

22 May 2024

Hi-Desert Water District

## WaterSMART: Planning and Project Design Grant

### Task B: Project Design

### Funding for Fiscal Year 2024



Prepared for: United States Bureau of Reclamation

Prepared by: Hi-Desert Water District



WaterSMART: Planning and Project Design Grant

Task B: Project Design Grant

Funding for Fiscal Year 2024

Hi-Desert Water District Drought Resiliency and Recycling Program

Phase I: Reclaimed Waterline Project

Technical Proposal

(BOR-R23AS00109)

Prepared for:

United States Bureau of Reclamation

Prepared by:

Hi-Desert Water District

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# Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

## Chapter 1 Executive Summary

### Application Information

**Date:** May 22, 2024

**Applicant Name:** Hi-Desert Water District

**City, County, State:** Town of Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County, California

The Hi-Desert Water District (HDWD or District) is applying to the WaterSMART Planning and Project Design Grants Task B: Project Design Grant to secure \$400,000 in funds for the final design of the HDWD Drought Resiliency and Recycling Program Phase I: Reclaimed Waterline Project (Project). The District is a Category A Applicant as a water district within the State of California that has water delivery authority within a designated service area.

### Project Summary

HDWD provides water and wastewater services to more than 11,000 active residential, municipal, and commercial connections within the Town of Yucca Valley (Town) and unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County (County). The District has developed the Drought Resiliency and Recycling Program to effectively utilize treated effluent from the HDWD Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) and strengthen local water resources. The Program has two phases, the first implements a reclaimed waterline for irrigation, and the second develops a groundwater replenishment and reuse project (GRRP) to augment groundwater supply with indirect potable reuse. The District is pursuing \$400,000 in federal funds through the WaterSMART program to complete a detailed final design for the first phase of the program, the Reclaimed Waterline Project (Project). This Project will construct backbone recycled water (purple pipe) infrastructure throughout the District service area to provide Town properties with sustainable irrigation supply. The Project is partnering with the Town and local businesses within the community as they continue to identify potential recycled water customers within the service area. The benefit of the Project will be to introduce a drought resistant irrigation supply within a disadvantaged community in order to improve climate sustainability and reduce reliance on imported water supply.

## **Project Timeline**

The Project began in March 2023 with the execution of a design contract with a consultant to begin the Preliminary Design Report, which was submitted in February 2024. Permitting and final design tasks are anticipated to take 18 months and will be performed within the 3-year funding period of the WaterSMART Project Design Grant opportunity. The Project is estimated to be complete in July of 2026

## **Federal Facility or Land**

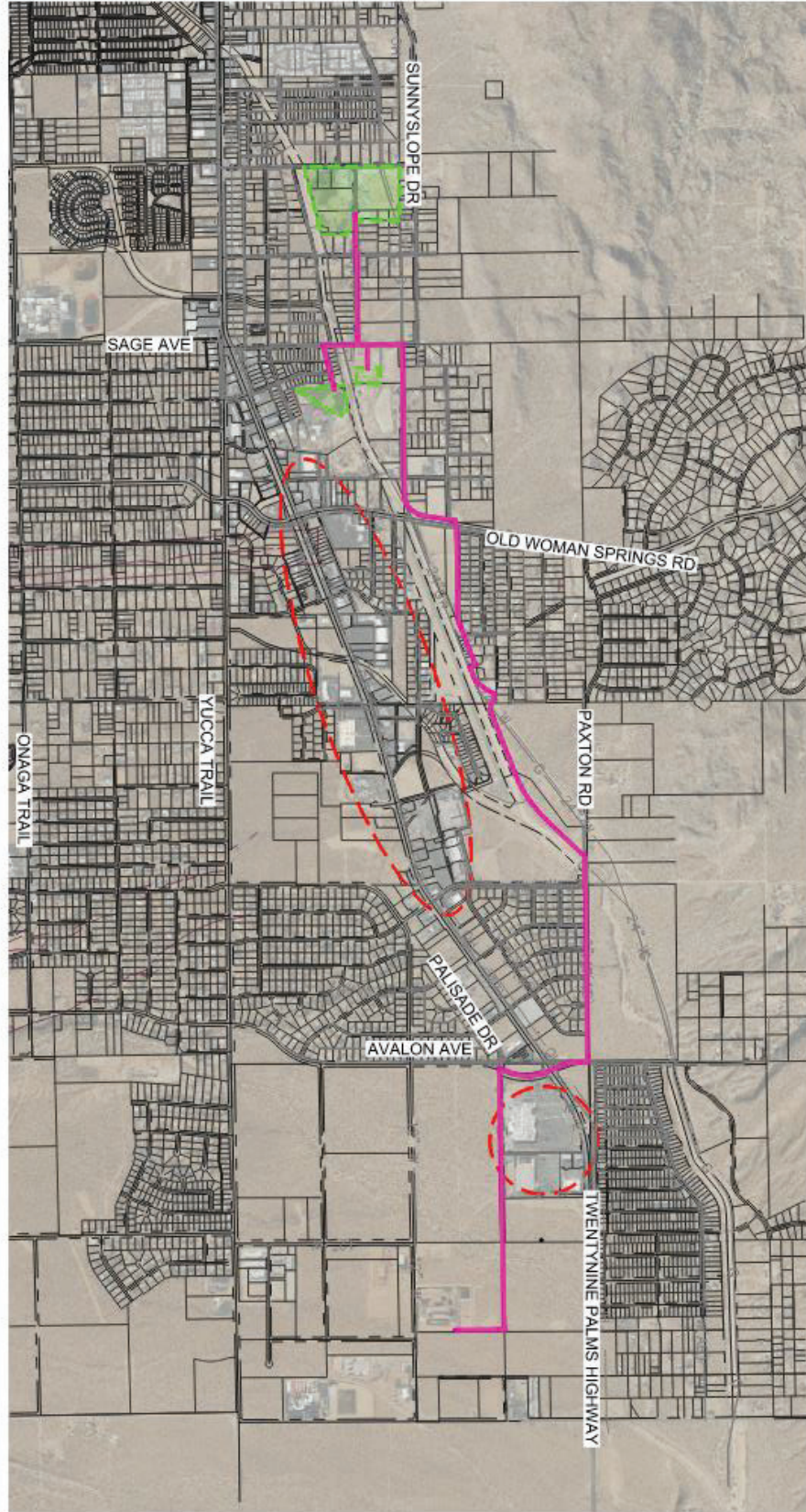
The proposed planning efforts for the Project are not located on or within a Federal Facility and do not involve Federal Land.

## **Chapter 2 Project Location**

The Project includes the treatment of the District's WRF effluent to California Title 22 requirements and the conveyance of recycled water for beneficial reuse to the Town's recreational facilities, replacing potable water irrigation demands. The WRF is located at 58950 Sunnyslope Drive in Yucca Valley, California (Latitude: 34° 7' 43.716", Longitude: 116° 22' 31.4688"). Facilities are located approximately three miles to the west. Figure 2-1 illustrates the proposed alignment, recycled water use areas, and potential recycled water commercial customers.



FIGURE 3-1:  
 ALIGNMENT EXHIBIT



## Chapter 3 Technical Project Description

**Applicant Category:** A

### Eligibility of Applicant

HDWD provides water and wastewater connections to approximately 11,000 and 4,000 connections, respectively within a 57-square mile service area encompassing the Town and unincorporated areas of the County. The District has developed a septic to sewer conversion program and construction is complete on the first phase of the centralized sewer system and WRF. The District is currently in the procurement stage of a Progressive Design Build Contract for Phase II & III of the centralized sewer system. Additionally, the District incorporates the objectives of the Build America Buy America Act throughout the planning, design, and construction of infrastructure improvement projects.

### Project Description

This Project proposes the construction of backbone recycled water (purple pipe) infrastructure throughout the District service area to provide Town properties with sustainable recycled water supply. The Project will offload potable water demands for irrigation and therefore make additional potable water available for domestic use. Project components include a new recycled pump station and an approximately 3.9-mile, 8-inch diameter Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) reclaimed waterline to convey the recycled water to District customers. Recycled water supply will be sourced from the WRF at the Plant Water Pump Station's Plant Water Tank. This recycled water supply will be conveyed to the new recycled water pump station to the east of existing WRF infrastructure. The new recycled water pump station will consist of three pumps, a hydropneumatic tank, piping, and associated appurtenances.

The Project aims to immediately replace up to 140,000 gallons per day (GPD) of potable water irrigation demand during peak season, and with future connections anticipated, the Project has the potential to replace up to 160,000 GPD. The Project will make a lasting positive impact by providing drought-resistant irrigation supply to core facilities within a disadvantaged community. The benefit will be obtained by replacing potable water irrigation demands with recycled water. An additional benefit will be reducing the District's reliance on supply from the California State Water Project (SWP), which makes up approximately 90-percent of the District's water supply. Due to the interconnection between State, regional, and local water resources, improving local water supply within the District will also strengthen water availability throughout the Colorado River Basin.

## Chapter 4 Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

### Evaluation Criterion A: Project Benefits (35 Points)

- **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. This could include threats from drought conditions, climate change vulnerabilities, changes to stream conditions or water quality, significant water shortages, or other threats to the environment or watershed health. Your response should include:**
  - **Information regarding past, current, and projected threats to water supplies, water quality (including surface or ground water), or river-based ecosystem or watershed health.**
  - **Documentation supporting your response (e.g., the [Drought Monitor](#), referenced statistical data, excerpts from or citations to relevant studies or analyses, local climate change data, etc.).**

#### Response:

HDWD has experienced threats to the groundwater basins that provide domestic water supply to the District. Beginning in the 1950s, extractions began to exceed available storage within the Warren Valley Basin, the primary groundwater resource in the region. The Warren Valley Judgment was developed in 1977 in which the District was appointed as Watermaster to develop solutions to mitigate overdraft. To meet service area demand, the District collaborated with the Mohave Water Agency (MWA) to develop the [Integrated Regional Water Management Plan](#), which ultimately required imported water deliveries to maintain sufficient groundwater storage. Additional supply from the adjacent Ames Valley Basin is also regulated under an agreement between the District and Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency (BDVWA).

The District has also addressed threats to groundwater water quality posed by septic systems operating within the service area. In 2011, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board passed Resolution No. [R7-2011-0004](#) to prohibit septic discharge in parts of Yucca Valley. In response, the District has developed a septic to sewer conversion program, and construction is complete on the first phase of the centralized sewer system and WRF. The District is currently in the procurement stage of a Progressive Design Build Contract for Phase II & III of the centralized sewer system.

The District is located in the High Desert of San Bernadino County, a climate that is more extreme than adjacent lowland areas of Southern California. Consequently, the region is more susceptible to drought conditions and climate change vulnerabilities. Per PRISM Climate Group Data, the arid climate conditions of Yucca Valley provides limited precipitation, with a 30-year annual average rainfall of approximately 5.5 inches, and an average evaporation (ETo) of approximately 67.8 inches due to extreme temperature changes and a relatively short wet season. The result of these conditions is inadequate natural recharge into local groundwater basins to meet domestic water

demands. With approximately 90% reliance on imported water from the State Water Project (SWP), the District could also be seriously impacted by any effects of climate change that impact water flows from Sierra Nevada snowpack, the primary natural supply to upstream reservoirs serving the SWP. Additionally, failure to SWP infrastructure due to aging or natural disasters would pose a threat to water accessibility for the District.

The SWP prepared a [Final Delivery Capability Report](#) to address the reliability of the SWP during more intense flood and drought cycles predicted to occur as a result of climate change results. Additionally, the District has worked with the Mohave Water Agency (MWA), the primary contract importer through the SWP, to outline contingencies in the event of an imported water shortage, including deepened reliance on local groundwater, reduced groundwater pumping, and water shortage response procedures.

- ***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? Specific water uses or sectors could include agriculture, municipal water supplies (i.e., drinking water, public health and safety, etc.), hydropower or energy production, the environment, or watershed health (i.e., aquatic and riparian ecosystems, species, and habitat reliant on water supplies), Tribal ceremonial, commercial, recreational, or subsistence or fishing, tourism, river-based recreation, forestry, energy or threats to infrastructure or other sectors or water uses. Your response should include:***
  - ***Information about the specific impacts to water uses or sectors resulting from supply reliability issues within the project area. Only address impacts to those specific water uses or sectors that are relevant to your project area.***
  - ***Provide supporting documentation for your response. For example, you could include support for economic impacts to specific sectors, support quantifying water shortfalls to specific sectors, data and statistics regarding fish populations, ecosystem or watershed health, fishing or recreation, records of water quality issues, excerpts or citations to studies or analyses, etc. If your project will address a specific water supply shortfall, please provide support and documentation of the specific shortfall to be addressed by your project.***

Response:

The geographic area serviced by the District has a reliable water supply in normal, single dry, and five consecutive dry year events through 2045, however, the District has developed a [Water Shortage Contingency Plan](#) (WSCP) to identify procedures in the event of future droughts, regulatory actions, and unforeseen infrastructure failures. Any water conservation efforts put forward by threats to groundwater supply will specifically impact the District's available domestic water supply for drinking water and irrigation. The District has developed six standard water shortage stages and triggers as part of the WSCP, including:

- Stage 1 "Water Alert" (up to 10-percent shortage)

- Stage 2 “Moderate Water Shortage” (11 to 20-percent shortage)
- Stage 3 “Severe Water Shortage” (21 to 30-percent shortage)
- Stage 4 “Critical Water Shortage” (31 to 40-percent shortage)
- Stage 5 “Water Shortage Crisis” (41 to 50-percent shortage)
- Stage 6 “Emergency Water Shortage” (greater than 50-percent shortage)

Each water shortage stage requires progressively stringent water conservation requirements. Water supply shortages would threaten local groundwater storage and specifically impact the District’s available domestic water supply for drinking water and irrigation. For example, under a Stage 6 water shortage event, water use would only be permitted for human health and safety purposes and customer baseline water use will be monitored and enforced in an effort to achieve greater than 50-percent reduction in use throughout the District service area.

HDWD is committed to providing an adequate supply of safe drinking water to their community, and established water management programs like the [2020 Urban Water Management Plan](#) allow the District to set water use objectives, plan for growth within the community, and further develop a climate resilient water system. The District achieved their 2020 water use target of 128 gallons per capita per day (GPCD), and has already met the 2030 water use target of 42 GPCD. The Reclaimed Waterline Project and future reuse projects outlined in the District’s Drought Resiliency and Recycling Program will provide further benefits to the District’s ongoing water conservation efforts.

- ***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? Your response should include:***
  - ***Information about the benefits that you expect to result from your planning or design effort and the projects you are planning or designing, to the extent known. Only address the benefits that are applicable to your project***
  - ***Which sectors or water uses will benefit from your planning or design effort – and the projects you are planning or designing - and how? For example, how will your project help attain any of the following: reduce the likelihood of conflicts over water; increase resiliency to drought and climate change; sustain agricultural communities; support instream flows for species, recreation, or water quality objectives; improve the condition of rivers, streams and other water bodies for environmental values; improve reliability of drinking water; result in an action plan to improve water management; or lead to modernized water delivery infrastructure?***
  - ***Provide supporting documentation for your response, including referenced statistical data, excerpts or citations from studies or analyses regarding the results of similar projects, or other references.***

Response:

The Reclaimed Waterline Project (Project), outlined as Phase I in the District's Drought Resiliency and Recycling Program, will address threats to potable water supply by utilizing effluent treated to Title 22 Recycled Water Quality Standards as a drought resistant irrigation resource. The Project will decrease District reliance on imported water and aid climate adaptation by preserving local ground water storage. In the event of a water shortage, mandatory water conservation measures would limit access to potable water supply for irrigation. However, there are no conservation restrictions on irrigation using recycled water. Treated effluent is a sustainable irrigation supply because it is sourced from wastewater generated within the sewer collection system, and the WRF has sufficient capacity to supply municipal and commercial facilities throughout Yucca Valley.

The Project will benefit the District service area by providing up to 160,000 GPD of recycled water to irrigation customers per the Preliminary Design Report, which will directly offset the District's potable water demand and water importing needs from the SWP. Additionally, the Project will benefit the local aquifers by spreading reclaimed water at irrigation use areas located throughout the Warren Valley Basin region. This will improve the current condition, where groundwater storage accumulates in the isolated eastern regions of the basin near the District WRF. The District also sees a potential for future growth of the backbone recycled water infrastructure proposed in the Project once all connections are installed in the sewer collection system. The Project intends to increase resiliency to drought and climate change, as well as modernize water delivery infrastructure by diversifying water sources available to customers.

- ***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?***
  - ***Provide a detailed description of the community that the project will serve.***
  - ***Describe the need for the new domestic water supply project including any prominent public health and safety concerns, interruptions in supply, or other reasons that the community does not currently have reliable access to domestic water supplies.***
  - ***Explain how the proposed project will increase reliable access to domestic water supplies. Provide a qualitative description of the degree/significance of the benefits associated with the new water supply. Quantify in acre-feet per year the average annual benefit that the new domestic water supply project will provide. How many people is it estimated to serve? How were these estimates calculated (average benefit and population)?***

Response:

HDWD provides water and wastewater services to a population of approximately 25,000 people within the Town of Yucca Valley and unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County. The three

EPA Justice40 tracts that encompass the District service area are all disadvantaged communities, with indicators including Climate Change, Housing, Workforce Development, and Health.

The disadvantaged community which is served by the District is substantially vulnerable to water shortage due to drought or infrastructure failure at any point throughout the SWP conveyance system. The District imports 90% of their water supply from the SWP to recharge their groundwater basins which are particularly susceptible to drought conditions due to the regional climate. Significant drought or a lapse in SWP delivery would greatly impact the potable water availability for the community.

The Project will help maintain a reliable water supply to these communities by introducing water reuse strategies that decrease potable water demand and strengthen local groundwater storage. A climate-resilient water source is a necessary development for the District due to historic drought conditions and limited local water supplies.

The backbone infrastructure will immediately support the irrigation demands from some of the most significant Town irrigation water use areas. Specifically, based on average annual use data for proposed recycled water irrigation users, the Project will provide up to 180 AFY of recycled water supply to facilities that are accessed by nearly 25,000 Town residents. This would directly offset yearly potable demand by approximately 8-percent. Yearly offsets are expected to increase as the reclaimed waterline network is built out from the original backbone to reach more municipal and commercial users. If the District were to continue to purchase the same volume of water, they would be able to retain approximately 180 more acre-feet per year (AFY) as groundwater storage in the Warren Valley Basin. This would result in greater long-term sustainability of local groundwater reserves. Alternatively, the District may choose to reduce the quantity of purchased water, which would provide direct financial benefit to the disadvantaged community through lower water rates and allow for greater potable water availability in other communities reliant on SWP supply.

- ***Does the planning or design effort involve the improvement of nature-based features? If so, please describe.***

Response:

Yes, the Project will provide a sufficient recycled water supply to Town facilities that currently rely on potable water to meet their irrigation demands. All municipal service areas include indigenous plant species within their landscaping that will be sustained by a reliable recycled water watering schedule.

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

Response:

The Project is not under an existing environmental compliance obligation; however, it became an opportunity for the District after implementing a centralized sewer system and WRF in response to the 2011 SWRCB prohibition of septic discharges in the area. The WRF has the treatment capacity to produce tertiary treated effluent that meets water quality objectives for non-potable water reuse.

## **Evaluation Criterion B: Inclusion of Stakeholders, Stakeholder Support, and Previous Planning Efforts (25 Points)**

### **Sub-Criterion B2: Task B - Project Design**

- ***If the project(s) being designed is/are supported by an existing water planning effort, please describe that effort. Planning efforts may include, but are not limited to, water management plans, water conservation plans, system optimization reviews, drought plans, watershed restoration plans, integrated regional water management plans, or other types of plans.***
  - ***Does the referenced plan identify the project being designed as a potential water management action?***
  - ***If identified in a plan, how is the project prioritized in the plan?***
  - ***If not identified in the plan, does the proposed project implement a goal or need identified in the plan?***
  - ***Was the referenced plan developed or updated using a collaborative process with input from multiple and diverse stakeholders?***
  - ***If the referenced plan was not developed collaboratively, please explain why, for e.g., the planning effort was focused on a very small area or concerns internal to the applicant.***

Response:

The Project is the first phase in the District's Drought Resiliency and Recycling Program (Program), which ultimately plans to implement indirect potable reuse into the local groundwater basin through a Groundwater Reuse and Replenishment Project (GRRP).

The Program identifies the Project as a water management action because it introduces a water reuse opportunity that decreases irrigation demand, which currently has a major impact on District water resources. The Project is the first priority for District water reuse projects because it would immediately offset potable water demands, has a preliminary design report prepared, and has a relatively straightforward regulatory path to completion when compared to the GRRP, which will be implemented as phase 2 of the Program.

The District receives valuable input from stakeholders regarding water management and reuse strategies, including the SWRCB, Mohave Water Agency (MWA) which is the wholesale water

retailer for the region, and neighboring water districts that also depend on deliveries from the SWP. The District also worked directly with the Town and commercial businesses to determine potential recycled water use areas.

Additionally, the elements of the Program were developed through a collaborative process between District Staff, members of the HDWD Engineering Committee, and outside consultants. The District also appreciates public input on all capital improvement projects and encourages community members to attend District Engineering Committee and Board of Directors meetings.

The Project will have major impacts to the District's water system operation, and is expected to be referenced on various HDWD planning documents, including the UWMP, Strategic Plan, and Operations Plan.

- ***Describe any planned efforts for public outreach and stakeholder engagement during the design process. This can include, but is not limited to workshops, public meetings, or outreach tools such as using local media, outreach to known stakeholder groups, web-based outreach, social media, or other kinds of announcements, etc.***

Response:

The District will utilize outreach programs to educate and gain support from neighboring agencies, regulatory bodies, and the public served by the District. To introduce the Program to neighboring agencies, the District will host presentations on the Project and invite them to participate in public hearings. The District also expects to present Project water quality objectives to regulatory agencies including the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water (DDW) to gain valuable input and benefit the permitting process. The District appreciates public input on all capital improvement projects, including those proposed in the Program, and encourages the public to attend District Engineering Committee and Board of Directors meetings. The District also plans to implement web-based research to gain input and update the public on progress and important milestones

- ***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.***

Response:

The Project is not a Tribal strategy or plan.

- ***Describe stakeholder support for the proposed project (i.e., the design project and/or the project you are designing). Supporting documentation for this sub-criterion could include letters of support from stakeholders or a description of feedback from interested stakeholders.***

Response:

The District has received letters of support from representatives throughout the State of California, including Congressman Jay Obernolte, Senator Alex Padilla, and Third District Supervisor Dawn Rowe of the County of San Bernardino expressing their support and commitment to the Project. Additionally, the Town of Yucca Valley is actively collaborating with the District on desired service locations.

- ***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.***

Response:

There is no documented opposition to the Project.

### **Evaluation Criterion C: Ability to Meet Program Requirements (20 Points)**

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

Response:

The Project will address the specific requirements for a Project Design Grant by using all funding to deliver a detailed final design to be approved by a professional engineer and utilized as construction documents and specifications. The Project will also actively collaborate with the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) by providing design packages for review at each project milestone.

Funding would support 60-percent, 90-percent, and final plans, specifications, and cost estimates, which exceeds the Bureau requirements for at least 60-percent final design at the completion of their project.

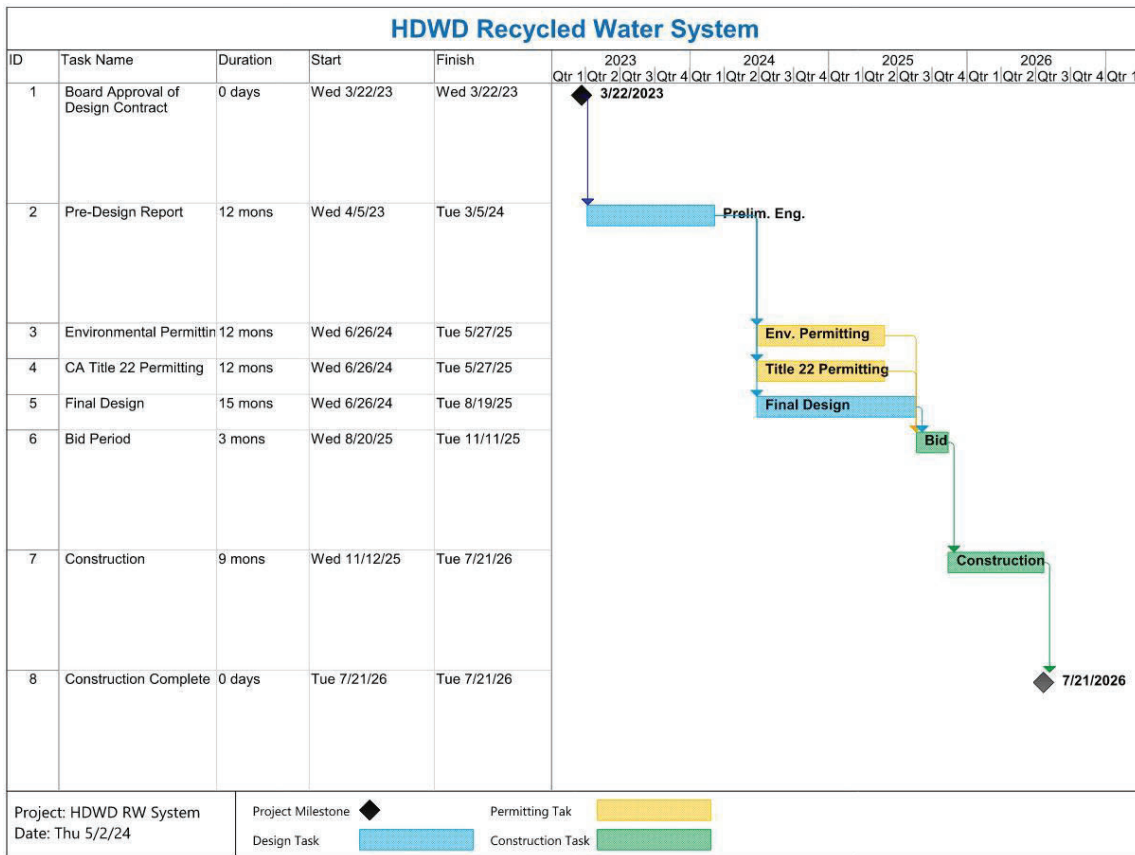
- ***Describe the approach that will be undertaken to meet the applicable program components and requirements.***
  - ***Include a preliminary project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work including major tasks, milestones, and dates. For each task and milestone, indicate who will have the primary responsibility for completion. Proposals that provide a detailed project schedule broken down by tasks and subtasks with identified milestones will be prioritized.***
  - ***Proposals with a budget and budget narrative that provide a reasonable explanation of project costs will be prioritized.***
  - ***If prior planning work will be relied on to meet any of the required program components, please explain and describe the work that will be relied on. For example, if you are applying for a Drought Contingency Plan and already have a water shortage***

**allocation based on drought stages, please describe this and how it will be incorporated into the Drought Contingency Plan.**

Response:

Figure C-1 outlines a preliminary schedule for the project. Following board approval, an engineering consultant was contracted to prepare the pre-design report. The district anticipates to award additional contracts to environmental consultants to complete environmental permitting and engineering consultants to deliver a Title 22 Engineering report and final design plans, specifications, and estimates. HDWD will then procure a contractor to be responsible for the construction of the Project.

Figure C-2 presents a Class III Opinion of Probable Project Cost along with potential variation per the Associate for the Advancement of cost Engineering (AACE). Cost estimates were based on existing Opinions of Costs prepared in the Project’s Preliminary Design Report. Cost estimates were derived from relevant bid data and industry standard unit costs.



**Figure C-1: Preliminary Project Schedule**



| <b>Construction Costs</b>    |  | <b>Quantity</b> | <b>Unit</b> | <b>Unit Price</b> | <b>Subtotal</b>    |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1                            | Hydropneumatic Pump Station              | 1               | LS          | \$500,000         | \$500,000          |
| 2                            | 8" PVC C-900 Recycled Water Main         | 18,500          | LF          | \$240             | \$4,440,000        |
| 3                            | Jack & Bore Crossing                     | 4               | EA          | \$150,000         | \$600,000          |
| 4                            | Blowoff Assemblies                       | 5               | EA          | \$5,000           | \$25,000           |
| 5                            | AVAR Assemblies                          | 5               | EA          | \$5,000           | \$25,000           |
| 6                            | Meter Reconnections                      | 6               | EA          | \$3,000           | \$18,000           |
|                              | District Administration (5%)             |                 |             |                   | \$280,400          |
|                              | Sub-Total                                |                 |             |                   | \$5,888,400        |
|                              | Contingency 20%                          |                 |             |                   | \$1,177,680        |
|                              | <b>Construction Cost Total</b>           |                 |             |                   | <b>\$7,066,080</b> |
| <b>Pre-Construction</b>      |  |                 |             |                   |                    |
|                              | Consultant Engineering Services          |                 |             |                   |                    |
|                              | Pre-Design                               |                 |             |                   |                    |
|                              | Engineering                              |                 |             |                   | \$99,580           |
|                              | Environmental                            |                 |             |                   | \$120,000          |
|                              | Title 22 Report                          |                 |             |                   | \$150,000          |
|                              | Title 22 Permitting                      |                 |             |                   | \$50,000           |
|                              | Detailed Design                          |                 |             |                   | \$329,890          |
|                              | Engineering Services during Construction |                 |             |                   | \$45,070           |
|                              | District Administration (5%)             |                 |             |                   | \$39,727           |
|                              | Sub-Total                                |                 |             |                   | \$834,267          |
|                              | Contingency 10%                          |                 |             |                   | \$83,427           |
|                              | <b>Pre-Construction Total</b>            |                 |             |                   | <b>\$917,694</b>   |
| <b>Estimated Grand Total</b> |  |                 |             |                   | <b>\$7,983,774</b> |

|   |     |        |              |
|---|-----|--------|--------------|
| Class III Cost Estimate Potential Variation | MIN | (-20%) | \$6,400,000  |
|   | MAX | (+30%) | \$10,400,000 |

**Abbreviations**

|    |            |     |                      |
|----|------------|-----|----------------------|
| CY | Cubic Yard | LF  | Linear Foot          |
| EA | Each       | SF  | Square Foot          |
| LS | Lump Sum   | VLF | Vertical Linear Foot |

**Figure C-2: Reclaimed Waterline Project Class III Opinion of Probable Project Costs**

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

Response:

Data has been compiled from the District's WRF and meter data and was used throughout the preliminary design project to gauge recycled water supply potential and sizing requirements for proposed infrastructure. The District maintains organized as-built and GIS data that will benefit the design process as well.

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

Response:

District personnel that will be integral to project design and implementation include the following:

- Paul Peschel – General Manager
  - 3 years as District General Manager
  - 37 years of experience in water district management
- Tony Culver – Assistant General Manager (Operations)
  - 30 years of experience with HDWD
  - D-4 Distribution Certificate
  - T-2 Treatment Certificate
  - General Engineering License A
- Matt Mayo – Chief Plant Operator
  - 13 years of experience with HDWD
  - T-4 Treatment Certificate
- Ron Wortham – Director of District Services
  - 29 years of experience with HDWD
  - 2 years as Director of District Services
  - D-5 Distribution Certificate
  - T-2 Treatment Certificate
  - Cross Connection Specialist
- Jennifer Cusack – Director of Public and Government Affairs
  - Leads all public outreach and coordination with government stakeholders
  - 2 years as Director of Public and Government Affairs
  - 15 years of experience in government affairs

Additionally, the District contracts with consultant to develop the design for the Project, perform necessary studies and to prepare all necessary environmental and Title 22 documentation to permit the project.

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

Response:

The Project will require the District to prepare a Title 22 Engineering Report in order to amend their existing Waste Discharge Permit to meet Recycled Water Criteria for operating a recycled water irrigation system. Once the report is prepared, the District expects to implement new rules and regulations at the existing WRF and at recycled water use areas. Specific development of these rules and regulations will be a concurrent effort with the final design and Title 22 permitting efforts.

## **Evaluation Criterion D: Presidential and Department of Interior Priorities (15 Points)**

### **Sub-Criterion D1: Climate Change**

- ***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. For additional information on the impacts of climate change throughout the western United States, see: [www.usbr.gov/climate/secure/docs/2021secure/2021SECUREReport.pdf](http://www.usbr.gov/climate/secure/docs/2021secure/2021SECUREReport.pdf). Please describe how the project will address climate change, including the following:***
  - ***Please provide specific details and examples on how the project will address the impacts of climate change and help combat the climate crisis.***
  - ***Does this proposed project strengthen water supply sustainability to increase resilience to climate change? Does the proposed project contribute to climate change resiliency in other ways not described above?***

Response:

The Project will address the impacts of climate change by decreasing the energy consumption associated with imported water deliveries to the District from the State Water Project (SWP). Although the SWP has one of the cleanest energy portfolios of State water resources projects, with approximately 50-percent of energy produced by emission-free hydroelectric power, it still relies on significant grid electricity for operation. Grid electricity in California is produced by a variety of renewable energy and non-renewable fuel sources, both of which produce varying amounts of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) that intensify the rate of climate change. GHG Emission Factors are typically expressed in pounds of carbon dioxide equivalent (lbs CO<sub>2</sub>e) per Kilowatt hour (Kwh) of energy. Additionally, the SWP has detailed the energy intensity required to serve specific water districts, in units of Kwh per Acre-Foot (AF) of water imported. As one of the water districts furthest downstream of SWP source waters, conveyance to the District requires significant energy input at approximately 4326 Kwh per AF.

The Project aims to directly offset the amount of imported water from the SWP with each unit of recycled water produced. If all potential customers are to connect to the proposed backbone infrastructure, the District will be able to decrease imported water demand by approximately 180 AF per year (AFY), which decrease overall GHG emissions from the SWP by approximately 220,000 lbs CO<sub>2</sub>e per year.

The Project will strengthen water supply sustainability by producing a non-potable irrigation supply that is drought resistant. Recycled water supply will only be dependent on wastewater generation, which is expected to increase as the District’s sewer collection system expands.

**Sub-Criterion D2: Disadvantaged and Underserved Communities**

- ***E.O. 14008 and E.O. 13985 affirm the advancement of environmental justice and equity for all through the development and funding of programs to invest in disadvantaged or underserved communities. For the purpose of this criterion, Tribes and insular areas (Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands) are considered disadvantaged.***
  - ***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.***
  - ***If applicable, describe how the project benefits those disadvantaged or underserved communities identified using the tool. For example, does the project increase reliability of water supplies, improve water quality, provide economic growth opportunities, improve or expand public access to natural areas or recreation, or provide other benefits in a disadvantaged or underserved community?***

The District would provide beneficial services to three census tracts that are all identified as disadvantaged based on the White House Council on Environmental Quality’s interactive Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. Table D-1 outlines the census tracts and their associated burden thresholds.

**Table D-1: Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool Results**

| <b>Census Tract</b> | <b>Burden Threshold(s)</b>                     |
|---------------------|--|
| 06071010411         | Climate Change, Health, Workforce Development  |
| 06071010413         | Climate Change, Housing, Workforce Development |
| 06071010412         | Surrounded by Disadvantaged Tracts, Low Income |

A benefit to the disadvantaged communities served by the Project would be dramatic improvements to climate change resilience. The drought resistant non potable water supply made available to the community would supplement public landscaping and recreation facility irrigation demands in the event of a drought-induced water supply shortage. The strengthening

of local groundwater storage as a result of decreased potable demand and recycled water infiltration will improve long term water access for these communities. An additional benefit includes water rate reductions due to a decrease in SWP deliveries, which will directly improve economic conditions for disadvantaged communities.

### **Sub-Criterion D3: Tribal Benefits**

- ***Points will be awarded based on the extent to which the Project will honor the Federal government's commitments to Tribal Nations. The Department of the Interior is committed to strengthening Tribal sovereignty and the fulfillment of Federal Tribal trust responsibilities. The President's memorandum, "Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation- to-Nation Relationships," asserts the importance of honoring the Federal government's commitments to Tribal Nations.***
  - ***Does the proposed project directly serve and/or benefit a Tribe? Will the project improve water management for a Tribe?***
  - ***Does the proposed project support Tribal resilience to climate change and drought impacts or provide other Tribal benefits such as improved public health and safety by addressing water quality, new water supplies, or economic growth opportunities?***
  - ***Does the proposed project support Reclamation's Tribal trust responsibilities or a Reclamation activity with a Tribe?***

The Project does not directly serve and/or benefit a Tribe.

### **Evaluation Criterion E: Nexus to Reclamation (5 Points)**

- ***Up to 5 points may be awarded based on the extent that the proposal demonstrates a nexus between the proposed project and a Reclamation project, activity, and priority. Describe this nexus:***
  - ***Is there a Reclamation project, facility, or activity within the planning area?***
  - ***Is the planning area in the same basin as a Reclamation project, facility, or activity?***
  - ***In what way will the proposed project benefit a basin where a Reclamation project, facility, or activity is located? For example, will the project improve watershed health in a river basin that is adversely impacted by a Reclamation water project?***
  - ***Does the applicant have a water service, repayment, or O&M contract with Reclamation?***
  - ***If the applicant does not hold a type of contract named above, does the applicant receive Reclamation water through a Reclamation contractor or by any other contractual means?***

#### **Response:**

There is no Reclamation Project within the Project's planning area, however the Project is within the Lower Colorado River Basin as defined by the Bureau of Reclamation. Reclamation projects in Southern California that are nearby to the Project include the Coachella Canal Unit and All-

American Canal. Due to the interconnection of State, Federal, and regional water resources infrastructure in the Colorado River Basin, decreased reliance on imported water as a result of the Project will relieve pressure on Reclamation Project infrastructure in the region.

The District does not receive Reclamation water, rather purchased water from Mohave Water Agency (MWA), a regional wholesale water distributor that receives supply from the SWP.

# Chapter 5 Project Budget

## Funding Plan

The total project cost is estimated at \$7,983,774 with a Construction Cost estimated at \$7,066,080 and Pre-construction, Planning, and Design estimated to be \$917,694. Pre-construction, Planning, and Design Costs include; Preliminary Design, Final Design, Title 22 Report, Title 22 Permitting, District Administration, and Contingencies. The District is requesting \$400,000 to progress the Preliminary Design process and complete Final Design Plans, Specifications, and Estimates.

The non-Federal cost share will be funded by the District monetarily and supported by the water revenues and capital improvement budget. The District is actively pursuing additional funding sources for the Project as funding opportunities become available.

## Budget Proposal

The District is requesting that the Bureau fund \$400,000 to fund the Pre-Design and Detailed Design Activities of the Project. Tables 5-1 presents a Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources for Project Design.

**Table 5-1: Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources for Pre-Construction Costs**

| Funding Sources               | Amount    |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Non-Federal entities          |           |
| 1. District Water Funds       | \$517,694 |
| Non-Federal Subtotal          | \$517,694 |
| REQUESTED Reclamation funding | \$400,000 |

## Budget Narrative

The District has developed a preliminary Opinion of Probable Project Cost identified in Figure C-2. The Project Costs seeking funding are for an Engineering Consultant for Preliminary and Final Design Plans, Specifications, and Cost Estimates. Due to the nature of the project addressing domestic water supply access within the service area, the District is requesting a 100% Federal Cost Share. Justification for this request is located in Appendix C.

## Chapter 6 Environmental and Cultural Resource Compliance

*Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)? Briefly describe all earth-disturbing work and any work that will affect the air, water, or animal habitat in the project area. Also explain the impacts of such work on the surrounding environment and any steps that could be taken to minimize the impacts.*

- *Are you aware of any species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat in the project area? If so, would they be affected by any activities associated with the proposed project?*

Response:

A biological resource assessment (BRA) was performed for Phase II and III of the District's Septic to Sewer project, which encompasses the same project area as the proposed Project. Results suggested the potential of Federally listed sensitive species, including the Burrowing Owl, Le Conte's Thrasher, Desert Tortoise, Latimer's Woodland-Gila, San Bernardino Milk-Vetch, Little San Bernardino Mountains Linanthus, and Robinson's Monardella, to exist within the project area. The Project will follow all necessary environmental permitting procedures to identify appropriate mitigation measures for construction.

- *Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as "Waters of the United States"? If so, describe and estimate any impacts the proposed project may have.*

Response:

According to the BRA, the Project area is within a region that is a closed system hydrologically with no significant connections to traditionally navigable water. Therefore, no proposed Project locations meet the definition of a Federally listed "Water of the United States."

- *When was the water delivery system constructed?*

Response:

HDWD began the construction of their water delivery system in 1962. Additionally, the Morongo Basin Pipeline, which delivers water to HDWD as part of the SWP was constructed in 1994. The District established a Capital Replacement Program in 1997 to have District personnel replace the District's aging pipeline. Old steel lines, that are often undersized are replaced with larger pipes. The benefit is better water quality, better fire flow protection, less leaks, and improved service reliability. For more information please visit the Program website [here](#).

- ***Will the proposed project result in any modification of, or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)? If so, state when those features were constructed and describe the nature and timing of any extensive alterations or modifications to those features completed previously.***

Response:

The Project will not directly modify any irrigation systems. However, the Project will design an alternate irrigation supply source to connect to Town of Yucca Valley owned and operated facilities to supply drought resistant irrigation supply.

- ***Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? A cultural resources specialist at your local Reclamation office or the State Historic Preservation Office can assist in answering this question.***

Response:

There are no features that will be altered listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

- ***Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area?***

Response:

There are no known archeological sites in the proposed project area. The proposed project will utilize similar roadway corridors as the District's completed Phase I Septic to Sewer Project in which a Cultural Resources Report (CRR) was prepared and no discoveries were made. Cultural Resources will be analyzed in detail in the project specific Initial Study/Environmental Assessment.

- ***Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?***

Response:

The Project will have no adverse impacts to low income or minority populations.

- ***Will the proposed project limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on Tribal lands?***

Response:

There will be no impacts to Tribal lands, nor limited access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites.

- ***Will the proposed project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area?***

Response:

The Project will not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or invasive species within the project area.

## Chapter 7 Required Permits and Approvals

The following permits will need to be obtained prior to construction of the Project

- Caltrans and County of San Bernardino Encroachment Permits for recycled water conveyance pipelines that cross State and County maintained roadways.
- A Mitigated Negative Declaration based on environmental and cultural resource assessments compliant with NEPA and CEQA regulations.
- A permit to distribute and utilize California Title 22 recycled water standards through the Division of Drinking Water.
- A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) with Notice of Intent (NOI) for linear construction required under the State Construction General Permit (CGP).

## Chapter 8 Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

There is no overlap between the proposed project and any other active or anticipated proposals or projects in terms of activities, costs, or commitment of key personnel.

## Chapter 9 Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

There is no actual or potential conflict of interest with the Project. A conflict of interest certification statement will be provided prior to award.

### Applicability

The District, employees and agents take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in all aspects of their responsibilities, including but not limited to Federal financial assistance agreements.

### Notification

The District will disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with 2 CFR §200.112. The District has established internal controls that include, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The District will notify the Financial Assistance Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by subrecipients.

### Review Procedures

The District welcomes the examination of each conflict of interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement by the Financial Assistance Officer. The District will yield to the Financial Assistance Officer determination on whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, comply with the developed

appropriate means for resolving it. The District understands that the failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Government may be cause for termination of the award. The District understands that failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR §200.339, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR Part 180).

## **Chapter 10 Uniform Audit Reporting Statement**

Uniform Audit Reporting Statement for FY 22/23 is provided in Appendix B.

Employer Identification Number (EIN) = 95-2303211

## **Chapter 11 Letters of Support**

At this time, the District has garnered letters of support for the Recycled Water System from the Town of Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County Third District Supervisor Dawn Rowe, and Senator Laphonza Butler. See Appendix A. Letters of support are expected from Senator Alex Padilla and Representative Jay Obernolte, and these will be provided to the Bureau of Reclamation directly.

## **Chapter 12 Official Resolution**

An Official Resolution was approved by the District's Board of Directors on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. A copy of the final Resolution can be sent to the Bureau upon request.

## **Chapter 13 Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)**

The Hi-Desert Water District is registered in SAMs.

The unique entity identifier code is VCFZKKB4AB55



# **Appendix A**

## **Letters of Support**



## County of San Bernardino

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Laphonza Butler  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jay Obernolte  
United States House of Representatives  
1029 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Letter of Support for Hi-Desert Water District's Congressionally Directed Spending / Community Project Funding Request

Dear Senators Butler and Padilla and Representative Obernolte,

As the Third District Supervisor for the County of San Bernardino, I am writing to express my full support for the Hi-Desert Water District Drought Resiliency and Recycling Project, which is proposed for fiscal year 2025. This project is crucial for the community within the Hi-Desert Water District service area, as it will establish a reclaimed waterline to produce non-potable direct reuse and lay the groundwork for a groundwater replenishment and reuse project that would produce indirect potable reuse.

The implementation of this project will not only preserve vital community resources but also strengthen the regional groundwater supply and decrease imported water demand. By utilizing water reuse strategies, the Hi-Desert Water District will be able to establish a sustainable recycled water supply and preserve groundwater storage within the Warren Valley basin, which is the local water source for the service area and greater Morongo Basin region.

The phased approach of the project demonstrates careful planning and consideration for regulatory requirements. Phase I focuses on the construction of a reclaimed waterline and Phase II on the Groundwater Replenishment and Reuse Project. Once completed, the project will have the capacity to replace up to 160,000 gallons per day of potable water irrigation demand during peak seasons, with the potential to further offset potable water demand as the District establishes more sewer connections.

I truly believe that the Hi-Desert Water District Drought Resiliency and Recycling Project is essential for the sustainability and resilience of the local water resources. I fully support the District's efforts to implement water reuse strategies and strengthen the community's water supply.

Thank you for your dedication to this important project and for your commitment to preserving and enhancing the water resources within the Hi-Desert Water District service area. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (909) 387-4855 or at [Supervisor.Rowe@bos.sbcounty.gov](mailto:Supervisor.Rowe@bos.sbcounty.gov).

Sincerely,

Dawn Rowe  
Third District Supervisor  
San Bernardino County

The Honorable Laphonza Butler  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jay Obernolte  
United States House of Representatives  
1029 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

February 22, 2024

**Re: Letter of Support for Hi-Desert Water District's Congressionally Directed Spending / Community Project Funding Request**

Dear Senators Butler and Padilla and Representative Obernolte

I am writing to express my full support for the Hi-Desert Water District Drought Resiliency and Recycling Project, which is proposed for fiscal year 2025. This project is crucial for the community within the Hi-Desert Water District service area, as it will establish a reclaimed waterline to produce non-potable direct reuse and lay the groundwork for a groundwater replenishment and reuse project that would produce indirect potable reuse.

The implementation of this project will not only preserve vital community resources but also strengthen the regional groundwater supply and decrease imported water demand. By utilizing water reuse strategies, the Hi-Desert Water District will be able to establish a sustainable recycled water supply and preserve groundwater storage within the Warren Valley basin, which is the local water source for the service area and greater Morongo Basin region.

The phased approach of the project demonstrates careful planning and consideration for regulatory requirements. Phase I focuses on the construction of a reclaimed waterline and Phase II on the Groundwater Replenishment and Reuse Project. Once completed, the project will have the capacity to replace up to 160,000 gallons per day of potable water irrigation demand during peak seasons, with the potential to further offset potable water demand as the District establishes more sewer connections.



The Town of  
**Yucca Valley**

57090 Twentynine Palms Highway • Yucca Valley, California 92284  
760/369-7207 • Fax (760) 369-0626

The Hi-Desert Water District Drought Resiliency and Recycling Project is essential for the sustainability and resilience of the local water resources. On behalf of the Town of Yucca Valley, I fully support the District's efforts to implement water reuse strategies and strengthen the community's water supply.

Thank you for your dedication to this important project and for your commitment to preserving and enhancing the water resources within the Hi-Desert Water District service area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Curtis Yakimow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "C".

***Town of Yucca Valley***

Curtis Yakimow

Town Manager

# 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 Hi-Desert Water District'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 Hi-Desert Water District is requesting funding for its Drought Resiliency and Recycling Program Phase I: Reclaimed Waterline Project. A special district that provides water and wastewater services to the Town of Yucca Valley, Hi-Desert Water District is located in San Bernardino County near Joshua Tree National Park.

If awarded, this funding would allow Hi-Desert Water District to repurpose treated effluent from their Wastewater Reclamation Facility in order to improve local water resources and reduce reliance on imported water. Specifically, this project would provide a drought-proof irrigation supply to core facilities within a disadvantaged community, allowing more reliable access to water resources for all residents. These enhancements would help to improve water resiliency and sustainability for local residents and the greater High Desert region.

I urge you to give the Hi-Desert Water District'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