



# LaVerkin Hot Springs

LaVerkin Hot Springs (also known as Pah Tempe Hot Springs) is a natural hot springs located in Washington County that produces approximately 5,000 gallons per minute, or more than seven million gallons daily, of 107-degree Fahrenheit water. The springs have more than a century of history as a recreational spot for local residents and visitors, but the water's high salinity and contamination levels pose unique challenges to our regional and local water supply.

In 1973, the Bureau of Reclamation and Colorado River Water Quality Improvement Program completed a series of investigations at the springs. The investigations revealed the springs release an astounding 109,000 tons of salt annually into the Colorado River. This salt content is part of the high total dissolved solids (tds) content of 10,000 parts per million – 10 times the maximum allowed for human consumption. The high temperatures and contamination levels, which have remained consistent through the years, negatively impact water quality and the environment while severely limiting water resource uses.

The need to protect our existing water supplies from blending with the contaminated spring water has dominated the district's

system designs starting with the Quail Creek Project more than 30 years ago. These design considerations limit the ability to tap into the full flow of the Virgin River for the uses served by the district.

In addition, the district has invested significant time, resources and financing to protect the native, endangered aquatic habitat threatened by the spring's high temperatures and contamination levels. The district was instrumental in creating the Virgin River Resource Management and Recovery Program (Virgin River Program) and continues to invest as a partner with the program to facilitate recovery actions for fish and other state and federally protected species.

Prior to becoming the sole owner in 2013, the district was a majority owner of the water rights for the springs and surrounding area, having acquired title to the water and land interests in the mid-1990s. The district's primary ownership purpose is to address water quality, environmental issues and water resources posed by the hot springs. The district hopes to see the springs reopened to the public as a community recreational amenity once all the water quality and safety issues have been addressed.



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