

## Las Virgenes-Triunfo Pure Water Sustainability Garden

### Keeping Nature in Balance

Welcome to the new Las Virgenes-Triunfo Pure Water Sustainability Garden.

While our lives and daily routines have been altered, our natural world is experiencing a completely different effect.

Human activity has largely been paused, and what we are witnessing is the resiliency of nature. For instance, in Venice Italy, the water in the famous canals is noticeably clear as a direct result of decreased human activity. Yosemite National Park is documenting a resurgence in the number of normally shy wildlife, such as bears and bobcats, to roam freely once again. Endangered sea turtles, and nesting birds that use beaches to lay eggs are thriving once more. And across the globe in major cities, including Los Angeles, the air is cleaner than it has been in decades.

These examples directly demonstrate a need for changing the way each of us think about how humans and ecosystems interact. The Pure Water Sustainability Garden was designed with nature in mind, first. It shows us how we can reduce the amount of water use in our yards as a conservation initiative, but perhaps most importantly, shows how sustainable landscaping invites nature back into our yards and everyday lives so we can coexist.

So let's see how the Sustainability Garden is helping to keep nature in balance.

California's stately Coast Live Oak provides shelter and food to an abundance of wildlife, housing many species of birds, squirrels, other herbivores, a plethora of insects, mistletoe and lichen. Their substantial limbs offer protection from the harsh sun and intense heat through the summer months.

Oaks and a variety of wildlife species share a complex symbiotic relationship with one another. For example, Scrub Jays rely on the Oaks' acorns for much of their diet; they collect and store them by burying them in the ground which helps in growing more oak trees.

Beneath the Oaks, native shrubs and plants not only provide food, but shelter from predators and a home to nest.

Hummingbird Sage, which is commonly found under Oaks, is fruity-scented and blooms from March to May with dark rose-lilac colored flowers - attracting hummingbirds, bees and butterflies.

Apricot Mallow is easy to grow from seed, has long blooming orange flowers, and provides habitat for pollinator species, including native bees and the common checkered skipper butterfly. It's a grazing food for bighorn sheep and livestock and is also a favored native plant for captive desert tortoises.

Foothill Penstemon 'Margarita BOP' has shimmering blossoms of blue, purple and pink that rise above its narrow, shiny, blue-green leaves. It attracts scores of hummingbirds, butterflies, and other beneficial pollinators. Long-lived and easy to grow, it's also deer resistant.

California Coast Sunflower is a must for any pollinator garden. Its long, profuse season of yellow blooms are essential for both native bees and honeybees, butterflies and lady beetles. Goldfinches and other seed-eating birds love the seeds and the well-fed insects which inhabit the plant.

Native Sages bring fragrance to the garden. Bee's Bliss Sage has fragrant rose-lavender flowers that provide nectar and pollen for birds, butterflies, and bees. A beautiful groundcover, it's also deer and rabbit resistant.

These are just a few of the examples of what the Pure Water Sustainability Garden has to offer. Stay tuned for further updates, and announcements as the garden progresses and grows.

Thanks for watching. Just remember to stay healthy, wash your hands, and enjoy your yard!