

THE CURRENT FLOW

Issue #1 - 2021



NEWS FOR THE VALUED CUSTOMERS OF LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT



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Twenty Twenty-One is the Year of the Tap

As the basis of all life, water needs no introduction into public consciousness – but it is often taken for granted. The dedication that goes into ensuring its continued availability to each and every customer requires a highly skilled, dedicated, and well-trained staff. Our water travels over 400 miles – originating in the Sierra Nevada Mountains – flowing to Metropolitan Water District's treatment plant and then distributed throughout Southern California to 26 different water agencies, including Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD). We then deliver it throughout our region 24/7/365.

Many people may not know this, but water cannot be created. All of the water that exists on earth has been here since our planet formed. Mother nature has simply recycled it over and over again. Dinosaurs, early human beings, animals, plants, trees, and our atmosphere has shared this water so that life can continue. But getting it to our customers requires much more work and effort to ensure that it is clean, healthy, and ready to use. This is why tap water is so special.

Bottled water companies and their advertisement campaigns have helped create the illusion that their water is safer, of higher quality, and healthier. This water is tested prior to being bottled but how long has it been on



the shelf? How does heat and light exposure impact its quality? How about all of the plastic waste generated by making these single use bottles? So, it is paramount that our customers feel confident in the safety of their water. In this "Year of the Tap", LVMWD aims to address any doubts with your LV Tap water by highlighting the extensive measures taken to produce and provide the highest quality of water to the region.

Customers should be concerned and curious about exactly what comes out of their taps. The District's whole mission is to serve customers clean, safe, and reliable water. LVMWD will be furthering this discussion throughout 2021 on their website and social media channels, and through their education, public outreach events, and programming.

The "Year of the Tap" campaign creates meaningful dialogue with the region and provides the opportunity for customers to learn about topics such as current and future challenges to water security, regulatory mandates, infrastructure, emerging treatment technologies, extensive workforce training and certification required of water workers, growing and diverse career opportunities in water, the District's role in combating climate change and other customer concerns.

Pet Waste Can Become a Big Watershed Problem

You cannot exactly tell your dog, “don’t do that doo-doo that you do so well”. Dogs are going to do their thing regardless of location. It could be on the street, on a sidewalk, or on a trail. The problem is there are some dog owners out there who choose to let their dogs do their business al fresco ... and simply leave the area and never clean up after their pets.

You may ask, “what’s the big deal?” Plenty. First off, it is gross. Part of responsible pet ownership is to take care of your dog’s waste. But there is also a lot of harmful bacteria in the waste that can go many places: Your shoes if you step in it; your car tires if you drive over it; or even the wheels on your baby stroller.

Second, that pet waste eventually dissolves, and gets washed away during rainstorms. It also washes down the gutter when your neighbors over-water their lawns. That water carries the bacteria from the waste to storm drains and into the watershed where it eventually ends up at the ocean. In other words, the doo-doo Fido did on the sidewalk yesterday will show up on your trip to the beach a few weeks from now. Who wants that?

Bottom line: Clean up after your pet. When you walk your dog, bring some bags with you, or use a pet waste station. After you clean up, throw away the



bag. If there are no trash cans nearby, take it home and use one of your trash cans. There are many times you see little bags of dog poop thrown on the ground, and that just defeats the purpose.

So, the next time your dog does the doo-doo, “doo” your part and clean up after your pet.

Process Air Improvements Win Big

The District is proud to announce it was awarded Best Project of the Year for 2020 by the American Public Works Association (APWA) of Southern California for process air improvements at the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility. The District shares this award with the Triunfo Water and Sanitation District as the Joint Powers Authority (JPA).

The project, completed in partnership with PACE Advanced Water Engineering, included the installation of more than 60 aeration grids and three new blowers, which reduce the amount of energy consumed at Tapia by 40%. Overall, the JPA and the communities it serves benefit from a return on investment of less than six years and an estimated savings of \$2.5M over the 20-year expected life of the new system.

“Efficient operations is one of our leading business val-

ues,” said LVMWD General Manager David Pedersen. “We prioritize capital improvement projects that ensure

Cont. on Back



Tapia’s New Diffusers Shown Here in the Biological Nitrogen Reduction Basins

Employee Spotlight: Riki Clark

Riki Clark, LVMWD's newest Public Affairs Associate, joined the District 1.5 years ago and hasn't looked back. A California native – born in Rialto and raised in Rancho Cucamonga – always had a passion for education and water. At a young age, Riki enjoyed playing soccer, watching cartoons (SpongeBob was her favorite), and naturally swimming. Before going into high school, Riki took an interest in volleyball which led her to play for Etiwanda High School and later in college at Alabama A&M.



After her freshman year in college and missing Mt. Baldy, Riki came back to her home state and began working while she took classes at Chaffey College and ultimately Cal State Fullerton, where she graduated with a degree in Public Relations. Her first introduction to the water industry began as a paid intern at the City of Pomona and continued with the Monte Vista Water District, where she worked in public outreach for four years until her graduation.

Riki soon after took a position in the Bay area working at the Santa Clara County Office of Education. While this was a wonderful position, the lure of working in water continued to inspire her to look for a position in the all-important California water industry. She has now found a home with us at LVMWD. Riki is our education coordinator, a skilled writer, presenter, and an on-camera personality.

We are very fortunate to have Riki as our colleague as she brings tremendous skill, professionalism, energy, and passion to our agency, and most importantly, to our region.

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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 first and third
Tuesday of each month

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

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 -
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Potable Water
Recycled Water
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Cont. from Process Air Improvements Win Big

both the reliable delivery of water to our customers and the efficient treatment of wastewater thereafter.” Tapia plays a key role in the JPA’s commitment to maximizing beneficial reuse. The 12 MGD (million gallons per day) facility treats wastewater through a tertiary treatment process, creating high quality, Title 22 recycled water. This allows the JPA to supplement its water supply to customers for landscape irrigation – which accounts for over half of all household water use – while helping to “close the sustainability loop” by reusing this critical resource.

Reducing costs and maximizing efficiency were key outcomes of the project, and these were achieved by a unique equipment selection technique called “Performance-Based Specifications”. This technique was developed to help select process equipment at a significantly reduced cost, which ensured the project would benefit substantially from a competitive, performance-based equipment selection process prior to full design implementation. The JPA saved approximately \$300,000 in equipment costs using performance-based specifications for this project.

“We are certainly proud to receive the distinction of

Best Project of the Year,” commented JPA Vice Chair and LVMWD Board President Jay Lewitt. “This project not only yields both capital and long-term cost savings for the JPA, but also energy savings that will ease the financial impact on our customers and continue our commitment to environmental stewardship. This is truly a win-win.”

The American Public Works Association awards program recognizes outstanding individuals, groups, and chapters representing the best in public works.



LVMWD is now offering customers a discounted WBIC controller with FREE professional installation. Supplies are limited so claim yours now!

LVMWD.com/Rebates

Prep Your Landscape for Spring

The weather is still cold, and the thought of going outside and working in our yards may take a back seat to the latest binge worthy show on Netflix. Though there will be plenty of time to prep that landscape for summer, starting to plan early and using the next few months to execute some simple but extremely effective landscape maintenance techniques will pay big dividends when the heat hits. Additionally, with February historically our wettest month, these techniques will help your landscape get the most out of the rain that falls.

Remember, every landscape has its own nuances and may benefit from some but not all of the techniques below.

Aeration: If your lawn is turning brown at the first sign of heat, or has poor drainage, it could be a sign of soil compaction. Aeration is a process where holes are put into the soil, breaking up the compacted soil to allow water, air and nutrients to reach the grass roots. This promotes deeper root growth making your lawn more water efficient and resilient when the heat of summer comes.

Topdressing/Feeding/Fertilizing: Las Virgenes - Triunfo JPA offers free EPA rated Class A Exceptional Quality compost for customers to use as a great, natural way to

feed your lawn and planters. This helps condition your soil, adds nutrients crucial to healthy plant growth and is a great way to promote water absorption for both your lawns and planters. Feeding is best done when soil is moist, so look to take advantage and lightly fertilize when rain is forecasted.

Overseeding: If your lawn is looking a little bare in spots, applying grass seed after aeration and top dressing is a great option to help fill in your turf. This is best done as winter turns to spring. Overseeding isn’t appropriate for all types of turf, but can be a good way to fill in some of the bare spots.

Irrigation Tune-Up: As winter is coming to an end, you will need to rely on your irrigation system to get your landscape the water it needs. Make sure that your irrigation system is operating properly and free of leaks. Many times, coverage

deficiencies and improper irrigation schedules can be the cause of many landscape issues. Run each station individually, making sure each sprinkler head is properly aligned and not being blocked by new plant growth.

Making these techniques part of your yard care maintenance in the spring can be a great money-saving way to ensure a healthy and beautiful landscape for the summer!



For information on free compost
LVMWD.com/Community-Compost