



Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority
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For Immediate Release

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Las Virgenes–Triunfo JPA Files Suit Seeking Reversal of Ineffective EPA Standards for Malibu Creek

Calabasas, CA – September 16, 2013– The Las Virgenes – Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA), a joint venture of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) and Triunfo Sanitation District (TSD), has filed a federal court action seeking “Declaratory and Injunctive Relief” from the Total Maximum Daily Load mandates (TMDLs) for Malibu Creek and Lagoon published by the USEPA (EPA) on July 2. The filing cites numerous instances of inappropriate actions by EPA in the course of formulating the TMDL document. The JPA has stated that implementation of the TMDL mandates would impose costs in the hundreds of millions on the communities it serves without any assurances of significant water quality improvements in the Malibu Creek watershed.

David W. Pedersen, Administering Agent and General Manager for the JPA said, “We are filing this action on behalf of the ratepayers who will ultimately bear the costs for facilities that would need to be built, yet may not accomplish meaningful water quality improvements. As written, the TMDL does not sufficiently recognize native conditions in the watershed and goes far beyond the scope and intent of the Clean Water Act.”

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Michael McReynolds
Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo
Joint Powers Authority
Chair, Triunfo Sanitation District
Board of Directors

Charles Caspary
Vice Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo
Joint Powers Authority
President, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Board of Directors

Michael McReynolds, who serves as Chair of both the JPA and Triunfo Sanitation District Boards of Directors, said, “The JPA exhausted every means of avoiding litigation before filing this action. However, since we could not reach agreement with the EPA on the process and science behind the regulations, we felt compelled to file a lawsuit. In the absence of concrete evidence that the regulations will have the desired effect and in view of the unfair process, the lawsuit was the only course of action left at our disposal. When one considers the staggering costs to the community, it is imperative for sound science and proper process to be at the core of such a significant regulation.”

In March 2013, the JPA filed a petition in federal court, asking to be included among the parties of a consent decree related to the establishment of TMDLs for the Malibu Creek watershed. To date, that request is still outstanding, awaiting a court decision. In May, the EPA hosted a public meeting on the proposed TMDLs. Nearly 200 persons attended, but the EPA did not act on many of the issues or concerns brought forth at that meeting by the JPA or members of the public.

Charles Caspary, JPA Vice-Chair and President of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Board said, “We realize that litigation can be costly and time-consuming; however, the JPA Board had to act in order to protect the community from irreparable and irreversible harm. We support the responsible environmental stewardship of the watershed, but we also believe that water quality goals must be attainable, cost-effective, and produce meaningful results.”

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The Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority provides wastewater treatment, recycled water and composting services to some 100,000 people in the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village, portions of Thousand Oaks, Oak Park, North Ranch and surrounding unincorporated areas of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

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