



**LAS VIRGENES - TRIUNFO JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**  
4232 LAS VIRGENES ROAD, CALABASAS, CA 91302  
(818) 251-2200



March 31, 2021

The Honorable Bill Quirk, Chair  
Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 171  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted Online via [CA Leg Advocacy Portal](#)

**Subject: AB 818 (Bloom) – Solid waste: premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes – SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Quirk:

The Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and the Triunfo Water and Sanitation District) are pleased to support AB 818 (Bloom). We urge the committee to move AB 818, a straightforward bill that will encourage pollution prevention through clear and consistent consumer information.

AB 818 would establish labeling requirements for wet wipes packaging so that Californians will know how to properly dispose of these popular consumer products. In recent years, wet wipes have become widely available as they're designed for a variety of daily household purposes. Despite voluntary industry labeling guidelines, proper disposal information is inconsistent on wipes product labels, and some wipes are advertised as "flushable," which can lead to confusion about what products can be flushed down the toilet and which are instead intended for the trashcan.

Because many wet wipes are made from plastic they are not compatible with sewer systems and infrastructure. Improperly flushing these incredibly durable products results in their getting caught in pipes or accumulating with fats, oils, and grease and becoming larger obstructions that cause costly backups and sometimes result in raw sewage overflows. Further down the sewer line, wipes tend to weave together and create giant rags which get stuck in pump systems and motors and damage expensive public infrastructure.

Additionally, environmental harm can come from flushing wipes since they shed microplastics into the wastewater system that can ultimately be discharged to the aquatic environment. Over the last decade, wet wipes have been an increasing problem for property owners, sewer systems, and ratepayers. A recent national analysis indicates California wastewater agencies spend nearly \$50 million annually on operations and

**Ray Tjulander**  
Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo  
Joint Powers Authority  
Chair, Triunfo Water & Sanitation District  
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**Jay Lewitt**  
Vice Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo  
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March 31, 2021

maintenance alone to manage this problem which could be much more easily and affordably managed if consumers knew to dispose of wipes in the trash instead.

AB 818 would ensure wet wipes packaging clearly communicates the appropriate disposal method for the products not intended to be flushed, and further requires wipes manufacturers to conduct education and outreach about the "Do Not Flush" symbol and label notice. This straightforward bill has been mutually agreed to by the wipes manufacturers and wastewater and product stewardship representatives. If enacted, it will establish the strongest wet wipe labeling requirements in the country.

For these reasons The Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority supports AB 818, and we respectfully request your support when the bill is heard in the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee.

Sincerely,



Joe McDermott  
Director of Engineering and External Affairs

Cc: Assemblyman Richard Bloom

**Ray Tjulander**  
Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo  
Joint Powers Authority  
Chair, Triunfo Water & Sanitation District  
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Vice Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo  
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President, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Board of Directors



**Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority**  
4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302  
818.251.2100



April 2, 2021

Honorable Eduardo Garcia  
Chair, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 160  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1500 (E. Garcia) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Protection, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022—Support if Amended to include \$1.5 billion for recycled water**

Dear Chair Garcia,

The Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA) supports passage of AB 1500 but strongly urges an amendment to set aside \$1.5 billion of the total available funding for water recycling projects. This will ensure that an adequate level of funding will be available for investments in water recycling projects, which will be critical to maintain adequate and resilient water supplies in California for future generations to come.

The JPA has been embarking on its own recycled water project, the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes – Triunfo, which when completed will reduce the need to import water from the Sacramento Bay-Delta. To make this project a reality, the JPA's financial plan requires that we attain funding in the form of grants and low-interest loans that can be leveraged with local sources of funding. With the support of the Legislature, California can continue to be a world leader in the implementation of water recycling projects – an endeavor that both creates jobs and is widely supported by the environmental community.

We are also supportive of amendments as proposed by WaterReuse California, Southern California Water Coalition, and California Coastkeeper Alliance in their letter to you dated March 30, 2021 (attached). Thank you in advance for your consideration and please contact me at [jmcdermott@lvmwd.com](mailto:jmcdermott@lvmwd.com), if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe McDermott".

Joe McDermott  
Director of Engineering and External Affairs

**Ray Tjulander**  
Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo  
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Chair, Triunfo Water & Sanitation District  
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**Jay Lewitt**  
Vice Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo  
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President, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
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Cc: Megan Dahle, Vice Chair, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
Members, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
Pablo Garza, Chief Consultant, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
Elana Ortiz (Mullin)

Enc:

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March 30, 2021

Honorable Eduardo Garcia  
Chair, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 160  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1500 (E. Garcia) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Protection, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022—Support if Amended to include \$1.5 billion for recycled water**

Dear Chair Garcia,

WaterReuse California (WRCA), the California Coastkeeper Alliance and the Southern California Water Coalition strongly urge the inclusion of \$1.5 billion for water recycling to be administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) in your bill, AB 1500. Additionally, we have provided amendments below that would modernize and improve the Water Board's 20-year old recycled water funding program. As the state enters into yet another dry year, it is critical that California make a major investment in water recycling to help create and maintain climate resilient sustainable water supplies.

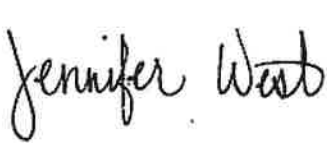
The Administration's Water Resilience Portfolio highlights the importance of recycled water, noting that "recycled water is a sustainable, nearly drought-proof supply when used efficiently, and the total volume of water California recycles today could triple in the next decade." Very recently, draft regulations for Direct Potable Reuse were released, which will likely be adopted in 2023. With a regulatory framework in place, and needed funding, many planned reuse projects that can move forward and greatly enhance the water supply of the state.

There is currently a waiting list of water recycling projects at the Water Board totaling \$3 billion, and a recent WRCA survey found that more than \$13 billion in planned reuse projects are in various stages of

planning. It is estimated that these projects will increase recycled water use in California by 2035—creating enough water for four million households and tens of thousands of new jobs.

We respectfully request the inclusion of \$1.5 billion for recycled water in your climate bond. As mentioned above, there is a waiting list of recycled water projects, many shovel-ready, that can put Californians to work and help shield Californians from the effect of climate change. Thank you in advance for your consideration and please contact WateReuse California Managing Director, Jennifer West ([jwest@watereuse.org](mailto:jwest@watereuse.org)), or Sean Bothwell, Executive Director of the CA Coastkeeper Alliance ([sbothwell@cacoastkeeper.org](mailto:sbothwell@cacoastkeeper.org)) if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,



Jennifer West  
Managing Director  
WateReuse California



Sean Bothwell  
Executive Director  
CA Coastkeeper Alliance



Charlie Wilson  
Executive Director and CEO  
Southern CA Water Coalition

cc: Megan Dahle, Vice Chair, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
Members, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
Pablo Garza, Chief Consultant, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
Calvin Rusch, Republican Consultant  
Asm. Kevin Mullin

## Proposed AB 1500 Water Recycling Language

80551. (a) Of the funds made available by Section 80540, ~~three hundred million dollars (\$300 million)~~ \$1.5 billion dollars (\$1,500,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the water board for grants ~~or loans~~ for water recycling projects, including all of the following:

- (1) Treatment, storage, conveyance, and distribution facilities for potable and nonpotable water recycling projects.
- (2) Dedicated distribution infrastructure to serve residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial end-user retrofit projects to allow use of recycled water.
- (3) Multibenefit recycled water projects that improve water quality and water supply reliability.
- (4) Research for recycled water.
- (5) Pilot projects.
- (6) Planning for recycled water projects.
- (7) Technical assistance and grant writing assistance for disadvantaged communities.

(b) At least a 50-percent local cost share shall be required for projects funded pursuant to this section. Loans obtained from the California Clean Water State Revolving Fund may be used as local cost share. That cost share may be suspended or reduced for disadvantaged communities ~~and~~, severely disadvantaged communities, and economically distressed areas.

(c) In allocating funding pursuant to this section, the water board shall prioritize all of the following, without regard to order. Projects meeting multiple criteria would be preferred:

- (1) Cost effectiveness.
- (2) Projects that serve a larger regional population.
- (3) Projects that include one or more partnerships between a municipality, a regional sanitation district, or a regional water distribution agency.
- (4) Projects that reduce the discharge of wastewater to the ocean and enclosed bays, while protecting water quality, and avoid or minimize adverse impacts to ocean resources.
- (5) Projects that improve regional water supply reliability and reduce reliance on water imports. ~~from the San Francisco Bay Delta and the Colorado River.~~
- (6) Projects that increase groundwater replenishment or reduce groundwater extraction where groundwater supplies are in a state of overdraft.
- (7) Projects that advance innovation in recycled water technology.
- (8) Projects that use energy efficiently and minimize greenhouse gas emissions. ~~avoid using excessive amounts of energy in relation to the amount of water supplied, and result in fewer greenhouse gas emissions as compared to competing technologies.~~

(d) The water board shall consider providing a reasonable geographic allocation of funding under this section to eligible projects throughout the state, including both northern and southern California.

(e) Not more than 1 percent of the funds in this section shall be used for water recycling research.





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4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302  
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March 24, 2021

The Honorable Julia Brownley  
United States House of Representatives  
2262 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Support for S. 479, Lifting Our Communities through Advance Liquidity for Infrastructure Act of 2021**

Dear Congresswoman Brownley:

On behalf of the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA), I write to share our support for S. 479, the Lifting Our Communities through Advance Liquidity for Infrastructure (LOCAL Infrastructure) Act of 2021. This common-sense, bipartisan bill will assist special districts in utilizing low interest rates to beneficially refinance municipal bonds. As we respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to create refinancing provisions that allow infrastructure investments to continue without interruption and even accelerate to meet the increasing service needs of our communities.

The LOCAL Infrastructure Act would restore the ability of states, local governments, and special districts to refinance existing municipal bonds for better terms and conditions, and in turn, generate additional cash flow for future investments. The Act merely makes the federal tax code more favorable for smaller units of government and requires no federal appropriations. The tax code change would be welcomed by special districts like the JPA because it would support restructuring financial plans and investing in new infrastructure projects.

Currently, the JPA is preparing for a major investment in its planned Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo, which is currently estimated to cost \$160 million. The revolutionary project will take surplus recycled water and process it through an advanced treatment facility to then be stored in Las Virgenes Reservoir for future use as a new source of drinking water. This forward-thinking infrastructure project is expected to be financed in part by municipal bonds. With the passage of this bill, the JPA will be able to refinance outstanding municipal bonds to better borrowing rates in the future. As a result, the advance refund will free up cash flow that can be used to accelerate other critical infrastructure projects.

**Ray Tjulander**  
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Chair, Triunfo Water & Sanitation District  
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Vice Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo  
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President, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
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The Honorable Julia Brownley  
March 24, 2021  
Page 2 of 2

The JPA appreciates your commitment to local government infrastructure. We hope to see this bill move successfully through the legislative process and look forward to continuing to work with you on innovative financing solutions for local governments and special districts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David W. Pedersen" with a stylized flourish at the end.

David W. Pedersen, P.E.  
Administering Agent/General Manager

cc: JPA Board of Directors



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March 24, 2021

The Honorable Julia Brownley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2262 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Support for H.R.1015, Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act**

Dear Congresswoman Brownley:

I write on behalf of the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to express support for H.R.1015, the Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act.

The Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act will significantly enhance the level of funding available through the Bureau of Reclamation's successful Title XVI Program. The bill will reauthorize the Title XVI Program, and importantly, increase the authorization from \$50 to \$500 million. An additional major and welcomed change is the proposal to strike the requirement that projects must be designated in appropriations legislation, which is currently a difficult obstacle for projects that would otherwise be competitive for Title XVI funding. The expansion of project priorities and funding will allow previously-authorized projects to rely on more Title XVI funding, while also allowing for new projects to successfully compete for funding. The bill is comprehensive and will provide major new opportunities for water projects in California.

Currently, the JPA is preparing for a major investment in its planned Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo, which is currently estimated to cost \$160 million. The revolutionary project will take surplus recycled water and process it through an advanced treatment facility to then be stored in Las Virgenes Reservoir for future use as a new source of drinking water. The Pure Water Project is a perfect example of the type of projects that should be funded under Title XVI and other federal programs. The Bureau of Reclamation demonstrated its support for the project in 2018 by granting funding to prepare a feasibility study, which was subsequently approved. The Pure Water Project accomplish a number of innovative water priorities including water recycling, supply augmentation, conservation and storage.

To ensure reliable water resources for both the short-term and long-term, we need to invest in new, innovative water projects. However, in order to accomplish this goal, the federal government needs to provide more funding opportunities that will be available for years to come. Innovative projects take years to complete, and the funding needs to

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The Honorable Julia Brownley  
March 24, 2021  
Page 2 of 2

be secured throughout each stage of the process, from planning to commissioning. There are a number of existing federal grant and loan programs, but the competition between existing and new projects is fierce due to limited overall funding. With the passage of this legislation, more projects can begin securing funds, start the permitting process and initiate construction. Further, the possibility of federal funding will inspire engineers and water managers to create even more innovative projects to solve challenges with water supply reliability and aging infrastructure.

Thank you for co-sponsoring this bill and for your on-going efforts to support water recycling. We hope to see this bill successfully move through the legislative process as a stand-alone bill or as part of an infrastructure package. We also look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on Title XVI funding, as well as other important California water issues.

Sincerely,

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David W. Pedersen, P.E.  
Administering Agent/General Manager

cc: JPA Board of Directors



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March 24, 2021

The Honorable Julia Brownley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2262 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Support for H.R. 737, Responsible, No-Cost Extension of Western Water Infrastructure Improvements Act**

Dear Congresswoman Brownley:

On behalf of the Las Virgenes–Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA), I write to express support for H.R. 737, the Responsible, No-Cost Extension of Western Water Infrastructure Improvements (RENEW WIIN) Act, sponsored by Congressman David Valadao. The JPA requests that you consider co-sponsoring the bill. When the WIIN Act passed in 2016, it provided a plethora of new water infrastructure investment opportunities and overhauled outdated water provisions. Many of these provisions proved to be successful; however, deadlines were put in place for projects with timelines that typically extend beyond a decade. The RENEW WIIN Act will adeptly solve this challenge by extending the deadline for the major California-focused water provisions, including the federal water storage projects. This legislation should be supported from both sides of the aisle as it aides long-term water projects in California.

In 2018, the JPA received a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation to perform a feasibility study for its Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo as part of its Water Reclamation and Reuse Program. Currently, the JPA is in the process of receiving its funding from the Bureau as an authorized Title XVI project. The Pure Water Project is a perfect example of the type of projects that will benefit from this legislation. The project will take surplus recycled water and process it through an advanced treatment facility to be stored in Las Virgenes Reservoir for future use as a new source of drinking water. The project is eligible to receive funding authorized in the 2016 WIIN Act for water storage projects in California. As such, the JPA hopes to see this provision extended for another five years before it is set to expire in December 2021. As you know, expansive, federally-supported projects, like the Pure Water Project, take several years of planning, engineering, securing finances, and government approvals before actual construction can begin. It is practical and logical to extend the deadline for water storage projects, which are supported by the federal government because of their important to enhance water supply reliability and support long-term resiliency.

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The Honorable Julia Brownley  
March 24, 2021  
Page 2 of 2

The JPA appreciates your continued support of investments in water infrastructure and resiliency. We hope you will join other California members to co-sponsor this bill. Thank you for your dedication to California water.

Sincerely,

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David W. Pedersen, P.E.  
Administering Agent/General Manager

cc: JPA Board of Directors



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March 24, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Support for S. 479, Lifting Our Communities through Advance Liquidity for Infrastructure Act of 2021**

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA), I write to share our support for S. 479, the Lifting Our Communities through Advance Liquidity for Infrastructure (LOCAL Infrastructure) Act of 2021. This common-sense, bipartisan bill will assist special districts in utilizing low interest rates to beneficially refinance municipal bonds. As we respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to create refinancing provisions that allow infrastructure investments to continue without interruption and even accelerate to meet the increasing service needs of our communities. We are thankful that you have co-sponsored the bill and appreciate your on-going support for water infrastructure investments.

The LOCAL Infrastructure Act would restore the ability of states, local governments, and special districts to refinance existing municipal bonds for better terms and conditions, and in turn, generate additional cash flow for future investments. The Act merely makes the federal tax code more favorable for smaller units of government and requires no federal appropriations. The tax code change would be welcomed by special districts like the JPA because it would support restructuring financial plans and investing in new infrastructure projects.

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March 24, 2021  
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The JPA appreciates your commitment to local government infrastructure. We hope to see this bill move successfully through the legislative process and look forward to continuing to work with you on innovative financing solutions for local governments and special districts.

Sincerely,

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David W. Pedersen, P.E.  
Administering Agent/General Manager

cc: JPA Board of Directors





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March 24, 2021

The Honorable Ted Lieu  
United States House of Representatives  
403 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Support for S. 479, Lifting Our Communities through Advance Liquidity for Infrastructure Act of 2021**

Dear Congressman Lieu:

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David W. Pedersen, P.E.  
Administering Agent/General Manager

cc: JPA Board of Directors



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March 24, 2021

The Honorable Ted Lieu  
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403 Cannon House Office Building  
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**RE: Support for H.R.1015, Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act**

Dear Congressman Lieu:

I write on behalf of the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to express support for H.R.1015, the Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act, and request that you consider co-sponsoring this important legislation.

The Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act will significantly enhance the level of funding available through the Bureau of Reclamation's successful Title XVI Program. The bill will reauthorize the Title XVI Program, and importantly, increase the authorization from \$50 to \$500 million. An additional major and welcomed change is the proposal to strike the requirement that projects must be designated in appropriations legislation, which is currently a difficult obstacle for projects that would otherwise be competitive for Title XVI funding. The expansion of project priorities and funding will allow previously-authorized projects to rely on more Title XVI funding, while also allowing for new projects to successfully compete for funding. The bill is comprehensive and will provide major new opportunities for water projects in California.

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Thank you for considering co-sponsorship of this bill and for your efforts to support water recycling. We hope to see this bill successfully move through the legislative process as a stand-alone bill or as part of an infrastructure package. We also look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on Title XVI funding, as well as other important California water issues.

Sincerely,

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David W. Pedersen, P.E.  
Administering Agent/General Manager

cc: JPA Board of Directors



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Dear Congressman Lieu:

On behalf of the Las Virgenes–Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA), I write to express support for H.R. 737, the Responsible, No-Cost Extension of Western Water Infrastructure Improvements (RENEW WIIN) Act, sponsored by Congressman David Valadao. The JPA requests that you consider co-sponsoring the bill. When the WIIN Act passed in 2016, it provided a plethora of new water infrastructure investment opportunities and overhauled outdated water provisions. Many of these provisions proved to be successful; however, deadlines were put in place for projects with timelines that typically extend beyond a decade. The RENEW WIIN Act will adeptly solve this challenge by extending the deadline for the major California-focused water provisions, including the federal water storage projects. This legislation should be supported from both sides of the aisle as it aides long-term water projects in California.

In 2018, the JPA received a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation to perform a feasibility study for its Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo as part of its Water Reclamation and Reuse Program. Currently, the JPA is in the process of receiving its funding from the Bureau as an authorized Title XVI project. The Pure Water Project is a perfect example of the type of projects that will benefit from this legislation. The project will take surplus recycled water and process it through an advanced treatment facility to be stored in Las Virgenes Reservoir for future use as a new source of drinking water. The project is eligible to receive funding authorized in the 2016 WIIN Act for water storage projects in California. As such, the JPA hopes to see this provision extended for another five years before it is set to expire in December 2021. As you know, expansive, federally-supported projects, like the Pure Water Project, take several years of planning, engineering, securing finances, and government approvals before actual construction can begin. It is practical and logical to extend the deadline for water storage projects, which are supported by the federal government because of their important to enhance water supply reliability and support long-term resiliency.

**Ray Tjulander**  
Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo  
Joint Powers Authority  
Chair, Triunfo Water & Sanitation District  
Board of Directors

**Jay Lewitt**  
Vice Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo  
Joint Powers Authority  
President, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Board of Directors

The Honorable Ted Lieu  
March 24, 2021  
Page 2 of 2

The JPA appreciates your continued support of investments in water infrastructure and resiliency. We hope you will join other California members to co-sponsor this bill. Thank you for your dedication to California water.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. Pedersen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David W. Pedersen, P.E.  
Administering Agent/General Manager

cc: JPA Board of Directors



**LAS VIRGENES - TRIUNFO JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**  
4232 LAS VIRGENES ROAD, CALABASAS, CA 91302  
(818) 251-2200



March 24, 2021

The Honorable Grace Napolitano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1610 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Support for H.R.1015, Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act**

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano:

I write on behalf of the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to express support for H.R.1015, the Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act.

The Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act will significantly enhance the level of funding available through the Bureau of Reclamation's successful Title XVI Program. The bill will reauthorize the Title XVI Program, and importantly, increase the authorization from \$50 to \$500 million. An additional major and welcomed change is the proposal to strike the requirement that projects must be designated in appropriations legislation, which is currently a difficult obstacle for projects that would otherwise be competitive for Title XVI funding. The expansion of project priorities and funding will allow previously-authorized projects to rely on more Title XVI funding, while also allowing for new projects to successfully compete for funding. The bill is comprehensive and will provide major new opportunities for water projects in California.

Currently, the JPA is preparing for a major investment in its planned Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo, which is currently estimated to cost \$160 million. The revolutionary project will take surplus recycled water and process it through an advanced treatment facility to then be stored in Las Virgenes Reservoir for future use as a new source of drinking water. The Pure Water Project is a perfect example of the type of projects that should be funded under Title XVI and other federal programs. The Bureau of Reclamation demonstrated its support for the project in 2018 by granting funding to prepare a feasibility study, which was subsequently approved. The Pure Water Project accomplish a number of innovative water priorities including water recycling, supply augmentation, conservation and storage.

To ensure reliable water resources for both the short-term and long-term, we need to invest in new, innovative water projects. However, in order to accomplish this goal, the federal government needs to provide more funding opportunities that will be available for years to come. Innovative projects take years to complete, and the funding needs to

**Ray Tjulander**

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President, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
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The Honorable Grace Napolitano  
March 24, 2021  
Page 2 of 2

be secured throughout each stage of the process, from planning to commissioning. There are a number of existing federal grant and loan programs, but the competition between existing and new projects is fierce due to limited overall funding. With the passage of this legislation, more projects can begin securing funds, start the permitting process and initiate construction. Further, the possibility of federal funding will inspire engineers and water managers to create even more innovative projects to solve challenges with water supply reliability and aging infrastructure.

Thank you for sponsoring this bill and for your tireless efforts to support water recycling. Under your leadership, the future of water continues to expand with new opportunities and innovative solutions. We hope to see this bill successfully move through the legislative process as a stand-alone bill or as part of an infrastructure package. We also look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on Title XVI funding, as well as other important California water issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David W. Pedersen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David W. Pedersen, P.E.  
Administering Agent/General Manager

cc: JPA Board of Directors





**Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority**  
4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302  
818.251.2100



March 24, 2021

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
B03 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Support for S. 479, Lifting Our Communities through Advance Liquidity for Infrastructure Act of 2021**

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA), I write to share our support for S. 479, the Lifting Our Communities through Advance Liquidity for Infrastructure (LOCAL Infrastructure) Act of 2021. This common-sense, bipartisan bill will assist special districts in utilizing low interest rates to beneficially refinance municipal bonds. As we respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to create refinancing provisions that allow infrastructure investments to continue without interruption and even accelerate to meet the increasing service needs of our communities.

The LOCAL Infrastructure Act would restore the ability of states, local governments, and special districts to refinance existing municipal bonds for better terms and conditions, and in turn, generate additional cash flow for future investments. The Act merely makes the federal tax code more favorable for smaller units of government and requires no federal appropriations. The tax code change would be welcomed by special districts like the JPA because it would support restructuring financial plans and investing in new infrastructure projects.

Currently, the JPA is preparing for a major investment in its planned Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo, which is currently estimated to cost \$160 million. The revolutionary project will take surplus recycled water and process it through an advanced treatment facility to then be stored in Las Virgenes Reservoir for future use as a new source of drinking water. This forward-thinking infrastructure project is expected to be financed in part by municipal bonds. With the passage of this bill, the JPA will be able to refinance outstanding municipal bonds to better borrowing rates in the future. As a result, the advance refund will free up cash flow that can be used to accelerate other critical infrastructure projects.

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The Honorable Alex Padilla  
March 24, 2021  
Page 2 of 2

The JPA appreciates your commitment to local government infrastructure. We hope to see this bill move successfully through the legislative process and look forward to continuing to work with you on innovative financing solutions for local governments and special districts.

Sincerely,

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David W. Pedersen, P.E.  
Administering Agent/General Manager

cc: JPA Board of Directors



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4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302  
818.251.2100



March 24, 2021

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Support for H.R. 737, Responsible, No-Cost Extension of Western Water Infrastructure Improvements Act**

Dear Congressman Valadao:

On behalf of the Las Virgenes–Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA), I write to express support for H.R. 737, the Responsible, No-Cost Extension of Western Water Infrastructure Improvements (RENEW WIIN) Act. When the WIIN Act passed in 2016, it provided a plethora of new water infrastructure investment opportunities and overhauled outdated water provisions. Many of these provisions proved to be successful; however, deadlines were put in place for projects with timelines that typically extend beyond a decade. The RENEW WIIN Act will adeptly solve this challenge by extending the deadline for the major California-focused water provisions, including the federal water storage projects.

In 1964, the JPA was established by Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Triunfo Sanitation District, now Triunfo Water & Sanitation District, to collaboratively collect and treat wastewater for the two expansive service areas. Las Virgenes Municipal Water District serves approximately 70,000 people in western Los Angeles County, and Triunfo Water & Sanitation District serves approximately 30,000 people in eastern Ventura County. Both agencies provide drinking water, recycled water, wastewater and biosolids composting services.

In 2018, the JPA received a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation to perform a feasibility study for its Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo as part of its Water Reclamation and Reuse Program. Currently, the JPA is in the process of receiving its funding from the Bureau as an authorized Title XVI project. The Pure Water Project is a perfect example of the type of projects that will benefit from your legislation. The project will take surplus recycled water and process it through an advanced treatment facility to be stored in Las Virgenes Reservoir for future use as a new source of drinking water. The project is eligible to receive funding authorized in the 2016 WIIN Act for water storage projects in California. As such, the JPA hopes to see this provision extended for another five years before it is set to expire in December 2021. As you know, expansive, federally-supported projects, like the Pure Water Project, take several years of planning, engineering, securing finances, and government approvals before actual

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The Honorable David Valadao  
March 24, 2021  
Page 2 of 2

construction can begin. It is practical and logical to extend the deadline for water storage projects, which are supported by the federal government because of their important to enhance water supply reliability and support long-term resiliency.

The JPA will urge members of its delegation to join as co-sponsors and hopes to see this legislation successfully pass as a stand-alone bill or within a water infrastructure package. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to address the water challenges of California.

Sincerely,

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David W. Pedersen, P.E.  
Administering Agent/General Manager

cc: JPA Board of Directors



**Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority**  
4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302  
818.251.2100



March 24, 2021

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
United States Senate  
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senate  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Support for S. 479, Lifting Our Communities through Advance Liquidity for Infrastructure Act of 2021**

Dear Senators Wicker and Stabenow:

On behalf of the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA), I write to share our support for S. 479, the Lifting Our Communities through Advance Liquidity for Infrastructure (LOCAL Infrastructure) Act of 2021. This common-sense, bipartisan bill will assist special districts in utilizing low interest rates to beneficially refinance municipal bonds. As we respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to create refinancing provisions that allow infrastructure investments to continue without interruption and even accelerate to meet the increasing service needs of our communities.

The LOCAL Infrastructure Act would restore the ability of states, local governments, and special districts to refinance existing municipal bonds for better terms and conditions, and in turn, generate additional cash flow for future investments. The Act merely makes the federal tax code more favorable for smaller units of government and requires no federal appropriations. The tax code change would be welcomed by special districts like the JPA because it would support restructuring financial plans and investing in new infrastructure projects.

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Currently, the JPA is preparing for a major investment in its planned Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo, which is currently estimated to cost \$160 million. The revolutionary project will take surplus recycled water and process it through an advanced treatment facility to then be stored in Las Virgenes Reservoir for future use as a new source of drinking water. This forward-thinking infrastructure

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The Honorable Roger Wicker  
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
March 24, 2021  
Page 2 of 2

project is expected to be financed in part by municipal bonds. With the passage of your bill, the JPA will be able to refinance outstanding municipal bonds to better borrowing rates in the future. As a result, the advance refund will free up cash flow that can be used to accelerate other critical infrastructure projects.

The JPA appreciates your commitment to local government infrastructure. We hope to see this bill move successfully through the legislative process and look forward to continuing to work with you on innovative financing solutions for local governments and special districts.

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David W. Pedersen, P.E.  
Administering Agent/General Manager

cc: JPA Board of Directors



**Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority**  
4232 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302  
818.251.2100



March 8, 2021

Honorable Henry Stern  
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water  
Committee  
State Capitol Room 5046  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 45 (Portantino): Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022—Support if Amended to include \$1.5 billion for recycled water**

Dear Chair Stern,

The Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA) supports passage of SB 45 but strongly urges an amendment to set aside \$1.5 billion of the total available funding for water recycling projects. This will ensure that an adequate level of funding will be available for investments in water recycling projects, which will be critical to maintain adequate and resilient water supplies in California for future generations to come.

The JPA has been embarking on its own recycled water project, the Pure Water Project Las Virgenes – Triunfo, which when completed will reduce the need to import water from the Sacramento Bay-Delta. To make this project a reality, the JPA's financial plan requires that we attain funding in the form of grants and low-interest loans that can be leveraged with local sources of funding. With the support of the Legislature, California can continue to be a world leader in the implementation of water recycling projects – an endeavor that both creates jobs and is widely supported by the environmental community.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at [jmcdermott@lvmwd.com](mailto:jmcdermott@lvmwd.com), if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

*Joe McDermott*

Joe McDermott  
Director of Engineering and External Affairs

cc: Senator Portantino via Ben Edelstein

**Ray Tjulander**  
Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo  
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(818) 251-2200



March 5, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: H.R. 1319 – American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA), I would like to share our support for H.R.1319, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which will infuse the economy with essential financial aid and assistance from the federal government. The JPA urges you to ensure that the current provisions for the Lower Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and paid sick and family leave credits for public agencies remain in the final package.

In 1964, the JPA was established by Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Triunfo Water & Sanitation District to collaboratively collect and treat wastewater for the two service areas. Las Virgenes Municipal Water District serves approximately 70,000 people in western Los Angeles County. Triunfo Water & Sanitation District, formerly Triunfo Sanitation District, serves approximately 30,000 people in eastern Ventura County. Through the JPA, the two agencies provide their joint service area with recycled water, wastewater services and biosolids composting. In addition, both agencies independently provide potable water service to their respective customers.

A critical provision of H.R. 1319 that supports the JPA is the extension of the paid sick and family leave credits that were first created in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and are now proposed to be expanded to public agencies. The current package will extend the credits from March 31, 2021, through September 30, 2021. This provision will allow employers to claim a larger credit for each employee, increasing the current allowance of \$10,000 per employee to \$12,000. Importantly, H.R. 1319 will also allow public agencies to receive credit when their employees take paid sick and family leave. The payroll tax credit will assist the JPA, and other public agencies, to continue providing high-quality public service, maintain essential facilities and invest in long-term infrastructure projects that will provide reliable services for years to come.

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President, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
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The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
March 5, 2021  
Page 2 of 2

As an independent special district, the JPA has not received federal assistance through the Coronavirus Relief Fund. However, the HEROES Act provided \$4.5 billion for LIHEAP, which included eligibility for unpaid water and wastewater bills. This program is critical to many water and wastewater customers throughout California. LIHEAP provides essential funds for rent and utility bill assistance to those with the greatest need and minimizes the continued accrual of revenue losses by water and wastewater agencies. As such, we hope LIHEAP receives another \$4.5 billion in funding to become available through September 30, 2022. In addition, the \$500 million for the Low Income Household Water and Wastewater Assistance Program provides much needed financial relief, specifically for Americans most financially at-risk. Americans will continue to struggle with the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 for years to come, and the federal assistance can provide vital relief to support their basic needs, including housing, water and sanitation services.

In future legislation, the JPA supports the inclusion of language from H.R. 535 and S. 91, the Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act, as an additional resource for special districts. We believe that independent special districts should be recognized at the federal level as a special unit of government eligible for direct federal funding. Support for special districts like the JPA is necessary to mitigate the impacts of lost revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The JPA appreciates your leadership and dedication to serving the constituents of California. We hope the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 will pass swiftly with these critical provisions. Thank you.

Sincerely,



David W. Pedersen, P.E.  
Administering Agent/General Manager

cc: Board of Directors



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March 5, 2021

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: H.R. 1319 – American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**

Dear Senator Padilla:

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March 5, 2021  
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The JPA appreciates your leadership and dedication to serving the constituents of California. We hope the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 will pass swiftly with these critical provisions. Thank you.

Sincerely,



David W. Pedersen, P.E.  
Administering Agent/General Manager

cc: Board of Directors