

Yorba Linda Water District's Second Heli-Hydrant and Commitment to Wildfire Preparedness

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The Yorba Linda Water District (YLWD or District) is committed to wildfire preparedness and response. In July 2021, YLWD dedicated the Wells Fargo Heli-Hydrant (WFHH) and Landing Zone (LZ), the second Heli-Hydrant constructed in YLWD's Wildland Urban Interface zone. This second game changing Heli-Hydrant will enhance firefighting response this wildfire season.

The Heli-Hydrant, which is gravity fed from the Camino de Bryant Reservoir, allows first responders to save critical time and effectively fight fires by offering a strategically placed, pilot-operated water source that can fill with water in just minutes. The LZ is for emergency landings for all helicopters and to stage firefighting operations. A

traditional fire hydrant was also installed to allow fire fighters on the ground the ability to fill helicopters on the LZ while other fill up at the Heli-Hydrant. This facility offers an additional way to safeguard the community.

The design, planning, and completion of the WFHH would not have been possible without a strong partnership with the following public and private entities:

Wells Fargo Bank, who donated the land to YLWD for the purposes of building the Heli-Hydrant and Landing Zone;

Orange County Fire Authority, Coulson Aviation and Cal-Fire contractors, actual users of the Marc Marcantonio Heli-Hydrant before, during and after the Blueridge Fire, worked with YLWD to design the new heli-hydrant and the landing zone;

Orange County Fire Authority Grading and Site Preparation Crew, who prepared the land for construction by grading the area containing both the heli-hydrant and the landing zone.

Finally, YLWD installed a permanent Natural Gas Generator at the critical Elk Mountain Reservoir and Booster Pump Station to ensure maximum reliability for critical fire prone areas in the District. As Public Safety Power Shutoffs become more common, YLWD will never lose the ability to move water into the critical Wildland Urban Interface zone in order to fight fires.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the dedication and heli-hydrant in action.