



Today's Deal: Mavericks Gym - 30 Day Membership & Personal Training for \$30!

Santa Paula finally dedicates water plant

By John Scheibe

Posted June 2, 2011 at 6:06 p.m.

Email Discuss Share » Print A A A

A crowd gathered under the noon sun Thursday in Santa Paula to dedicate a \$62 million water recycling facility that opened a year ago.

"This is the first public-private partnership for a water treatment facility (of its kind) that I'm aware of anywhere in the nation," said Brian Cullen, president of PERC Water, the privately owned company that operates the plant on the south end of Santa Paula.

The plant began operating in May 2010, two years after construction began. Mayor Fred Robinson said the project went remarkably fast.

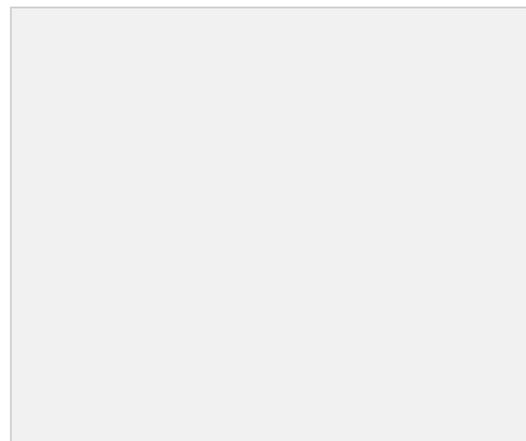
The plant replaced an antiquated facility that had caused the city numerous problems, Robinson said, including foul odors that drifted over much of Santa Paula when the winds blew. The city also was facing fines from the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

City officials said they liked the deal to have PERC design, build and operate the plant partly because the company also would be responsible for financing and any added construction costs.

Santa Paula already had spent millions on plans for different facilities that were never built. Rather than risk more money, officials made the deal with PERC.

PERC will operate the plant for 30 years, until 2040. It secured the financing to build the plant through a partnership with a company called Alinda Capital Partners.

The plant is now recycling water for some 30,000 paying customers. Ultimately, it has the capacity to recycle water for 50,000, Cullen said.

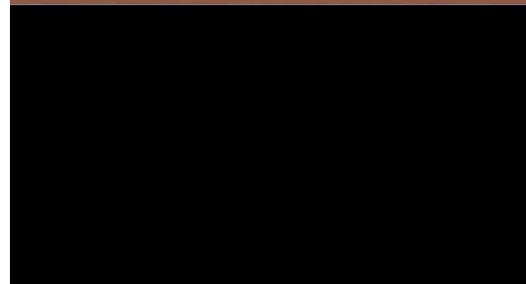


Featured Promotions

Experts Coupons

FREE ANSWERS! Click here ASK THE EXPERTS

Videos



The plant's innovative features include subterranean treatment ponds, which capture much of the foul odors generated by the dirty water, officials said. The ponds, located beneath the plant, also mean less noise during the treatment process, more efficient use of land, and fewer eyesores, designers said.

Once the water is treated, it is piped into nearby ponds and then percolates into the aquifers below.

Given California's growing population and perennial shortage of water, recycling is something much of the state will need to consider to meet water needs, Cullen said.

© 2011 Ventura County Star. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

[Email](#)
[Discuss](#)
[Share »](#)
[Print](#)

[Recommend](#)
 Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Also in Local More

- Man runs into traffic, hit by semi
- Morning Report: More warm weather
- Fillmore graduates revel in remarkable turnaround

Comments » Disabled



All-new Libbey Bowl

Video tour of Ojai's outdoor theater



Showing 1 - 4 of 7 videos

[Video Archive »](#)
[Photo Gallery Archive »](#)

Most Popular

Viewed | Commented | Emailed

- Man in uniform at school event was not in Navy, officials say
Published 6/1/2011 at 6:26 p.m. 0 comments
- Telephone system down at Ventura County Star
Published 6/2/2011 at 7:48 a.m. 17 comments
- Owners of new Ventura poker room see it as sure bet to lure players
Published 6/2/2011 at 4:33 p.m. 14 comments
- Californians conflicted on how to balance budget
Published 6/1/2011 at 11:13 p.m. 47 comments
- Man runs into traffic, hit by semi
Published 6/3/2011 at 9:21 a.m. 0 comments

Photo Galleries



Ventura County's Most Wanted May 31



Maps of the various...



Camarillo students spend da...

Weather

Currently | 36-Hour | Your Photos



Currently

69°

Fair
Wind: Variable

Today

69°

°