the response to the Northridge Earthquake in 1994, and then in subsequent wildfire events such as the Corral Canyon and Woolsey Fires. This dedication to our customers and the teamwork displayed by the LVMWD staff is something that Jeff is most proud of.



Jeff responding with other LVMWD staff to the Corral Canyon Fire in 2007

Growing up in an area like Las Virgenes, surrounded by opportunities and exposure to nature, Jeff unsurprisingly became an avid outdoorsman enjoying hunting, deep sea fishing and camping. Less obvious though is Jeff's longtime participation in building floats for the "Granddaddy of Them All," the Tournament of Roses Parade. This passion began when his daughter was in high school, excelling in the horticulture and floral design programs. At that time a family friend convinced Jeff and his daughter to come and see the work they were doing as volunteers for the City of Burbank's float building efforts. He has since followed his daughter to the La Cañada – Flintridge team, but the enthusiasm and dedication remains the same. 💧

THE MISSING PIECE



Send your response to:

[The Missing Piece](mailto:LittleDrop@LVMWD.com), LVMWD, 4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302, or send to LittleDrop@LVMWD.com with "Missing Piece" in the subject line. **Please include your mailing address in case you are a winner!** Prizes are awarded monthly to 10 winners randomly selected from the correct responses. Watch for the answer in the next issue of *The Current Flow*.

What are the three steps in the advanced water filtration process that the Pure Water Project will utilize?

Previous issue's [Missing Piece](#):

What did the attendees at Tap-In 2019 learn from the speaker and panel?

Answer:

Ways in which businesses can implement easy and cost effective water savings and sustainability practices to save money and water.

Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility Takes a Critical Step Toward Repair

The Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Board of Directors authorized the next critical step in the repair of the Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility (Rancho) at a recent Board meeting authorizing the procurement of the materials needed to restore the bio-filter to full operational capacity. This authorization will help expedite repairs to equipment damaged in the November 2018 Woolsey Fire and the resumption of compost production later this year.

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) Staff, acting as administrating agents of the JPA, have been coordinating the work and repairs to the Rancho facility throughout the past year. Much of this effort has been working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the JPA insurance carrier throughout the claims process where the JPA was advised that moving forward with repair work prematurely could risk its insurance coverage for damages. In December, the JPA received the first claim checks in the amount of \$1.75 million of the \$6.5 million claimed, signaling that critical repairs could now move forward.

The Board's action will allow Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) General Manager Dave Pedersen, acting as the administrating agent of the JPA, to issue a purchase order to procure necessary equipment to repair the partially damaged bio-filter while continuing the claims process



LVMWD Water Reclamation Operator David Ruiz working to prevent flare-ups post Woolsey Fire .

and maximizing the JPA insurance reimbursement. The purchase order, authorized for a total of \$150,000, will cover the cost of 2,240 “base plates” and 150 “trench covers” required to repair the damages sustained.

“The bio-filter helps mitigate odors that are associated with the composting process and has been identified on the critical path by LVMWD staff,” Pedersen explained to the Board. “This is in large part due to the long lead time required to manufacture and deliver the proprietary items used in the bio-filter.”

Once the bio-filter is restored to full capacity, compost production will resume. The composting process at Rancho takes 45 days to complete and LVMWD staff are hopeful compost will be available to the public in the latter part of 2020. ♡

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
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You may direct communications to LVMWD Board members by sending an e-mail to: board@LVMWD.com

Board meetings are scheduled at 9 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month

Board Meetings are now live-streamed on the District's website at LVMWD.com/BoardMeetingSpeakerCard

Las Virgenes - Triunfo JPA meets the first Monday of the month at 5 p.m.

Check LVMWD.com/Board-Meetings for Board meeting and agenda information

Customer Service -
(818) 251-2200

After Hours Emergency -
(818) 251-2100

Construction & Drought Hotline -
(818) 251-2180

Report Water Waste -
StopTheWaste@LVMWD.com

Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility
Free Compost & Recycled Water Pickup
are Currently Unavailable

Rebate Information
LVMWD.com/Rebates

Potable Water
Recycled Water
Wastewater Treatment
Biosolids Composting



4232 Las Virgenes Road
Calabasas, CA 91302
LVMWD.com



Affordable - Convenient - Sustainable

ourLVtap.com

Come see Little Drop and Engage with us at these local events!

LVMWD.com/Community-Events

Spring 2020 Community Events

March 14 - Calabasas Shamrock Shuffle 5K + Fun Run and Post Race St. Patrick's Day Celebration at the Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center from 11 am to 3 pm (Run starts at 8:30 am – register to run at ahccc.org)

March 31 – Pepperdine Earth Day in Pepperdine's central plaza from 11 am to 2 pm

April 18 – Calabasas Earth Day Festival at Las Virgenes Creek on Agoura Road from 2 pm to 5 pm

April 25 – Touch-a-Truck Event at the Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center from 10 am to 1 pm

April 26 – Rotary Club of Westlake Village Community Street Festival from 11 am to 5 pm

April 29 – Annual Farmer's Market Jamboree at Chaparral Elementary School in Calabasas from 11 am to 2 pm

May 2 – Fire Service and Public Safety Day at Fire Station 89 in Agoura Hills – time is currently TBD – call 818-597-7361 for more information

May 6 – Senior Expo at the Agoura Hills Recreation and Event Center – time is currently TBD – call 818-597-7361 for more information



Learn the principles used in creating brilliantly beautiful and sustainable landscapes in the brand new Pure Water Demonstration Facility Sustainability Garden.



PURE WATER PROJECT
LAS VIRGENES-TRIUNFO

Bringing Our Water Full Circle



Join us for California Friendly and Native Plant Landscaping Classes
Thursday 4/23, from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Thursday 5/7, from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
refreshments will be served

For more information and to register please visit lvmwd.com/GardenClasses