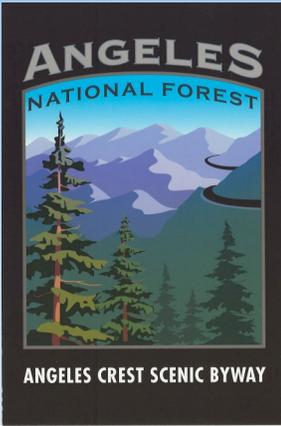




January 30, 2026



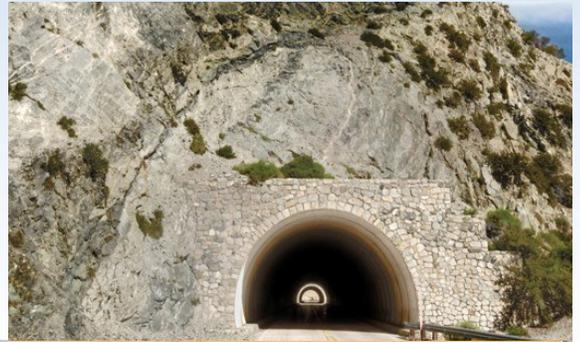
Thanks to the extraordinary pro bono support of the *Big Ben Engineering* firm based in Irvine, California, the GOALS—Camp Valcrest facility now has fresh water flowing through an upgraded water system. The efforts were quite a long time coming. Valcrest was closed for operations in 1999 with one of the principal reasons that there was no reliable or available source of potable water. Camp Valcrest was built during a 10 year period from 1943-53 and for many years functioned with it's own water system pumped from cisterns that collected water flowing from mountain run-off and small creeks. However, slightly elevated counts of contaminants eventually made the water unacceptable for potable use. County and State water restrictions prevented the Camp from trucking in water for operational purposes and complex plumbing hurdles arose involving reconnection with a once operational water line provided by the Forest Service. That "Chilao" water line was built in 1939 and supported a network of distribution serving various locations downstream from a hillside cluster of pipes collectively known as "The Alps Wells". That system has faithfully released water for 85 years and counting — though portions of the pipeline have corroded, leak badly or have broken. *Big Ben Engineering*, used a unique "bullet" approach to tap a 2 inch path several feet under the Angeles Crest Highway and then pulled a high tech potable "hose" more than 80 feet while linking it all new large brass valves and a meter. After 3+ years of discussions, design, and collaborative efforts the big day arrived with remarkable energy and talent displayed by a hardy team of men from Big Ben. Truly a landmark achievement as the "GOALS For Valcrest" endeavor reached yet a new "high water" mark!



The Angeles Crest Highway (Highway 2) zigs and zags its way from La Canada in LA County up and over the Angeles National Forest, touching down 66 miles later in the rustic down of Wrightwood in San Bernardino County. This mountain road has breathtaking views and rises to a high point of nearly 8,000 feet above sea level. Construction began in 1929 and was completed 26 years later. During that time period Camp Valcrest was built (1943-53) at a 6,000 foot elevation along with a handful of other camps, fire stations, hiking trails, and forest service projects. One of those was the Chilao Water Line and Alps Wells (pictured below bottom right) which opened in 1939 to provide fresh mountain water to some of the emerging mountain uses.

The pipeline still functions to this day although like the old mountain highway itself, is in perpetual need of upgrades and repairs. In the pages that follow, you will see the latest history being made as a crew established by Big Ben Engineering was able to reconnect the Chilao line back into Camp Valcrest as this historic facility has been largely restored by the GOALS not for profit youth program. GOALS is eternally grateful for this remarkable,

donated effort and as a result, Camp Valcrest will be able to provide many additional youth programs and visitors over the decades to come. Enjoy the scenes of the incredible work by the talented crew from Big Ben Engineering on the following pages.



Landslides Wreak Havoc Along Angeles Crest Road





