

IPS Composting System: Calabasas, California

Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility is part of a nine building complex where wastewater solids holding, anaerobic digestion, centrifuge dewatering, methane gas production, energy recovery, and water reclamation occur. Tapia Water Reclamation Facility pumps wastewater sludge to the biosolids complex for processing and ultimate distribution to commercial markets.

For thirty years biosolids were transported and land applied as a beneficial soil conditioner on Rancho Las Virgenes, a 91-acre farm. Land application restrictions and a planned expansion of the wastewater treatment facility forced the joint municipal owners to seek a more viable biosolids treatment and disposal alternative. The District conducted an extensive systems evaluation and selected the U.S. Filter IPS composting technology as the core for their biosolids management system.



The compost facility is fully automated. A programmed materials handling system transports dewatered biosolids, finely shredded wood and recycled compost to a mixer. The mixture is conveyed to an overhead distributor and is evenly loaded into eight composting bays. Shaftless screw conveyors return the composted material back to the mixer or to an enclosed building for curing and long term storage.

Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility achieves the more stringent air quality standards established by the South Coast Air Quality Management District in 2003.

Calabasas, California

Owner: Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

On Line: February 1994

Engineer: Montgomery Watson.

Capacity: 120 cubic yards per day

Processing: Biosolids with shredded wood waste

Facility Size: 8 bays, each 220 feet long x 6.5 feet wide; 25,000 square feet enclosed composting building with amendment and compost storage area

Odor Control: 17,000 square foot biofilter

IPS-CALAdr-CS-0807