

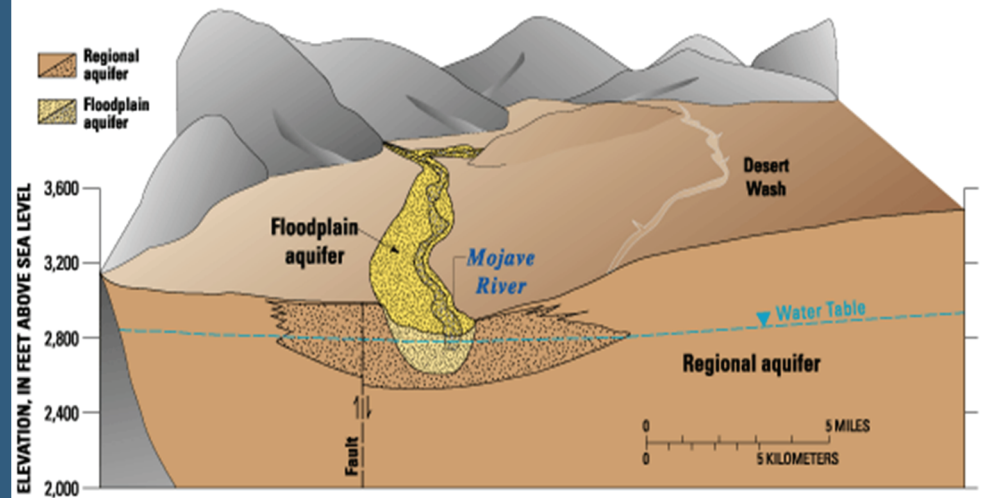


**Mojave  
Water  
Agency**

Mojave Water Agency

## Oeste Recharge Basin Permanent Aqueduct Turn Out Design

May 23, 2024



WaterSMART Planning and Project Design  
Grants for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024

Bureau of Reclamation FOA No. R23AS00109

Melody Bailey

Water Resources Manager

Mojave Water Agency

13846 Conference Center Drive, Apple Valley, CA 92307

Phone: (760) 946-7030, Email: [m Bailey@mojavewater.org](mailto:m Bailey@mojavewater.org)

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# Section 1: Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

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## 1.1 Executive Summary

<b>Date:</b>	May 23, 2024
<b>Applicant:</b>	Mojave Water Agency
<b>Applicant City, County, State:</b>	Apple Valley, San Bernardino County, CA
<b>Task Area:</b>	Task B: Project Design Grant
<b>Applicant Category:</b>	Category A
<b>Project Summary:</b>	Mojave Water Agency Oeste Recharge Basin Permanent Aqueduct Turn Out Design

The Mojave Water Agency (MWA) is located in the High Desert area of San Bernardino County, California along the northeastern flanks of the San Bernardino and San Gabriel mountains, approximately 90 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles. The MWA service area encompasses approximately 4,900 square miles of eastern San Bernardino County. MWA is a State Water Project (SWP) contractor, Watermaster for the Mojave Basin Area Adjudication, administrator for the Ames-Reche Judgment, and wholesale supplier to numerous retail water suppliers, including the Watermaster for the Warren Valley Basin Judgment High Desert Water District (HDWD). Within the MWA service area water resources management must balance limited local water supplies with declining SWP import availability and adjudications that proscribe actions to avoid and recover from groundwater overdraft. MWA is currently in the planning and design phase for the Oeste Recharge Basin Project. This Project is expected to draw approximately 3,000 AFY of SWP water from the California Aqueduct for recharge in the Oeste Subarea. Funds requested from this grant will be used to complete the design of a new permanent turn out to the California Aqueduct, a traveling screen facility, and permanent pipeline to convey SWP water to the Oeste Recharge Basin. The Project will be located within the Department of Water Resources (DWR) right-of-way within the unincorporated area of San Bernardino County known as Phelan Piñon Hills and will not involve federal land. The Project will build on previous coordination with DWR which includes the Mojave River Pipeline Traveling Screen Project, the Reclamation assisted Groundwater Regional Recharge and Recovery Project (R3), and the Reclamation assisted Groundwater Recharge Water Marketing Strategy. See Attachment A for Figures depicting the MWA regional location and service areas, groundwater basins, adjudication areas, and infrastructure.

The Oeste Recharge Basin Permanent Aqueduct Turn Out will be located on Cayucos Drive, approximately 0.36 mile west of Oasis Road and within a DWR Right-of-Way in the unincorporated area of San Bernardino County known as Phelan Piñon Hills. The Project latitude is 34°29'13.14"N and longitude is 117°39'3.41"W. The Project will design the infrastructure needed to convey SWP water to the recharge basin located within a 10-acre vacant parcel (APN 3099-081-01).

<b>Project Duration:</b>	15 months/64 weeks Design Start: January 2025, Design Complete: March 2026
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## **1.2 Background Data**

MWA was established by an act of the California Legislature and was activated by a vote of the residents in 1960 to manage declining groundwater levels in the Mojave Basin Area, the Lucerne Valley and the El Mirage Basin. The Morongo Basin and Johnson Valley areas were annexed in 1965. MWA covers over 4,900 square miles spread over a hydrologically diverse region facing a unique set of water management issues. For water management purposes, the Mojave Region is generally separated into management areas, or “subareas” of the Mojave River Watershed and associated groundwater basins (Alto, Baja, Centro, Este, Morongo and Oeste).

Historically, the Mojave region has experienced cumulative groundwater overdraft beginning in the early 1950s. The Mojave Basin Area Adjudication, Warren Basin Adjudication, and the Ames Reche Management Agreement now provide the framework for sustainable groundwater management. In addition, the recent SWP Water Management Tools now provide MWA with the financial mechanisms to purchase available Table A and Article 21 SWP water. The region is becoming reliant on imported water to supplement groundwater supply and more full use of the Agency’s Table A is expected in the upcoming years as the population grows. This presents an opportunity for enhanced conjunctive management of groundwater and surface water resources, both local and imported. Furthermore, the region’s geology (available storage) and sparsely populated rural setting means the region can store large volumes of imported water in an area with little to no anthropogenic contamination issues.

Water imported from the California Bay-Delta through the State Water Project (SWP) is delivered to the MWA's groundwater recharge facilities to replenish groundwater pumped by individuals and by retail water suppliers in excess of the region’s natural supply. The import of this water to MWA’s service area is essential for balancing groundwater supplies relied upon for beneficial use. Concerns over the SWP's future ability to supply water to MWA and other contractors have brought into clear relief the need to augment the drought resiliency of MWA facilities.

This Project, specifically, would utilize MWA’s ability to import SWP when available to recharge water into the Oeste Sub-basin, thereby increasing groundwater availability for the area. The Oeste Subarea has been designated as nearly 100% disadvantaged or 70% severely disadvantaged as shown in Attachment A Figure 3. The Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District (CSD) overlies the Oeste groundwater sub-basin. According to the Mojave 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, the Phelan Piñon Hills CSD is expected to grow in population over 10% through 2065. Therefore, providing a reliable water supply to the sub-basin to meet the CSD’s demands is critical.

## **1.3 Project Description and Deliverables**

The Oeste Recharge Basin Permanent Aqueduct Turn Out Design Project will design the permanent infrastructure needed to convey SWP water from the California Aqueduct to the Oeste Recharge Basin. Project components include a new turn out to the California Aqueduct, a traveling screen facility, and a pipeline to the groundwater recharge basins. Funds are being requested to complete the design of the permanent turn out infrastructure, which will consist of the following:

## **Task 1 – Project Management, Grant Reporting and Design Management**

### Subtask 1.1 – Project Management

This task entails coordination of all Project activities, including budget, schedule, communication, and grant and cost-share administration (preparation of invoices and maintenance of financial records). All costs for this task will be borne within MWA's normal operating budget. Therefore, no federal funds are being requested for this activity, and the staff time devoted to this work will not be included in MWA's cost share.

*Deliverables: (1) review of USBR Grant Agreement, (2) Project kick-off meeting with USBR personnel; (3) preparation of invoices and maintenance of financial records, and (4) preparation of grant reimbursement requests.*

### Subtask 1.2 – Grant Reporting

This task involves reporting on the financial status and Project progress on a semi-annual basis. Significant development reports and a final Project report will be prepared. In addition, the Project will comply with any other reporting requirements specified in the Grant Agreement. All costs for this task will be borne within MWA's normal operating budget. Therefore, no federal funds are being requested for this activity, and the staff time devoted to this work will not be included in MWA's cost share.

*Deliverables: Submission of semi-annual and final reports as specified in the Grant Agreement.*

### Subtask 1.3 – Design Management

This task involves those activities needed to track the progress of the design including:

- 4 meetings/workshops including a kickoff meeting, preliminary design workshop, and design review workshops (50% and 90%).
- Design status reviews, update meetings and coordination.
- Preparation and implementation of a Quality Management Plan, which will clearly outline when quality reviews will occur during the course of the Project. Additionally, it will specify technical protocols, methods, checklists, and identify review staff. Before each design phase (Preliminary Design, 50% Design, 90% Design, and Final Design), all deliverables will undergo review by an appropriate reviewer who is independent of the Project design team. These reviews will include constructability and operational assessments.

*Deliverables: (1) Review workshop PowerPoint presentations and (2) meeting minutes.*

## **Task 2 – Data Gathering & Investigations**

### Subtask 2.1 – Data Collection & Review

Gather and review available information including record drawings, previous planning studies, environmental documents, geotechnical reports, monitoring well data, and utility drawings.

### Subtask 2.2 – Field Visit

Conduct a field visit to review the Project site and identify constraints.

### Subtask 2.3 – Surveying

A previously performed survey will be supplemented with 1 day of additional field survey to perform spot surveys that may be necessary along with the survey of the 5 potholes from the Oeste Demonstration Recharge Pilot Test project.

### **Task 3 – Preliminary Design**

#### Subtask 3.1 – Technical Memorandum

A technical memorandum will be prepared that defines the Project elements and summarize the basis of design to provide a smooth transition to the final design phase. The technical memorandum will include DWR’s permitting requirements, construction and operational constraints, cost estimate, construction estimate and conceptual design drawings.

*Deliverables: (1) Technical Memorandum (Draft and Final)*

### **Task 4 – CEQA & NEPA Compliance**

#### Subtask 4.1 – CEQA Compliance

CEQA compliance will consist of confirming no substantive changes to existing baseline conditions and reviewing final design plans for substantial conformance with the previously prepared Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (ISMND) for the Oeste Demonstration Recharge Pilot Test project. As a result, the enforcement of the adopted MMRP for permanent structures and long-term operations and maintenance is required to remain compliant with CEQA. Environmental compliance for the construction of the permanent structures will involve systematic documentation of conformance with the previously approved ISMND analysis and mitigation measures, certified by MWA. If new impacts and mitigation measures are identified, a recirculated ISMND or Subsequent IS/MND report would be needed. An ISMND Addendum would be used if new information is found to result in the need for revised mitigation measures.

For scope purposes, it is assumed that a new ISMND will be required for CEQA compliance. The following will be performed:

- Prepare a Project Description describing all Project components.
- It is assumed that the technical studies previously performed will be utilized and no additional technical studies are required. It is also assumed that a Western Joshua California Incidental Take Permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will be obtained as part of the Oeste Demonstration Recharge Pilot project.
- Prepare an Initial Study Checklist, which will describe existing conditions and provide objective conclusions regarding significant impacts and required mitigation based on the technical analysis that has been completed.
- Prepare a Draft ISMND for public review.
- Prepare the required notices (Notice of Intent) and circulation for public review including submission to the State Clearinghouse.
- Mail the Draft ISMND to adjacent property owners and stakeholders if necessary and upload environmental documents to CeqaNet.
- Prepare response letters to public comments received and prepare a Final ISMND with a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for adoption by MWA’s Board of Directors. Conduct Board meeting and prepare a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the ISMND.
- Upon certification, submit a Notice of Determination to the State Clearinghouse and San Bernardino County Clerk.

#### Subtask 4.2 – NEPA Compliance

Coordinate with the lead federal agency for NEPA compliance. It is assumed the lead federal agency will prepare the Environmental Assessment (EA) for NEPA compliance. Overall

coordination, technical studies and other requested information will be provided per Task 4.1. This task also includes a review the Environmental Assessment and providing a respond to comments. It is assumed that Reclamation's concurrence with NEPA will be provided after an award of funds.

*Deliverables: (1) Project Description, (2) Admin Draft ISMND, (3) Draft ISMND with Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, (4) Final ISMND with Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, (5) Board Presentation, (6) Notice of Intent and Notice of Determination Forms.*

## **Task 5 – Final Design**

### Subtask 5.1 – Design Plans

Design plans will be prepared in accordance with the Final Technical Memorandum, MWA's Standards, AWWA Standards, and DWR requirements. The plans will include civil, mechanical, electrical and structural drawings. The plans will be prepared consistent with NAD83 coordinates and NAVD88 survey standards. For scope purposes, it is assumed that 60 drawings will be prepared in accordance with the sheet count as provided in the table below. 50%, 90% and Final Design Plans will be prepared. Design workshops will be conducted in accordance with Task 1.1.

### Subtask 5.2 – Specifications

A complete set of Project specifications will be provided for the bidding and construction of the Project and consisting of front-end, general provisions, and technical specifications.

### Subtask 5.3 – Cost Opinion

An itemized opinion of probable construction cost will be prepared for each design submittal.

### Subtask 5.4 – Construction Schedule

A construction schedule will be prepared and will include major construction tasks and sequencing. The construction schedule will be provided with each design submittal.

### Subtask 5.5 – Calculations

Final detailed design calculations will be prepared and include hydraulics, pipeline, energy dissipation, structural, etc.

*Deliverables: (1) 50% Design submittal (Plans, Specifications, Cost Opinion, Schedule), (2) 90% Design submittal (Plans, Specifications, Cost Opinion, Schedule), (3) Final Design submittal (Plans, Specifications, Cost Opinion, Schedule), and (4) Final Calculations*

## **Task 6 – Permitting and Agency Coordination**

### Subtask 6.1 – Permitting Support

This task consists of identifying the necessary permits required for the Project, preparing the permit applications, and incorporating the requirements from the jurisdictional agencies into the Contract Documents. It is anticipated that an encroachment permit from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will be required, and coordination with DWR will also occur. Coordination with Southern California Edison to obtain an electrical plan of service will occur and the electrical plan of service will be included in the contract documents.

*Deliverables: (1) DWR Permit Application, (2) SCE Electrical Service Application*

## **Task 7 – Contract Bidding**

### Task 7.1 – Advertise Bid and Conduct Pre-Bid Meeting

Bids for construction will be solicited through competitive bidding process on the basis of Final Plans and Specifications. A pre-bid meeting will be conducted during which there will be technical discussion of the Project and an opportunity for contractors to ask questions.

### Task 7.2 – Addenda

This task will include responding to questions from potential bidders. Revisions to the contract documents will be made via addendum. Up to two (2) addendums will be distributed.

### Task 7.3 – Bid Evaluation

This task includes review of bid documents, preparation of a bid spreadsheet containing the costs from all bids received and performing a full evaluation of the bids received from the three lowest bidders. Bidder’s responsiveness, licensing, references, and work experience will be evaluated.

### Task 7.4 – Board Meeting and Contract Award

During the MWA Board of Directors meeting, a summary of the Project and bid results will be presented for approval of the construction award contract.

### Task 7.5 – Conformed Documents

This task involves preparation of a conformed set of contract documents incorporating the addenda and any revised drawings or details prepared during the bidding period.

*Deliverables: (1) Advertisement for Bids, (2) Pre-Bid Agenda, (3) Addenda (2), (4) Bid Evaluation Letter, (5) Board Presentation, (6) Award to successful bidder, (7) and Conformed Documents.*

## **1.4 Evaluation Criteria**

### **1.4.1 Evaluation Criteria A: Project Benefits**

#### *1. Identify the threats to water supply, water quality, and river-based ecosystem or watershed health within the geographic area of the planning or design project.*

Water supplies may be interrupted or reduced significantly in a number of ways, such as a drought that limits supplies, an earthquake that damages water delivery or storage facilities, a regional power outage, storm flood damage, environmental restrictions, or a toxic spill that affects water quality. If an earthquake or other disruption were to occur, pipelines, canals, or pump stations conveying water across the mountains may become inoperable, making SWP deliveries to MWA, and the other downstream contractors, dependent on the supplies available in the terminal reservoirs.

MWA is one of 29 contractors to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) SWP and has a contract for up to 89,800 acre-feet per year (AFY) from the SWP (Table A – the Agency’s contractual share of available SWP water in a given year). All water supplies within MWA are pumped from the local groundwater basins and, historically, groundwater levels generally have been declining for 50 years or more in many parts of the region. Adjudication proceedings were initiated due to concerns that rapid population growth would lead to further overdraft. The resulting Mojave Basin Area Judgment requires that supplemental water be imported to help balance the basins. However, the reliability of the SWP is highly variable, with Table A allocations ranging from as low as 5% in 2014 as documented in the “Final State Water Project Delivery Capability

Report 2019” (DWR 2020), and, in fact, the 5% Table A allocation also occurred more recently in 2022 (DWR 2024). In high SWP allocation wet years MWA will store SWP water in local aquifers and utilize the significant available aquifer storage capacity to take advantage of wet year supplies.

DWR projects that 100% SWP allocation years will occur infrequently in the future. In August 2020, DWR finalized the 2019 DCR that outlined the probable future water supply allocations for the SWP system. The 2019 DCR showed variations in future Table A deliveries based upon hydrological and regulatory conditions. SWP long-term average reliability shows a long-term average downward trend from 62% in the 2017 DCR to 58% in the 2019 DCR. Further, with the projected climate change and sea level rise scenario, discussed within the Technical Addendum of the 2019 DCR, SWP, average long-term reliability reduces to 52%. Consistent with the 2019 DCR, MWA characterizes the 2020 SWP long-term average reliability at 58% declining to 52% by 2040. These projected reliability values further highlight the criticality of taking advantage of storing surplus water when (infrequently) available for later use. MWA’s aquifers have large available storage capacity and low anthropogenic contamination and are particularly suited to store large quantities of water.

Consequently, MWA has initiated many adaptive management programs to focus on ways to increase the availability and reliability of the local water supply through extended dry periods. As discussed in Mojave’s Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), the Region’s average SWP supplies are substantially higher than its current SWP demands, and a majority of the Region’s SWP deliveries are used to recharge groundwater rather than for direct deliveries, allowing the Region to rely on previously stored groundwater during droughts or outages on the SWP. MWA, State Water Contractors, and California, as a whole, face the prospect of significant water management challenges due to a variety of issues including population growth, regulatory restrictions, and climate change; all of which can create severe supply shortfalls. This will impact MWA’s water supply by changing how much water is available, when it is available, and how it is used (MWA 2014).

*2. How do the threats identified in your response to the preceding bullet impact specific water uses or sectors in the geographic area of the planning or design project?*

Water uses in the MWA service area include residential, commercial, industrial, municipal, landscape and agricultural uses. In the event of actual water supply shortfalls, all water use sectors would be impacted, although residential users, which make up the largest portion within MWA’s service area, would be particularly affected. Additionally, lower groundwater levels impact the quantity of water available, increase the cost to pump the water, and degrade water quality as constituents become more concentrated at deeper depths.

Water supplies may be interrupted or reduced significantly in a number of ways, such as a drought, that limits supplies, earthquake and wildfire damage to water delivery or storage facilities, regional power outages, storm flood damage, environmental restrictions, or toxic spills that affect water quality. Cities and water agencies within MWA rely entirely on groundwater basins to meet water supply needs. In addition, those in the Mojave Basin Judgement are mandated to the continuous reduction of the Free Production Allowance (FPA) or “ramp down”; any user that pumps more than their FPA must purchase SWP replenishment water from Watermaster. For Oeste, which currently does not have any facilities for groundwater recharge, this Project is necessary to deliver supplemental water supplies from the SWP.

*3. How will the planning or design project help address the threats to water supplies and water uses identified in your response to the preceding bullets?*

Over the last decade, MWA invested in water purchases from the SWP to pre-store water to have available during times of drought. According to the Watermaster Annual Report for Water Year 2022-2023 for Mojave Basin Area (MBA), there is currently over 396,000 AF (MBA Watermaster 2024) stored where pumping exceeds the natural supply. During previous drought periods, municipal water suppliers continued to draft from these basins to meet customer needs without the need to impose restrictions on water use, but at rates exceeding natural replenishment in most areas. Large groundwater basins in the region serve as reservoirs and buffer the impacts of seasonal and year-to-year variations in precipitation and imported and natural surface water deliveries. This has been demonstrated during the recent drought, as groundwater supply was available to meet demands; in addition, the retailers have complied with the Governor's emergency order requiring mandatory conservation actions statewide.

The proposed permanent recharge basin aligns with the directives of California Executive Order N-7-22, issued by the Governor of California, which emphasizes the urgent need for sustainable water management in response to extreme drought conditions exacerbated by climate change. This Project will enhance groundwater recharge and storage, which are critical for mitigating the ongoing drought impacts on vulnerable communities, agriculture, and ecosystems. By capturing and storing available high-water flows, the initiative will support groundwater sustainability, improve drought resilience, and contribute to the State's long-term water conservation goals. The area aquifers are either currently in balance or expected to be in balance, this is only due to water imports, State-mandated conservation requirements, and court-ordered production "ramp-down." During multi-year droughts or SWP outages, adequate groundwater supplies will be available to meet demands through the use of conjunctively banked pre-stored imported water.

Further, maximizing groundwater storage in southern California, particularly south of the Tehachapi Mountains, can provide, not only dry-year storage to increase reliability, but can also provide emergency storage should a catastrophe, such as an earthquake, occur. The California Aqueduct traverses the Tehachapi Mountains north of MWA's service area. Due to the numerous fault lines throughout California, and particularly, crossing the Tehachapi Mountain Range (including the San Andreas and White Wolf faults), water users located south of the mountains are at greater risk of supply disruption due to earthquake than users located north of the mountains. Prestored SWP water in MWA's aquifers could provide significant risk mitigation for SWP outages. For this and other reasons, the terminal reservoirs located on both the West and East Branches of the California Aqueduct include emergency storage. MWA receives its SWP from the East Branch.

Should a supply disruption occur, DWR and the SWP contractors would need to coordinate operations to minimize supply disruptions. Depending on the particular outage scenario, or outage location, some or all of the SWP contractors south of the Delta might be affected. But even among those contractors, potential impacts would differ given each contractor's specific mix of other supplies and available storage. During past SWP outages, the SWP contractors have had to work cooperatively to minimize supply impacts among all contractors.

Past examples of such cooperation have included certain SWP contractors agreeing to rely more heavily on alternate supplies, allowing more of the outage-limited SWP supply to be delivered to other contractors, and exchanges among SWP contractors, allowing delivery of one contractor's water to another contractor, with that water being returned after the outage was over. In this way, the Project becomes a tool to increase reliability for water supply by providing a recharge location, but also to address emergency scenarios (such as an earthquake) where purveyors have no choice

but to rely upon previously stored supplies to meet demands. This can be a solution, not just for MWA, but for others across California.

*4. Is the planning or design effort for the purpose of providing domestic water supplies to a Tribe, insular area, or disadvantaged community(ies) that do not have reliable access to water supplies?*

The Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District (CSD) is the primary community in the area and a retail purveyor within MWA's service area. The CSD's service area includes approximately 118 square miles of unincorporated area located at the transition between the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains and southwestern portion of the Mojave Desert. The region's severe socioeconomic disadvantage limits capacity to increase taxes to fund public infrastructure projects. Attachment A Figure 3 provides a graphic demonstrating the CSD's disadvantaged community (DAC) status. Municipal production is expected to increase over time to serve the rapidly growing communities of Phelan Piñon Hills. Domestic uses [adjudicated domestic purveyors and non-adjudicated domestic producers (minimal producers)] are expected to increase slightly over time but will most likely be greatly outpaced by municipal demands (MWA 2014). According to the Mojave 2020 UWMP, the Phelan Piñon Hills CSD 2020 population of 20,836 is expected to grow over 10% by 2065.

The Project would recharge water into the Oeste Sub-basin thereby increasing groundwater availability for the area overlying the Oeste Subarea has been designated as nearly 100% disadvantaged or 70% severely disadvantaged as shown in Attachment A. It is not feasible to construct the Project without imposing a significant financial burden (Piñon Hills CSD 2023).

The proposed Project is intended to design new facilities and expanded operational opportunities to reduce the rate of overdraft and achieve a balance of water supply and consumptive use. The Project is needed because:

- Both funding and lack of off-river recharge facilities limit the potential to (a) import supplies from the SWP and (b) recharge SWP water to replenish overdrafted groundwater. As a result, MWA has not historically imported its entire available Table A supply.
- Historically, groundwater levels in the Oeste Subarea have declined over time and will likely continue to decline as water production increases with projected population growth. Population is expected to increase in the future, which will increase water demand and likely result in water level declines (MBA Watermaster 2024).
- About 92% of long-term groundwater recharge originates in the San Bernardino Mountains. USGS studies indicate that the rate of movement of recharged groundwater from the mountain front to the groundwater basin is very slow, around 1,000 to 3,000 AFY (MBA Watermaster 2024).

MWA is not able to import SWP water to Oeste because there no delivery facilities currently existence in the Sub-basin.

The CSD's groundwater is within two separate adjudicated areas known as the Mojave Basin Area (MBA) and the Antelope Valley Adjudicated Area. The CSD has 17 wells, 16 of which are located in the MBA. Through the MBA, the CSD has limits on groundwater production, which are set on an annual basis by the MBA Watermaster at MWA. The Adjudication requires an annual "ramp down" of groundwater pumping to achieve the groundwater basin's Production Safe Yield. The CSD's groundwater pumping has been ramped down many times over the past several years to

ensure the sustainability of the MBA. The CSD's 2023 water demand was approximately 2,588 AF. This was greater than its allowed groundwater pumping amount. Into the future, the CSD will need to purchase increasing amounts of replacement water (obligation water) from the MWA to meet demand and comply with the Adjudication. This will result in the community incurring higher purchased water costs each year (Piñon Hills CSD 2023).

The Project is expected to draw approximately 3,000 AFY of SWP water from the California aqueduct for recharge in the Oeste Subarea. The recharged water, through the proposed new permanent turn out, will directly benefit the CSD. Estimates of the potential groundwater recharge for the Project are based on preliminary testing coincident with the groundwater modeling and information on the soil conditions.

*5. Does the planning or design effort involve the improvement of nature-based features?*

Section 3 addresses environmental and cultural resource considerations in relation to measurement, monitoring and field work, which is not proposed for funding. Implementation of the Oeste Recharge Basin Project will involve the improvement of nature-based features because groundwater recharge is a passive way to support biodiversity of the area. This recharge Project enhances natural habitats like creosote bush scrub (*Larrea tridentata*) and the western Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*). While there will be some impacts on Joshua Trees within the immediate footprint, measures to protect and manage the Western Joshua tree include obtaining the appropriate permits for any impacts on these species (MWA 2023). Key species benefiting from these efforts include various bird, reptile and mammal species such as the Costa's hummingbird (*Calypte costae*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), desert horned lizard (*Phrynosoma platyrhinos calidiarum*) and white-tailed antelope ground squirrel (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*). In addition to supporting wildlife habitats, this Project will bring in high quality SWP water that has been shown to have a diluting effect on MWA's groundwater basin (SNMP 2015). Finally, importing SWP water into the service area will build climate resilience by maintaining the region's water supply and ecological health.

*6. Is the project for the purpose of meeting existing environmental mitigation or compliance obligations under Federal or State law?*

No, this Project is not for the purpose of meeting environmental mitigation or compliance obligations.

**1.4.2 Evaluation Criteria B: Inclusion of Stakeholders, Stakeholder Support, and Previous Planning Efforts**

**1.4.2.1 Sub-Criterion B2: Task B – Project Design**

*1. If the project(s) being designed is/are supported by an existing water planning effort, please describe that effort.*

This Project is identified as a priority initiative in the Mojave Water Agency 2021 Strategic Plan to develop, manage, and maintain water portfolio and infrastructure to provide reliable water supplies. Priority initiatives are deemed necessary to achieve the Agency Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives. In addition, this Project aligns with previously studied regional plans, including the IRWMP and the pending Master Plan.

The Mojave IRWMP is a product of a long-term collaborative stakeholder process that began with the development of the first IRWM Plan adopted in 2005. The goals of the IRWMP are to: 1) foster coordination, collaboration and communication between agencies responsible for water-related

items and interested stakeholders to achieve greater efficiencies, to provide for integration of projects, enhance public services and build public support for vital projects; and 2) assist in the development of a comprehensive plan to facilitate regional cooperation to benefit water supply reliability, water recycling, water conservation, water quality improvement, storm water capture and management, flood management, and environmental and habitat protection and improvements. MWA manages the IRWMP program for the region with oversight from the Mojave Technical Advisory Committee (see Attachment C for a list of all TAC stakeholders). This Project is supported by the TAC.

Lastly, this Project will also build off the Oeste Recharge Basin Pilot Test to assess the feasibility of groundwater recharge in this area and support the design proposed for funding with this application. The Pilot Test is in progress and will be completed by 2026.

*2. Describe any planned efforts for public outreach and stakeholder engagement during the design process.*

The IRWMP and TAC stakeholder processes are used to most effectively to solicit feedback, provide information, and engage in participation in contribution to the Project. The TAC meets in a public forum to discuss common concerns and acts to assist the MWA with technical, professional, economic, and community recommendations and counsel concerning policy decisions relating to management of water resources. The TAC also assists in determining the needs, desires, and financial capabilities of the MWA with respect to management of water resources and, upon deliberation, shall convey recommendations to the Board of Directors of the MWA. MWA works closely with its member agencies, including the CSD, which has committed its full support of the proposed Project.

*3. For Tribal strategies or plans that were developed collaboratively with multiple Tribal interests, but did not include collaboration with external entities, please provide explanation as to why collaboration with entities external to the Tribe were not involved in the development of the strategy or plan.*

The Tribal Lands EPA Region 9 map (<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-11/documents/r9-map-federally-recognized-tribes-epa-pacific-southwest.pdf>) was reviewed and it was determined that no tribes exist within the MWA boundary. More detailed effort of tribal outreach is in the 2014 IRWMP section 1.2.3.3.

*4. Describe stakeholder support for the proposed project (i.e., the design project and/or the project you are designing).*

As mentioned above, the Project is supported by the MWA TAC and the CSD. Letters of support have been received from United States Senator Laphonza Butler, Congressman Jay Obernolte, the Phelan Chamber of Commerce, Snowline Joint Unified School District, and the Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District. The Phelan Chamber of Commerce, Snowline Joint Unified School District, and the Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District are stakeholder groups located in the Oeste Subarea and would receive direct benefits of the Project. Their letters of support are provided in Attachment C.

*5. Is there opposition to the proposed project? If so, describe the opposition and explain how it will be addressed. Opposition will not necessarily result in fewer points.*

No opposition to the proposed Project has been identified by MWA.

### 1.4.3 Evaluation Criteria C: Ability to Meet Program Requirements

#### 1. Describe how the project will address the program specific requirements described in the appropriate program-specific appendix.

As described under Section 1.3 Project Description, MWA will meet the Project Design Grants Requirements by developing final design documents for the Permanent Aqueduct Turn Out. As shown in the next question, MWA is presenting a detailed schedule to execute the activities described under Section 1.3. The following activities specifically responds to Attachment 2 Project Design Grants in the NOFO:

- **Development of project requirements and evaluation of design alternatives.**
  - Task 2 detailed in Section 1.3 include:
    - Review of available information including record drawings, previous planning studies, the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (ISMND) prepared for the Oeste Recharge Basin Pilot Test, the geotechnical investigation performed for the Oeste Recharge Basin Pilot Test, monitoring well data, and utility drawings.
    - A field visit to review the Project site and identify constraints.
    - Field survey to perform spot surveys that may be necessary along with the survey of the 5 potholes.
- **Evaluation of site alternatives and selection of project site.**
  - Survey and a geotechnical investigation will be completed as part of the Oeste Recharge Basin Pilot Test project. The results of these activities will be used to inform the Project.
- **Preparation of final design drawings and specifications for the construction of the project.**
  - Task 3 detailed in Section 1.3 consists of preparing a technical memorandum that defines the Project elements and summarizes the basis of design to provide a smooth transition to the final design phase.
  - Subtask 5.1 detailed in Section 1.3 includes preparing 50%, 90%, and Final Design plans in accordance with the Final Technical Memorandum, MWA's Standards, AWWA Standards, and DWR requirements.
  - Subtask 5.2 detailed in Section 1.3 includes preparing a complete set of Project specifications for the bidding and construction of the Project and consisting of front-end, general provisions, and technical specifications. The specifications will also include Build America Buy America and American Iron and Steel provisions for all applicable components of the permanent turn out facility.
- **Evaluation of economic conditions, preparation of project cost estimates, and development of project implementation plan.**
  - Subtask 5.3 detailed in Section 1.3 includes preparing an itemized opinion of probable construction cost which will be provided with each design submittal (50%, 90%, and Final).
  - Subtask 5.4 detailed in Section 1.3 preparing a construction schedule to include major construction tasks and sequencing. The construction schedule will be provided with each design submittal (50%, 90%, and Final).
- **Legal and Institutional Requirements Research**
  - Subtask 4.1 detailed in Section 1.3 includes preparing a new ISMND including Project description, Initial Study Checklist, Notice of Intent for public review and submission

- to the State Clearinghouse, response letters to public comments received, Final ISMND with a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, and a Notice of Determination for submittal to the State Clearinghouse and San Bernardino County Clerk.
- Subtask 4.1 detailed in Section 1.3 includes coordinating with lead federal agency for the preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for NEPA compliance and review the Environmental Assessment and provide a response to comments.
  - Subtask 6 detailed in Section 1.3 includes identifying the necessary permits required for the Project, preparing the permit applications, and incorporating the requirements from the jurisdictional agencies into the Contract Documents.
  - As described in Subtask 1.3 in Section 1.3, each design submittal and all deliverables will undergo review by an appropriate reviewer who is independent of the Project design team. These reviews will include constructability and operational assessments.

For intermediate deliverables and major tasks to develop the final design documents, please see Section 1.3 above.

*2. Describe the approach that will be undertaken to meet the applicable program components and requirements.*

A detailed Project schedule showing tasks, subtasks, and milestones described in Section 1.3 is shown below:

<b>Task/ Subtask</b>	<b>Task/Subtask Description</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>Task 1</b>	<b>Project Management</b>			
1.1	Project Management	1/6/2025	3/27/2026	MWA
1.2	Grant Reporting	1/6/2025	3/27/2026	MWA
1.3	Design Management	1/6/2025	3/27/2026	Design Consultant
<b>Task 2</b>	<b>Data Gathering &amp; Investigations</b>			
2.1	Data Collection & Review	1/6/2025	1/31/2025	Design Consultant
2.2	Field Visit	1/14/2025	1/14/2025	Design Consultant
2.3	Surveying	9/1/2025	9/1/2025	Design Consultant
<b>Task 3</b>	<b>Preliminary Design</b>			
3.1	Technical Memorandum	1/6/2025	5/9/2025	
	Draft Technical Memorandum	1/6/2025	4/18/2025	Design Consultant
	Final Technical Memorandum	4/21/2025	5/9/2025	Design Consultant
<b>Task 4</b>	<b>CEQA &amp; NEPA Compliance</b>			
4.1	CEQA Compliance			
	Draft ISMND	5/12/2025	9/12/2025	Design Consultant
	Public Review	9/15/2025	10/17/2025	Design Consultant
	Submit Notice of Determination	11/13/2025	11/13/2025	MWA
4.2	NEPA Compliance	5/12/2025	9/12/2025	Design Consultant
<b>Task 5</b>	<b>Final Design</b>			
5.1	Design Plans			
	50% Design	3/31/2025	8/29/2025	Design Consultant
	90% Design	9/1/2025	1/2/2026	Design Consultant
	Final Design	1/5/2026	3/27/2026	Design Consultant
5.2	Specifications	9/1/2025	3/27/2026	Design Consultant

<b>Task/ Subtask</b>	<b>Task/Subtask Description</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
5.3	Cost Opinion			
	50% Design	3/31/2025	8/29/2025	Design Consultant
	90% Design	9/1/2025	1/2/2026	Design Consultant
	Final Design	1/5/2026	3/27/2026	Design Consultant
5.4	Construction Schedule			
	50% Design	3/31/2025	8/29/2025	Design Consultant
	90% Design	9/1/2025	1/2/2026	Design Consultant
	Final Design	1/5/2026	3/27/2026	Design Consultant
5.5	Calculations	1/5/2026	3/27/2026	Design Consultant
<b>Task 6</b>	<b>Permitting &amp; Agency Coordination</b>			
6.1	Permitting Support	9/1/2025	2/27/2026	Design Consultant
<b>Task 7</b>	<b>Contract Bidding</b>			
7.1	Advertise Bid and Conduct Pre-Bid Meeting	3/30/2026	4/27/2026	
	Advertise Bid	3/30/2026	3/30/2026	MWA
	Pre-Bid Meeting	4/6/2026	4/6/2026	Design Consultant
7.2	Addenda	4/13/2026	4/20/2026	Design Consultant
7.3	Bid Evaluation	4/23/2026	5/21/2026	Design Consultant
7.4	Board Meeting and Contract Award	5/28/2026	5/28/2026	MWA/ Design Consultant
7.5	Conformed Documents	5/31/2026	6/28/2026	Design Consultant

See Section 2 for a detailed budget narrative and a summary of the budget for the tasks, subtasks, and milestones described in Section 1.3.

The design of the Permanent Aqueduct Turn Out will be informed by the design activities for the Oeste Demonstration Recharge Pilot Test (Pilot Test). The objective of the Pilot Test is to assess the feasibility of groundwater recharge on the Project site. Pilot Test components include a temporary turn out siphon from the California Aqueduct, a new recharge basin on 10 acres of MWA property, and a new monitoring well. Conceptual design for the Pilot Test has been completed and final design, is anticipated to be completed August 2024. Construction of the recharge basin, temporary turn out siphon, and monitoring well is anticipated to take place September 2024 through June 2026, with operation of the Pilot Test occurring for 12 months after. The survey, field investigations, and environmental documents have been completed for the Pilot Test and this information will be incorporated into the design of the Permanent Aqueduct Turn Out design.

*3. Describe the availability and quality of existing data and models applicable to the proposed plan or design.*

Please see response 2 above.

*4. Identify staff with appropriate technical expertise and describe their qualifications. Describe any plans to request additional technical assistance from Reclamation or by contract.*

Melody Bailey holds a Master of Science Degree in Water Resource Management and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Resource Management. With over ten (10) years of

professional field experience in the Mojave Desert, her expertise includes biological monitoring and ambient air quality monitoring. Currently, she manages numerous planning projects related to water resource management for the MWA. Melody has extensive institutional knowledge of the Agency's operations, groundwater conditions, and stakeholder involvement. As a Water Resource Manager, she develops and implements strategies to optimize water resources in the Mojave Desert.

Tony Winkel is the Director of Water Resources at MWA, possessing keen knowledge of current and historical groundwater and climate conditions. He is a CA Licensed Professional Geologist (Lic. No. 9304) and CA Licensed Professional Engineer (Lic. No. 77567). Tony holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology and a Master of Science Degree in Civil/Environmental Engineering. With over eighteen (18) years of work experience, his expertise includes project management, construction management, water infrastructure design, groundwater basin characterization, and production and monitoring well siting, design, construction, development, testing, and maintenance.

*5. Describe any new policies or administrative actions required to implement the plan or project being designed.*

No new policies or administrative actions are required to prepare the final design of the Project, or to implement the Project. MWA has policies in place to implement the Project from all aspects including procurement, economically, management of the groundwater through the adjudications, and in attaining approval from the Agency's Board of Directors.

#### **1.4.4 Evaluation Criteria D: Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities**

##### **1.4.4.1 Sub-criterion No. D1. Climate Change**

*1. Combating the Climate Crisis: E.O. 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, focuses on increasing resilience to climate change and supporting climate- resilient development.*

Storage of surface water reservoirs across the state are limited, and dry year reserves are increasingly more important as the climate changes. As discussed in Mojave's IRWMP and current (2020) UWMP, the Region's average SWP supplies are higher than its current SWP demands, and a majority of the Region's SWP deliveries are used to recharge groundwater rather than for direct deliveries, allowing the Region to rely on previously stored groundwater during droughts or outages on the SWP. MWA, State Water Contractors, and California, as a whole, faces the prospect of significant water management challenges due to a variety of issues including population growth, regulatory restrictions and climate change, all of which can create severe supply shortfalls. These changes would impact MWA's water supply by changing how much water is available, when it is available, and how it is used due to changes in priorities.

MWA also contracted with the Technical Service Center of the USBR to prepare a climate change assessment of the Mojave River Watershed. The final report, Mojave River Watershed Climate Change Assessment (USBR 2013) (included in Appendix G of the IRWMP) was the basis for the subsections that discuss current regulatory constraints, greenhouse gases, climate change projections, the region's vulnerability to climate change, and next steps for future IRWMP updates.

The Project will help to maintain stability in overdrafted groundwater basins. This Project will help MWA stabilize local groundwater depletion by utilizing imported water supplies and

therefore help improve long-term water supply reliability. This Project will also provide substantial resiliency to the CSD’s water supply.

This Project also supports MWA’s plans to extend its local water supply during the earliest stages of a drought emergency. The MWA most recently adopted its Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) with its 2020 UWMP in 2021. The WSCP outlines practices for the Agency and its customers to follow during stages of drought emergencies. In response to an anticipated drought-related water shortage, the WSCP applies a reduction of water supplies available to customers, including imported water supplies managed by MWA. If MWA’s allocations of imported supplies diminish as a result of drought, and not enough groundwater is stored to meet demands, the WSCP identifies associated responses that would include severe restrictions for all water uses. With enhanced groundwater supply resiliency, MWA can enhance critical water supply availability and limit the need for the most severe restrictions.

**1.4.4.2 Sub-criterion No. D2. Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities**

*Please use the White House Council on Environmental Quality’s interactive Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, available online at Explore the map – Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov>) to identify any disadvantaged communities that will benefit from your project.*

As described above, the CSD is a DAC/SDAC community, as shown on Figure 3 in Attachment A, would be direct beneficiaries of the Project. According to the White House Council on Environmental Quality’s interactive Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, three of the four Census Tracts that intersect the CSD are identified as disadvantaged as summarized in Table 1 below:

**Table 1: Summary of Disadvantaged Census Tracts, Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool**

<b>Census Tract</b>	<b>Disadvantaged?</b>	<b>Burden Categories</b>
06071009107	No	NA
06071009108	Yes	Climate Change, Energy, Transportation, Workforce Development
06071009109	Yes	Climate Change
06071009117	Yes	Housing, Legacy Pollution

The Project will recharge 3,000 AFY into the Oeste Sub-basin. As discussed above, the CSD, which has 16 wells in the area with an annual demand of 2,948 AF in 2020, and a growing population, will directly benefit by accessing this supply. This Project will increase reliability and access to water supplies, improve water quality, and provide a mechanism for economic growth opportunities by improving access to SWP supplies (MWA 2021b).

**1.4.4.3 Sub-criterion No. D3. Tribal Benefits**

The Project will not directly benefit a tribe.

**1.4.5 Evaluation Criterion E— Nexus to Reclamation**

MWA has enjoyed an effective partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation through implementation of several programs. Recent relevant projects implemented by MWA, thanks to Reclamation support are noted in **Error! Reference source not found..**

**Table 2: Past Working Relationship with USBR**

<b>Grant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>	<b>Date Awarded</b>
USBR Water Supply Management Studies MOU No. RIOMU350020	Phase I: Evapotranspiration Water Use Analysis of Salt Cedar and other Vegetation in the Mojave River Flood Plain, 2007 and 2012	NA	August 2011
USBR Challenge Grant No. R09AP35R21	Oro Grande Wash Groundwater Recharge (Amethyst Basin)	\$3,456,660	October 2012
USBR Title XVI Grant No. R10AC35R15	Regional Recharge and Recovery (R3)	\$10,997,056	May 2013
USBR Water Management Studies Agreement No. 08FC350246;	Upper Mojave River Groundwater Regional Recharge and Recovery Feasibility Study	\$110,000	September 2009
USBR Water Supply Management Studies No. RIOMU350020	Phase II: Mojave River Watershed Climate Change Assessment to support the Mojave IRWM	NA	September 2013
USBR Technical Service Center Irrigation Analysis	Mojave Water Agency Baja Subarea Irrigation Efficiency Analysis	\$100,000	November 2014
USBR BSA Crop Conversion Economic Analysis	Economic Analysis of Three Crop Conversion Scenarios in Mojave Water Agency's Baja Subarea	\$100,000	January 2015
USBR WaterSMART Grant No. R15AS00002	CII Turf Replacement Program	\$300,000	July 2015
USBR WaterSMART Grant No. R16-FOA-DO-004	CII Turf Replacement Program	\$300,000	October 2017
USBR WaterSMART Grant No. BOR-DO-17-F012	CII Turf Replacement Program	\$300,000	December 2019
USBR WaterSMART Grant No. BOR-DO-18-F008	City of Adelanto Connection to R3 Pipeline	\$300,000	February 2018
USBR Water Supply Management Study R16-MU-35-0041	Mojave River Alto Transition Zone Analysis of Streamflow Conveyance in the Context of Environmental Compliance	Not available at time of application submittal	December 2017

## Section 2: Project Budget

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The Agency proposes to apply all Federal and Non-Federal funds that may be associated with the grant agreement to funding design, environmental compliance, permitting, and bidding of the Project. Administrative support to the Project and Project reporting will be provided through Agency funding.

Section 1.3 (Project Description and Deliverables) of this application presents a Scope of Work describing tasks necessary for the successful completion of the Project. As noted above, the Agency proposes to cover all costs associated with staff time required to perform project administration and reporting under the Agency's operating budget. Accordingly, the Agency will not be requesting reimbursement for administration and reporting, nor will the Agency present this effort as an element of their cost share.

Table 3 summarizes the anticipated funding sources for the Project. The source of the Agency's share of the contributions will be from an MWA Mojave Water Agency Board approved budget in Capital Improvement Plan funds which is made up of revenue from MWA's rate structure.

No third-party funding sources will contribute to the Project budget. Cost-sharing options with Project participants will be evaluated as part of implementation of the water marketing strategy.

No other cost-share funding sources will contribute to the budget herein. There are no pending funding requests (e.g., grants or loans) that have not yet been approved for the Project. No previously incurred costs are included as Project costs.

**Table 3: Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources**

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Non-Federal Entities</b>	
Mojave Water Agency	\$333,013
<b>Non-Federal Subtotal</b>	<b>\$333,013</b>
<b>Requested Reclamation Funding</b>	<b>\$333,013</b>

### 2.1 Budget Narrative

The Project Budget consists of costs associated with the implementation of the Project and fall within the contractual budget category. The budget proposal is provided in Table 4, which reflects all budget categories listed in the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). The budget items included in the table are described in detail below.

**Table 4: Budget Proposal**

<b>Object Class Category</b>		<b>Total Costs</b>
a.	Personnel	\$0
b.	Fringe Benefits	\$0
c.	Travel	\$0
d.	Equipment	\$0
e.	Supplies	\$0
f.	Contractual	\$666,026
g.	Construction	\$0
h.	Other Direct Costs	\$0
<b>i.</b>	<b>Total Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$666,026</b>
j.	Indirect Costs	\$0
<b>k.</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$666,026</b>

### **2.1.1 Personnel**

Melody Bailey, Water Resources Manager, for the Agency will be the representative for the Applicant and will provide overall Project Management. Administrative and reporting will be performed by the Agency’s office and field personnel. In this regard, the Agency’s office staff, which will consist of a Senior Project Manager, staff Professional Engineer, staff Professional Geologist, and an Administrative Assistant, will perform Project-related administration support and grant reporting. Additionally, the Agency will use accounting staff for tracking costs, maintaining financial records and invoicing. Work performed by Agency staff will be completed as part of the Agency’s daily operations and will not be included as part of the local cost share commitment.

In this regard, the Agency will not be asking for reimbursement or reporting any “In-Kind” contributions for any Salaries and Wages costs. The Agency is proposing not to track these costs separately from daily operations, even though employees will be providing services necessary for implementation of the grant-funded Program. Accordingly, no expenses under “Personnel” have been included in Table 4.

### **2.1.2 Fringe Benefits**

MWA will not bill for personnel costs or related Fringe Benefits. Project implementation will primarily be conducted by consultants and contractors whose costs are further detailed in the Contractual costs, Section 2.1.6. Accordingly, no expenses under “Fringe Benefits” have been included in Table 4.

### **2.1.3 Travel**

Travel expenses have not been included in the budget as local travel will be covered under the Agency’s operating budget. Travel related to contracted tasks will be included in the consultants’ contracts. Accordingly, no travel expenses have been included under “Travel” in Table 4.

#### **2.1.4 Equipment**

No equipment will be needed for the Project. Any necessary equipment for the Project will be rented and such costs will be included in Contractual costs. Accordingly, no equipment expenses have been included under “Equipment” in Table 4.

#### **2.1.5 Supplies**

No materials or supplies are anticipated to be directly purchased for this Project. Any necessary materials or supplies for the Project will be rented and such costs will be included in Contractual and Construction costs. Accordingly, no expenses for supplies have been included under “Supplies” in Table 4.

#### **2.1.6 Contractual**

Contractual work to be performed for this Project will be conducted by a consultant and include the following tasks described in Section 1.3:

- Task 1 Project Management**
  - 1.4 Design Management
- Task 2 Data Gathering & Investigations**
- Task 3 Preliminary Design**
- Task 4 CEQA & NEPA Compliance**
- Task 5 Final Design**
- Task 6 Permitting & Agency Coordination**
- Task 7 Bid Phase Services**

The estimated costs are based on similar work performed by the engineering firm for other Southern California clients. A detailed breakdown of contractual costs as they relate to tasks is outlined in Table 5 and Table 6.

**Table 5: Detailed Contractual Services Labor Cost**

Task	Project Director		Senior Project Manager		Technical Review		Design Manager		Mechanical		Electrical PM		Senior Designer		Engineer II		Electrical Engineer		CADD Drafter III		Env Manager		Assoc. Env		Admin		Labor Hours		Labor Cost	
	\$320	\$320	\$280	\$240	\$240	\$240	\$240	\$240	\$240	\$240	\$190	\$160	\$150	\$145	\$240	\$170	\$100	Hours	Cost											
<b>1 - Project Management</b>																														
1.3 - Design Management	32	84	80	40	0	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	272	\$75,120			
<b>2 - Data Gathering &amp; Investigations</b>																														
2.1 - Data Collection & Review		4		16	4							32	8														64	\$12,400		
2.2 - Field Visit		4		8																							12	\$3,200		
2.3 - Surveying				1								4													1	6	\$980			
<b>3 - Preliminary Design</b>																														
3.1 - Technical Memorandum	0	8	0	40	4	12	60	60	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	204	\$39,900		
<b>4 - CEQA &amp; NEPA Compliance</b>																														
4.1 - CEQA Compliance		1	2	8											80	140											231	\$45,800		
4.2 - NEPA Compliance															24	36											60	\$11,880		
<b>5 - Final Design</b>																														
5.1 - Design Plans (50%, 90%, Final)		32		120	90	64	356	84	192	680																	1,618	\$284,480		
5.2 - Specifications		12		40	12	16		60	20																24	184	\$35,160			
5.2 - Cost Opinion				4				8																			12	\$2,240		
5.4 - Construction Schedule				12				20																			32	\$6,080		
5.5 - Calculations		2		12	4			24																			42	\$8,320		
<b>6 - Permitting &amp; Agency Coordination</b>																														
6.1 - Permitting Support	0	12	0	12	2	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	\$8,480		

Task	Project Director	Senior Project Manager	Technical Review	Design Manager	Mechanical	Electrical PM	Senior Designer	Engineer II	Electrical Engineer	CADD Drafter III	Env Manager	Assoc. Env	Admin	Labor-Hours	Labor Cost
	\$320	\$320	\$280	\$240	\$240	\$240	\$190	\$160	\$150	\$145	\$240	\$170	\$100		
<b>7 - Bid Phase Services</b>															
7.1 - Advertise Bid and Conduct Pre-Bid Meeting				8				8						16	\$3,200
7.2 - Addenda		8		16		4	16	24						68	\$14,240
7.3 - Bid Evaluation		1		4				20						25	\$4,480
7.4 - Board Meeting and Contract Award		4		8				4						16	\$3,840
7.5 - Conformed Documents				8				8		20				36	\$6,100
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2,932</b>	
<b>Total Labor Cost</b>	<b>\$10,240</b>	<b>\$55,040</b>	<b>\$22,960</b>	<b>\$85,680</b>	<b>\$27,840</b>	<b>\$25,920</b>	<b>\$82,080</b>	<b>\$60,160</b>	<b>\$33,000</b>	<b>\$104,400</b>	<b>\$24,960</b>	<b>\$29,920</b>	<b>\$3,700</b>		<b>\$565,900</b>

**Table 6: Detailed Contractual Services Cost Summary**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Labor Cost</b>	<b>Direct Cost</b>	<b>Subcontract Cost</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>1 - Project Management</b>				
1.3 - Design Management	\$75,120	\$1,000	\$2,678	\$78,798
<b>2 - Data Gathering &amp; Investigations</b>				
2.1 - Data Collection & Review	\$12,400	\$500	\$0	\$12,900
2.2 - Field Visit	\$3,200	\$300	\$0	\$3,500
2.3 - Surveying	\$980		\$1,890	\$2,870
<b>3 - Preliminary Design</b>				
3.1 - Technical Memorandum	\$39,900		\$22,218	\$62,118
<b>4 - CEQA &amp; NEPA Compliance</b>				
4.1 - CEQA Compliance	\$45,800	\$500	\$0	\$46,300
4.2 - NEPA Compliance	\$11,880		\$0	\$11,880
<b>5 - Final Design</b>				
5.1 - Design Plans (50%, 90%, Final)	\$284,480		\$37,979	\$322,459
5.2 - Specifications	\$35,160		\$0	\$35,160
5.2 - Cost Opinion	\$2,240		\$9,555	\$11,795
5.4 - Construction Schedule	\$6,080		\$0	\$6,080
5.5 - Calculations	\$8,320		\$0	\$8,320
<b>6 - Permitting &amp; Agency Coordination</b>				
6.1 - Permitting Support	\$8,480		\$22,260	\$30,740
<b>7 - Bid Phase Services</b>				
7.1 - Advertise Bid and Conduct Pre-Bid Meeting	\$3,200	\$300	\$0	\$3,500
7.2 - Addenda	\$14,240		\$646	\$14,886
7.3 - Bid Evaluation	\$4,480		\$0	\$4,480
7.4 - Board Meeting and Contract Award	\$3,840	\$300	\$0	\$4,140
7.5 - Conformed Documents	\$6,100		\$0	\$6,100
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$565,900</b>	<b>\$2,900</b>	<b>\$97,226</b>	<b>\$666,026</b>

**2.1.7 Construction**

The Project proposed for funding will not result in any construction, renovation, and/or equipping of a facility or structure. Accordingly, no expenses for supplies have been included under “Construction” in Table 4.

**2.1.8 Other Costs**

All Project expenses are included in the cost items described above. Therefore, no costs are associated with this budget category in Table 4.

**2.1.9 Indirect Costs**

No “indirect” costs are included in the proposed budget.

## **2.2 Total Costs**

The estimated budget for the Project is presented above in Table 4. As shown, the total budget to fund all phases of Project implementation is estimated at \$666,026, with \$333,013 in requested grant funds (Federal Cost Share) and \$333,013 in Non-Federal Cost Share funds from MWA. The total Federal Cost Share requested is 50% of total Project costs.

### **2.2.1 Request for a Cost Share Reduction or Waiver**

Based on the evaluation of the benefits to the Project Area, which is a disadvantaged community as shown in Attachment A, MWA believes the Project *may be eligible* for a cost share reduction or waiver pursuant to the information provided in the NOFO. The following information was provided to demonstrate the area's disadvantaged status and how the area will directly benefit from the Project. The information provided in Attachment A documents the disadvantaged community status which was based on GIS analysis of the median household income within the Project area and was based on the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey ([www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/)).

### **Section 3: Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance**

The Project proposed for funding is design of the Oeste Recharge Basin Permanent Aqueduct Turn Out. The activities proposed for funding do not involve physical changes to the environment. Implementation or construction of the actual facility will involve changes to the physical environment.

When implementation is required, CEQA compliance will consist of confirming no substantive changes to existing baseline conditions and reviewing final design plans for substantial conformance with the previously prepared Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (ISMND) for the Oeste Demonstration Recharge Pilot Test project. Environmental compliance for the construction of the permanent structures will involve systematic documentation of conformance with the previously approved ISMND analysis and mitigation measures, certified by MWA. If new impacts and mitigation measures are identified, a recirculated ISMND or Subsequent IS/MND report would be needed. An ISMND Addendum would be used if new information is found to result in the need for revised mitigation measures. For scope purposes, it is assumed that a new ISMND will be required for CEQA compliance.

At that time, MWA will coordinate with Reclamation to prepare the necessary NEPA compliance documentation. Coordinate with the lead federal agency for NEPA compliance. It is assumed the lead federal agency will prepare the Environmental Assessment (EA) for NEPA compliance.

## **Section 4: Required Permits or Approvals**

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MWA will perform a thorough evaluation of the proposed Project, which will include further identification of the required permits or approvals that will be needed prior to Project implementation. Since the Project proposed for funding will not have earth disturbing components, typical construction permits will not be needed.

## **Section 5: Requirement Statements**

---

### **5.1 Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement**

This Project will use information gathered from the previous survey, geotechnical investigation, and potholing completed for the Oeste Recharge Basin Pilot Test, but Project activities will not overlap with the Pilot Test.

At this time, the agency does not have any other funding available for this program. However, the agency is actively seeking additional funding for this Project, including collaborating with Innovative Federal Strategies, LLC to explore potential earmark funding opportunities. Should any additional funding proposals be submitted, we will provide details including the submission date, recipient agency name, the Financial Assistance program, and the expected funding decision announcement date. If duplicative funding is awarded, we will promptly notify the NOFO point of contact or the Program Coordinator.

### **5.2 Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement**

There is no actual or potential conflict of interest at the time of submission.

### **5.3 Uniform Audit Reporting Statement**

MWA's latest Single Audit Report is available through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. MWA's Employer Identification Number (EIN) is 95-2283025.

### **5.4 Disclosure of Lobbying Activities**

This application requests more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, therefore the Authorized Official's signature on the appropriate SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form also represents the entities' certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A.

## **Section 6: Letters of Support, Partnership, and/or Commitment**

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### **6.1 Letters of Support**

Five letters of support have been received for the Project from the following:

- United States Senator Laphonza R. Butler, California
- United States Congressman Jay Obernolte, California
- Phelan Chamber of Commerce
- Snowline Joint Unified School District, Phelan Ca.
- Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District, Board of Directors

Letters can be found in Attachment C.

### **6.2 Letters of Partnership**

Letters of partnership are not needed for this Project. Mojave is the only applicant for this proposed Project.

### **6.3 Letters of Commitment**

Mojave is the only applicant for this proposed Project and does not have any third-party cost share entities providing commitment to the overall Project cost.

## **Section 8: Official Resolution**

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A draft resolution authorizing the Agency's Board of Directors to submit this grant application, commit to the financial and legal obligations, and negotiate and execute the grant agreement is provided.

The official resolution meeting the program requirements, adopted by MWA's Board of Directors will be provided to Reclamation before any award of funding is made.

The draft Resolution has been provided can be found in Attachment E.

## Section 9: References

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1. Council on Environmental Quality. Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. Accessed 17 May 2024. <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>
2. Mojave Basin Area Watermaster. Watermaster Annual Report for Water Year 2022-23. May 1, 2024. <https://www.mojavewater.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/30AR2223.pdf>
3. Mojave Water Agency. Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Oeste Basins Groundwater Recharge Project. August 2023.
4. Mojave Water Agency. 2020 Urban Water Management Plan. Prepared by Tully & Young. Adopted May 27, 2021(a). <https://www.mojavewater.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/MWA2020UWMPFinal061621.pdf>
5. Mojave Water Agency. Strategic Plan. May 27, 2021(b). <https://www.mojavewater.org/about-mwa/strategic-plan/>
6. Mojave Water Agency. Salt and Nutrient Management Plan. Prepared by Kennedy/Jenks Consultants and Todd Groundwater. December 2015. <https://www.mojavewater.org/data-maps/document-library/>
7. Mojave Water Agency. Final Mojave Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. Prepared by Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc. June 2014. <https://www.mojavewater.org/irwmp/water-management-plan/>
8. Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District. Cost-of-Service Water Rate Study. Prepared by IB Consulting, LLC. October 11, 2023. <https://www.pphcsd.org/files/e0ad0ad1b/PPHCSD+-+2023+Approved+Water+Rate+Study+Report.pdf>
9. State of California, Executive Department. Executive Order N-7-22. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/March-2022-Drought-EO.pdf>
10. State of California, Natural Resources Agency, Department of Water Resources (DWR). “State Water Project, Historical Table A Allocations, Water Years 1996-2024.” Accessed 18 May 2024. <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/State-Water-Project/Management/SWP-Water-Contractors/Files/Historical-SWP-allocations-1996-2024-042324.pdf>
11. State of California, Natural Resources Agency, Department of Water Resources (DWR). The Final State Water Project Delivery Capability Report 2019. August 26, 2020. <https://cawaterlibrary.net/document/the-final-state-water-project-delivery-capability-report-2019/>
12. UC Riverside School of Business Center for Economic Forecasting and Development. Mojave Water Agency Population Forecast, 2020 Edition. August 2020.

13. US Bureau of Reclamation, Water and Environmental Resources Division (86-68200). Mojave River Watershed Climate Change Assessment. September 2013.  
[https://www.mojavewater.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/appendix-g\\_all.pdf](https://www.mojavewater.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/appendix-g_all.pdf)
14. US Census Bureau. American Community Survey. 2020: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables for Phelan CDP. Accessed 20 May 2024.

## **Attachment D**

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Draft Resolution

Resolution No. XXXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MOJAVE WATER AGENCY AUTHORIZING APPLICATION AND EXECUTION OF A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR GRANT FUNDING THROUGH THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S WATERSMART: PLANNING AND PROJECT DESIGN GRANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND 2024 (FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NO. R23AS00109)

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation ("Reclamation") provides funding for collaborative planning and design to support water management improvements to disadvantaged and underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, Reclamation is making funding available through the WaterSMART: Planning and Project Design Grants for Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024 (Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00109) to collaboratively plan and design water projects to improve water management supply and sustainability as severe drought conditions are currently impacting the Western United States; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Mojave Water Agency ("Agency") has identified itself as an eligible applicant under Reclamation's WaterSMART Planning and Project Design Grants No. R23AS00109;

WHEREAS, the Agency is pursuing grant funding of up to \$XXX,XXX under the WaterSMART Planning and Project Design Grants program to develop a permanent recharge basin in the Oeste Subarea that will contribute to water supply sustainability and drought resilience by increasing the flexibility of access to the California Aqueduct, and facilitating a location to serve supplemental water supply during times of drought.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors as follows:

1. The Agency has reviewed the scope and purpose of the Agency's funding application, finds that the Project will serve both the needs of the Agency's ratepayers and satisfy the goals of the WaterSMART Planning and Project Design Grants program by enabling the capture and storage of additional water supplies, thus enhancing the reliability of water conveyance and deliveries. On that basis, the Board supports staffs submittal of the financial assistance application to Reclamation.
2. The Agency is capable of funding the minimum XX-percent cost share required to obtain grant funding under the WaterSMART Planning and Project Design Grants program.
3. The Board hereby ratifies the action of its General Manager or his designee of the Agency in applying for financial assistance from Reclamation's WaterSMART Planning and Project Design Grants program as part of a regional collaborative effort and authorizes the General Manager or his designee to execute any related documents, including a cooperative financial assistance agreement with Reclamation.

4. The General Manager and staff are directed to take all other actions necessary to secure funding for the Project under the WaterSMART Planning and Project Design Grants program, including working with Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a cooperative financial assistance agreement.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Mojave Water Agency on the DD of MONTH YYYY, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
MWA Board President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
MWA Board Secretary

## **Attachment C**

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Letters of Support

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 17, 2024

The Honorable Camille Touton  
Commissioner  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Commissioner Touton,

I write in support of the Mojave Water Agency's application for funding from the WaterSMART Planning and Project Design Grant Program, administered by the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of Interior.

The Mojave Water Agency is requesting funding for its Oeste Recharge Basin Project. A State Water Contractor, the Mojave Water Agency manages groundwater resources in the Mojave River Basin and Morongo Basin within the High Desert region of San Bernardino County.

If awarded, this funding would allow Mojave Water Agency to develop a recharge facility in the Oeste Subarea that would support local groundwater supplies in times of extreme drought and provide recharge capability to meet essential court-mandated obligations for supplemental water supplies. Additionally, this project would install multi-completion monitoring wells that would allow Mojave Water Agency to better oversee groundwater and water quality levels, leading to increased groundwater management and basin health. These advancements would help to improve local water resource management, benefitting the High Desert as well as the greater Southern California region.

I urge you to give the Mojave Water Agency's application your full consideration. Please keep my office informed of the status of this request, and if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my Los Angeles office at (310) 914-7300.

Sincerely,



Laphonza Butler  
United States Senator

LB/cf



May 10, 2024

Bureau of Reclamation  
Financial Assistance Support Section  
Attn: Karen Shubert

Re: Support for Mojave Agency's WaterSMART Planning Project Design Grant  
for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 application

Dear Ms. Shubert,

We are writing to express our support for the Mojave Water Agency's Oeste Recharge Basin Project, and are requesting that the Bureau of Recreation take careful consideration in funding this project. This project is essential to residents of both the Phelan and Pinon Hills communities, since there are homes and business in both communities that make use of water provided by the Mojave Water Agency.

The Oeste Recharge Basin project by the Mojave Water Agency, a State Water Contractor, focuses on developing a recharge facility in the Oeste Subarea. This area is recognized as a disadvantaged community. This project will provide direct benefits to the residents by improving their access to clean and reliable water sources, thus supporting the overall community well-being. In addition, this project would support local groundwater supplies in times of extreme drought and provide recharge capability to meet essential court-mandated obligations for supplemental water supplies. Because this project also aims at installing multi-completion monitoring wells, monitoring of groundwater levels and water quality will better help with groundwater management and basin health.

The Phelan Chamber of Commerce supports this project, and we believe it will help increase water availability and resilience related to the Oeste Recharge Project, therefore not only meeting immediate local needs, but also contributing to long term regional water resource management.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nikki Ewing".

Nikki Ewing, Secretary, Phelan Chamber of Commerce



*Ensuring Endless Possibilities through High Levels of Learning*

District Office • 4075 Nielson Rd. Phelan, CA 92371 • (760) 868-5817 • Fax (760) 868-5309 • [www.snowlineschools.com](http://www.snowlineschools.com)

Bureau of Reclamation  
Financial Assistance Support Section  
Attn: Ms. Karen Shubert  
P.O. Box 25007, MS

Re: Support for Mojave Water Agency's WaterSMART Planning Project Design Grant for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Application

Dear Ms. Karen Shubert,

I am writing to express my support for the Mojave Water Agency's Oeste Recharge Basin Project, and request that the Bureau of Reclamation take careful consideration in funding this project. This project is essential to Phelan and Pinon Hills and will provide adequate water supply and flow to our seven schools that reside in these communities.

The Oeste Recharge Basin project by the Mojave Water Agency, a State Water Contractor, focuses on developing a recharge facility in the Oeste Subarea. This area is recognized as a disadvantaged community. This project will provide direct benefits to the residents by improving their access to clean and reliable water sources, thus supporting the overall community well-being. In addition, this project would support local groundwater supplies in times of extreme drought and provide recharge capability to meet essential court-mandated obligations for supplemental water supplies. Because this project also aims at installing multi-completion monitoring wells, monitoring of groundwater levels and water quality will better help with groundwater management and basin health.

Snowline Joint Unified School District firmly supports this project, believing it will help increase water availability and resiliency related to the Oeste Recharge. This project not only meets immediate local needs, but it also contributes to long-term regional water resource management.

Sincerely,

Ryan Holman, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



A 4176 Warbler Road  
P.O. Box 294049  
Phelan, CA 92329  
P (760) 868-1212  
F (760) 868-2323  
W [www.pphcsd.org](http://www.pphcsd.org)

May 8, 2024

Bureau of Reclamation  
Financial Assistance Support Section  
Attn: Ms. Karen Shubert  
P.O. Box 25007, MS

Re: Support for Mojave Water Agency's WaterSMART Planning Project Design Grant for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Application

Dear Ms. Karen Shubert,

I am writing to express my support for the Mojave Water Agency's Oeste Recharge Basin Project, and request that the Bureau of Reclamation take careful consideration in funding this project. This project is essential to the communities of Phelan and Piñon Hills as it directly benefits its residents by protecting and ensuring the longevity of their water supply.

The Oeste Recharge Basin project by the Mojave Water Agency, a State Water Contractor, focuses on developing a recharge facility in the Oeste Subarea. This area is recognized as a disadvantaged community. This project will provide direct benefits to the residents by improving their access to clean and reliable water sources, thus supporting the overall community well-being. In addition, this project would support local groundwater supplies in times of extreme drought and provide recharge capability to meet essential court-mandated obligations for supplemental water supplies. Because this project also aims at installing multi-completion monitoring wells, monitoring of groundwater levels and water quality will better help with groundwater management and basin health.

Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District firmly supports this project and believes it will help increase water availability and resiliency related to the Oeste Recharge Project and not only meets immediate local needs but also contributes to long term regional water resource management.

Sincerely,

Chuck Hays  
Board President



**JAY OBERNOLTE**  
TWENTY THIRD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
AND COMMERCE**  
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY  
INNOVATION, DATA, AND COMMERCE  
HEALTH

**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE  
AND TECHNOLOGY**  
INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT, CHAIRMAN



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC**

WASHINGTON, O.C. OFFICE:  
1029 LONGWORTH House OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
TELEPHONE: (202) 228-5861

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
9700 SEVENTH AVE., SUITE 201  
HESPERIA, CA 92345  
TELEPHONE: (760) 247-1815

E-MAIL VIA WEBSITE:  
<http://obernolte.house.gov>

May 21, 2024

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton  
Commissioner of the United States Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C St NW, Ste 7654  
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Support for Mojave Water Agency's WaterSMART Planning Project Design Grant for Fiscal Year 2024 application

Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton,

The Mojave Water Agency recently requested funding from the Bureau of Reclamation for their Oeste Recharge Basin Project in Apple Valley, California. As a Member of Congress representing Apple Valley, I firmly believe in the importance of investing in innovative water management strategies, especially for areas vulnerable to drought and water scarcity. The Mojave Water Agency's initiative closely aligns with the Bureau's goals of sustainability, resilience, and community well-being, and I am told that this project will further the Bureau's aims of improving our water infrastructure while also assisting a rural, desert region that frequently faces water shortages.

The Oeste Recharge Basin Project focuses on developing a recharge facility in the Oeste Subarea, an area recognized as a disadvantaged community. This project will provide direct benefits to residents by increasing their access to clean and reliable water sources, thus improving the overall well-being of the community.

Additionally, this project would bolster local groundwater supplies in times of extreme drought and provide recharge capability to meet essential court-mandated obligations for supplemental water supplies. Because this project also aims at installing multi-completion monitoring wells, monitoring of groundwater levels and water quality will better help with groundwater management and basin health.

Consistent with all rules and regulations, I respectfully request that you give the Mojave Water Agency's WaterSMART Planning Project Design Grant your full and fair consideration. Should you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

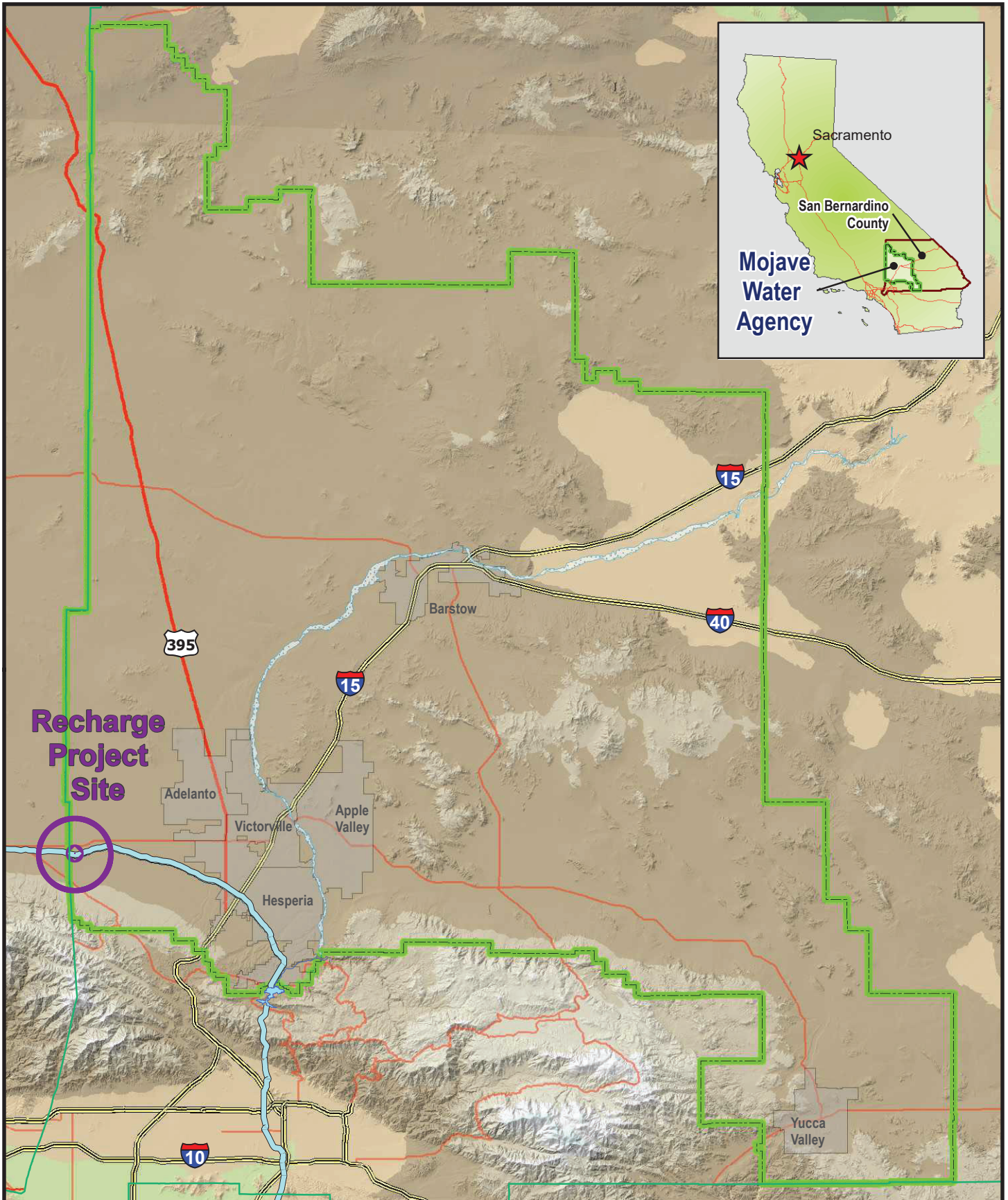
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay Obernolte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" being particularly prominent.

Jay Obernolte  
Member of Congress

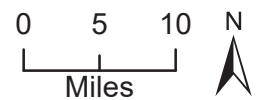
## **Attachment A**

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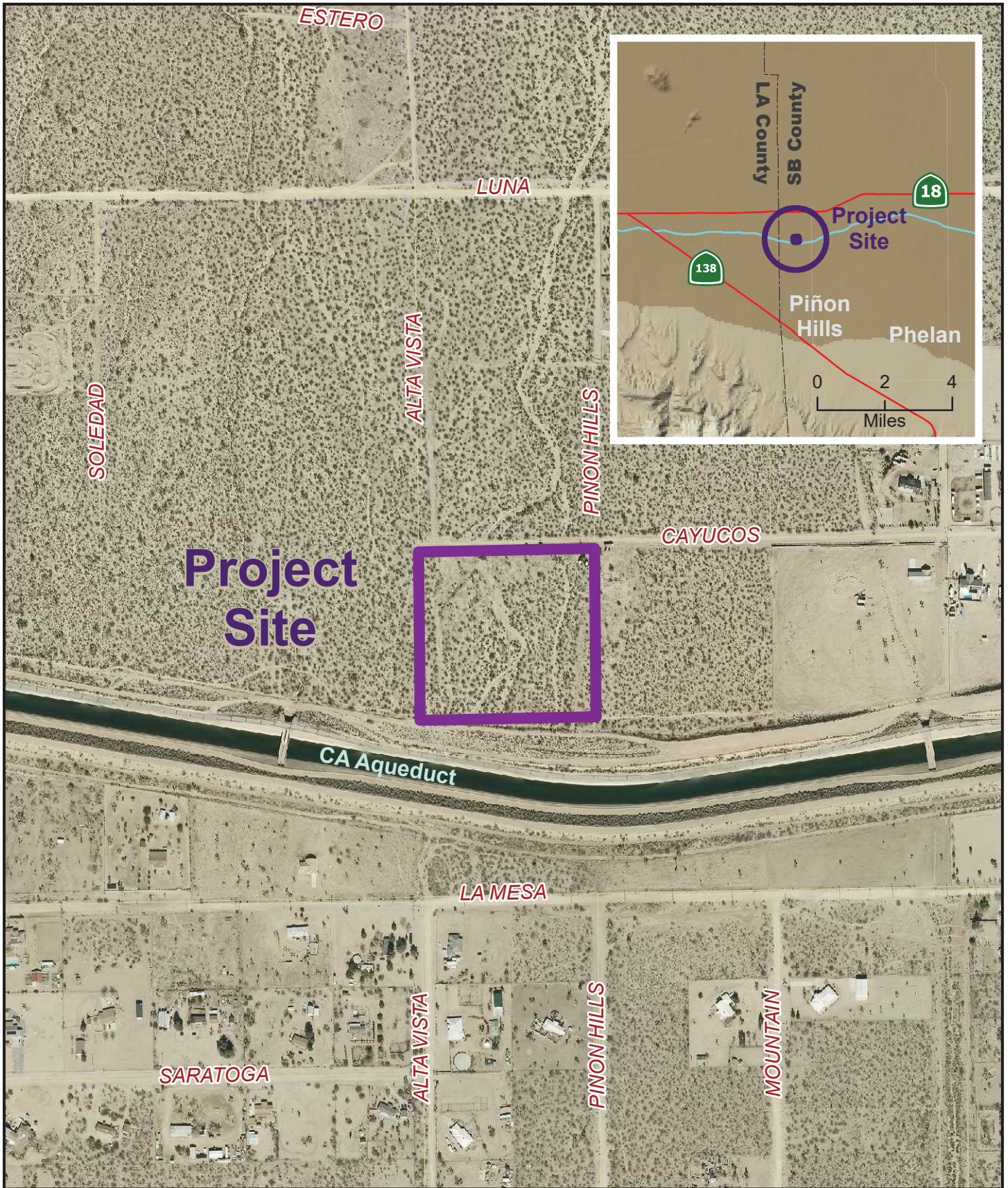
Project Figures



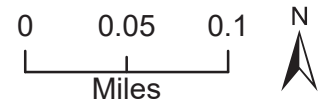
Generalized Location of the Mojave Water Agency



**Figure 1**



# Oeste Permanent Recharge Site Phelan / Piñon Hills, CA

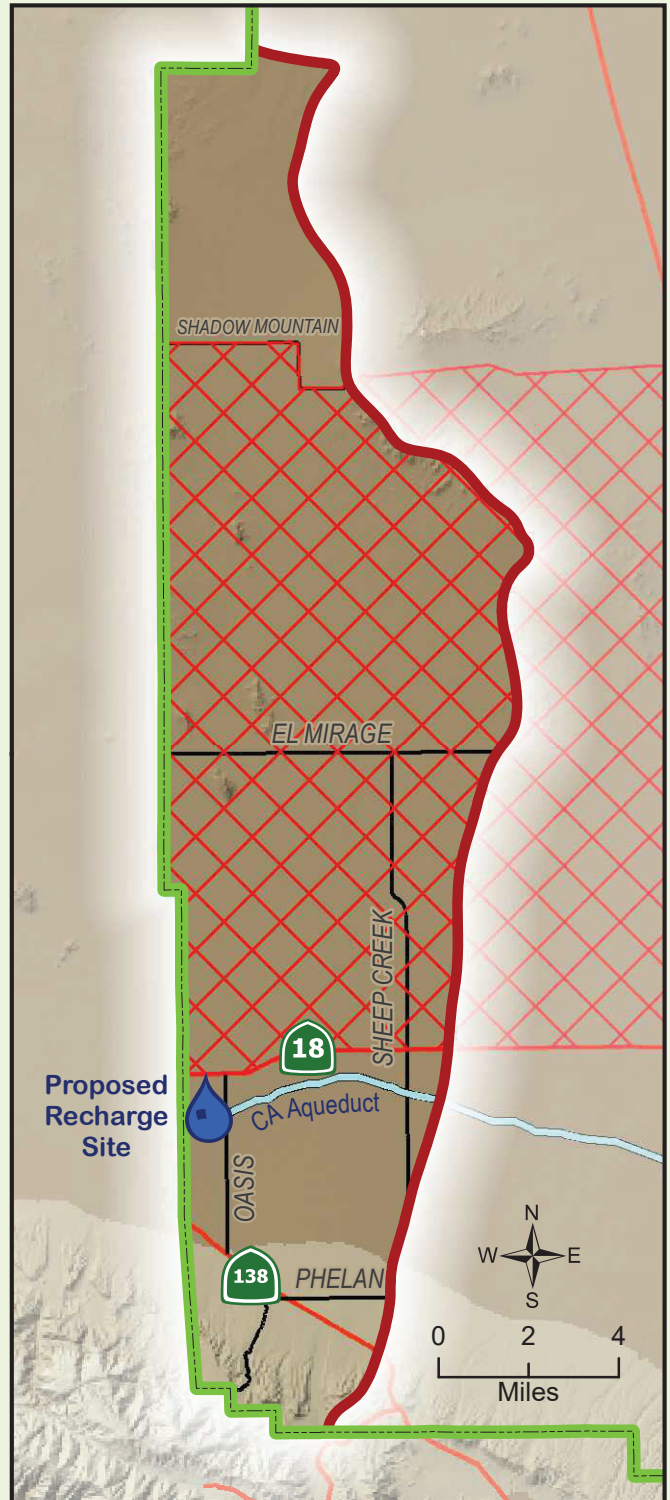
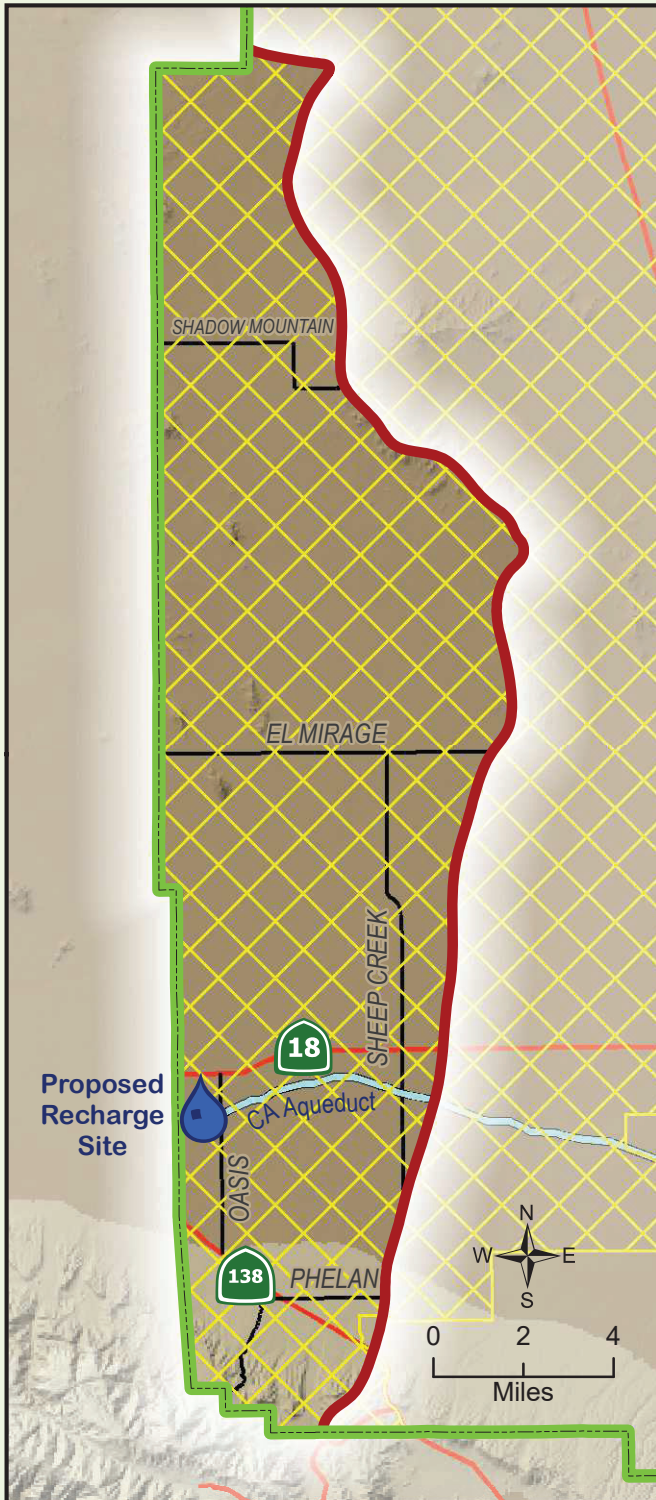


**Figure 2**

Figure 3

**DAC by All Criteria (ACS 2016-20)**  
**MHI <= \$62,938**

**SDAC by All Criteria (ACS 2016-20)**  
**MHI <= \$47,203**

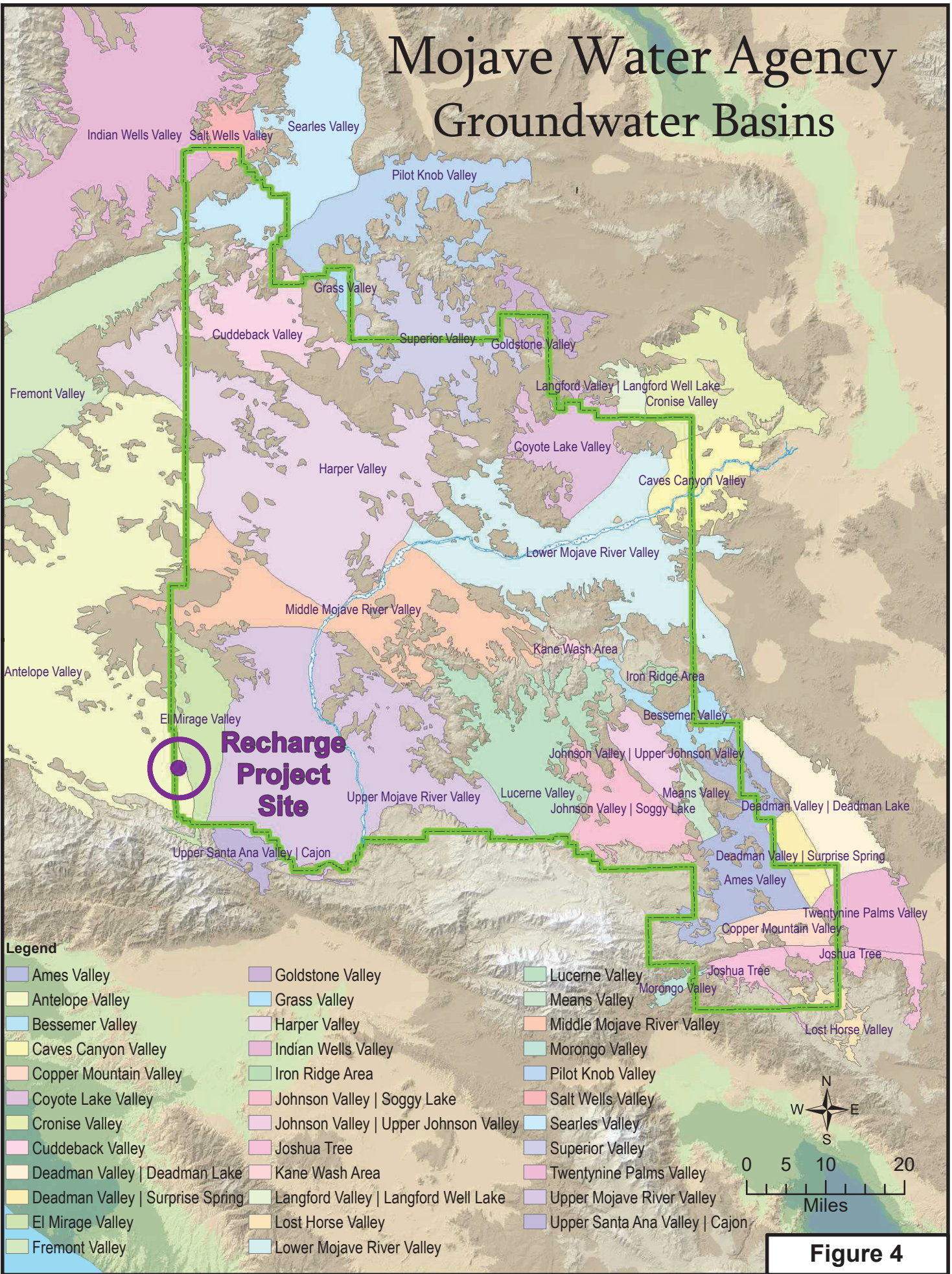


Oeste Subarea	Area Sq/Mi	Percentage
	164.1	100.0%
DAC 2020	163.8	99.8%
SDAC 2020	113.9	69.4%

**Median Household Income data source**  
<https://data.census.gov/all?q=2020%20Median%20Household%20Income&q=040XX00US06>

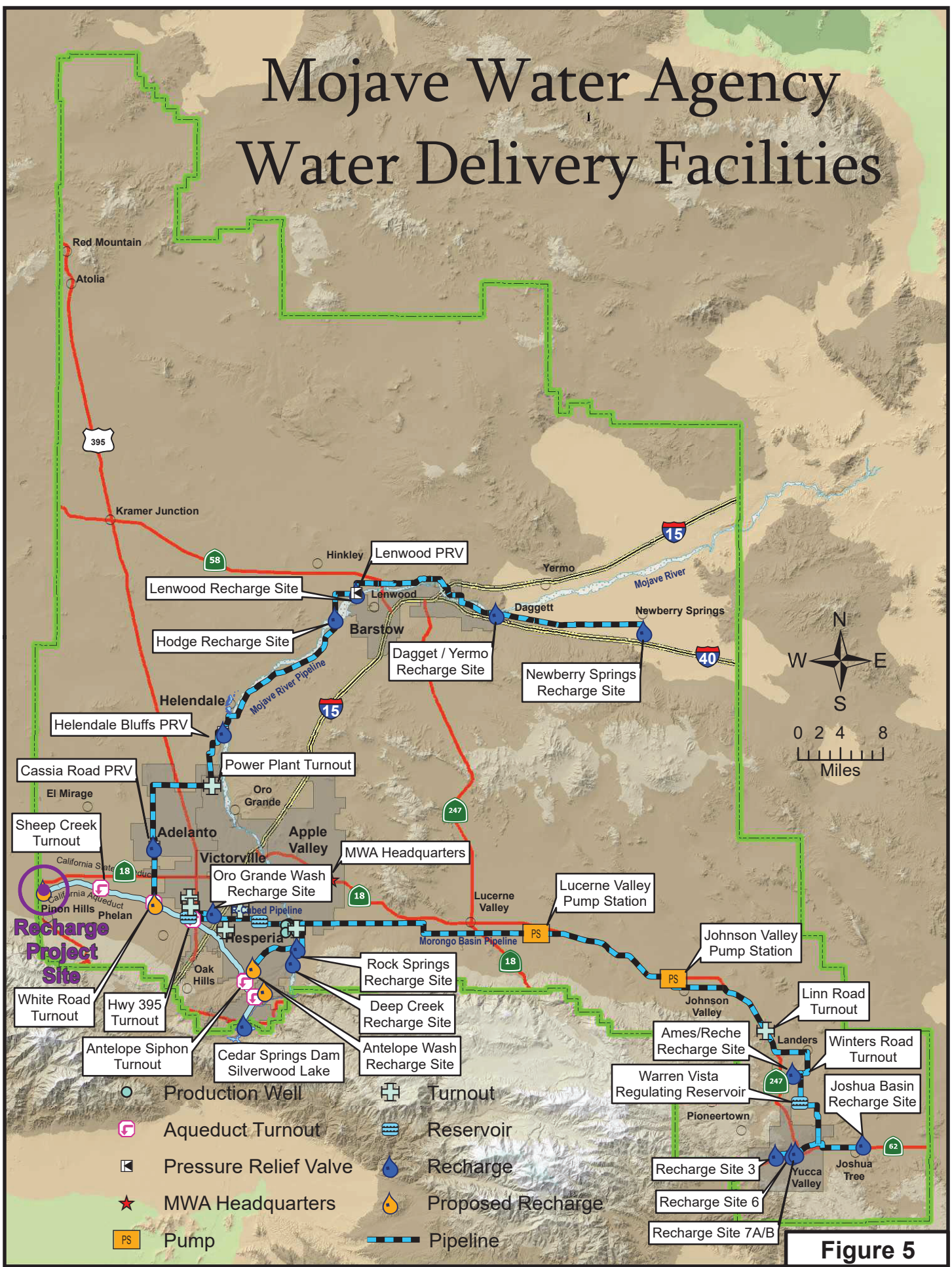
**Methodology**  
 Any qualifying areas of the three available Census geographies (Census Places, Tracts, Block Groups) are combined in to one coverage of DAC or SDAC

# Mojave Water Agency Groundwater Basins



**Figure 4**

# Mojave Water Agency Water Delivery Facilities



**Recharge Project Site**

**Figure 5**