

# **COACHELLA VALLEY WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT STUDY**

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**Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Planning and Project Design Grants  
for Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Application  
Funding Opportunity Number R23AS00109**



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**AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS**  
**COACHELLA VALLEY WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT STUDY**  
**TECHNICAL PROPOSAL**

## Section 1: Executive Summary

**Date:** May 21, 2024

**Applicant (Category A):** Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians acting through the Agua Caliente Water Authority

**Project Location:** [Palm Springs](#), California. Riverside County

**Project Summary:**

The objective of the proposed project is to identify and evaluate various local and regional water supplies to supplement the existing water supply portfolio that supports the population and economy of the Coachella Valley in California (the “Project”). The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (the “Tribe”) have ongoing concerns about the long-term health of the groundwater aquifer underlying the Upper Coachella Valley as it represents the primary water resource sustaining economic activity on the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation (the “Reservation”). The health of the aquifer is threatened if water import projects are not sustained. This Project will evaluate the risks that impact these existing water importation activities and compare alternative sources of new water importation supplies, and this Project will result in a strategic plan for the Tribe to implement to analyze the problem and need, identify and compare alternatives for water supply enhancements, and provide a path that results in a resilient water supply for the future not dependent on local water supply alone.

The Tribe sees the proposed Project as a critical step to understanding its future opportunities to enhance the water supply conditions of the Upper Coachella Valley. The Tribe is motivated to start the water planning process to ensure that the Coachella Valley remains a vibrant economy and community, which is achieved by continuing to maintain imported water sources over the long term. The Project is needed so that the Tribe and the local water districts can start to take proactive steps to ensure long-term water supply reliability for the Upper Coachella Valley.

There are no direct partners in the proposed Project, but the Tribe has received letters of support from the Coachella Valley Water District, Desert Water Agency, the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group which represents six water agencies in the Coachella Valley, and the supervisor for Riverside County’s Fourth District. Outreach to these and other stakeholders is an important component of the Project work plan.

**Task Area:** Task A, Water Strategy Grant. New strategy development.

**Project Timeline:** 18 months

**Estimated Completion Date:** April 2027

**Federal Nexus:** Project will directly benefit water supply planning for the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation and other Federal lands within the Coachella Valley.

## Section 2: Background Information

The objective of the proposed Project is to identify and evaluate various local and regional water supplies to supplement the existing water supply portfolio that supports the population and economy of the Coachella Valley in California. The Coachella Valley has been able to grow in large part because of past investments in water supply sources to augment the naturally occurring groundwater in the desert valley. This Project seeks to better understand the water supply options of the future to ensure a robust local economy and to sustain healthy aquifer conditions for the Coachella Valley.

The two predominant water providers in the Coachella Valley are the [Coachella Valley Water District](#) (CVWD) and [Desert Water Agency](#) (DWA). These water agencies have made significant investments in water augmentation systems for the Coachella Valley and are continuing to invest in the future with participation in the proposed [Sites Reservoir](#) project and active efforts to better manage available water supplies. The Tribe believes that additional work needs to be done to identify and evaluate new water supply options for the future benefit of the Coachella Valley. The Reservation directly overlies the valley aquifer and the Tribe is highly susceptible to unsustainable groundwater pumping. Therefore, the Tribe has a keen interest in understanding and planning for new water supply augmentation options for the Coachella Valley to sustain the Reservation as a permanent homeland for the Tribe.

The Upper Coachella Valley (also known as the Indio Sub-basin) was historically dependent upon local groundwater resources to support population and economic growth. The local groundwater resources fueled growth for the City of Palm Springs and surrounding areas. Significant [groundwater decline](#) prompted the local water districts to acquire contracts in the California [State Water Project](#) and to negotiate an exchange of water supply with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to be able to divert water from the Colorado Aqueduct to the northern end of the Coachella Valley for [recharge purposes](#). Thus, the water supply of the Coachella Valley is tied to various water systems that are presently in an unreliable or uncertain state. Threats to local groundwater supplies are described below and include reductions in natural groundwater recharge due to climate change, uncertainty on the Colorado River which supplies current recharge in the Upper Valley, and trends in reduced allocations from the State Water Project which is relied upon by the local districts to exchange for recharge supplies.

The proposed Project will advance the Tribe's understanding of future water supply augmentation options and will inform planning strategies for pursuit of selected options. The Project will include outreach to stakeholders in the Coachella Valley, analysis of current and future water supply and demand conditions, and identification of local and regional options for importing water supplies to the Coachella Valley. Infrastructure capacity and legal constraints associated with specific water projects and water marketing opportunities will be described so that each project may be evaluated.

This Project will result in a strategic plan for the Tribe to implement so that they can continue to support the local economy of the Coachella Valley by meeting new water demands. The strategic plan will analyze the problem and need, identify and compare alternatives, and provide a path that results in a resilient water supply for the future not dependent on local water supply alone.

Outreach to local purveyors, regional water suppliers, and governmental agencies will support the recommendations presented in the strategic plan so it meets the needs of the approximately half million people who live within and adjacent to the Reservation in the cities of Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, and Cathedral City.

**Overview of Coachella Valley Water Management**

The Coachella Valley relies on a combination of imported water and naturally occurring recharge to meet the demands of the residents. Imported water is delivered to the valley from the Colorado River via the Colorado River Aqueduct and the Coachella Canal. Naturally occurring recharge occurs from streamflow and snowmelt from the surrounding mountains. Water delivered from the Colorado River Aqueduct is recharged to the groundwater basin in the northern portion of the Coachella Valley at either the [Whitewater River Groundwater Replenishment Facility \(GRF\)](#) or the Mission Creek GRF. Within the Upper Coachella Valley, the greatest single source of water supply is the release of imported water from the Colorado River Aqueduct as provided by MWD. Figure 1 shows the importance of groundwater recharge to the Coachella Valley groundwater resource.

**Figure 1: Cumulative Change in Groundwater Storage since 1970**

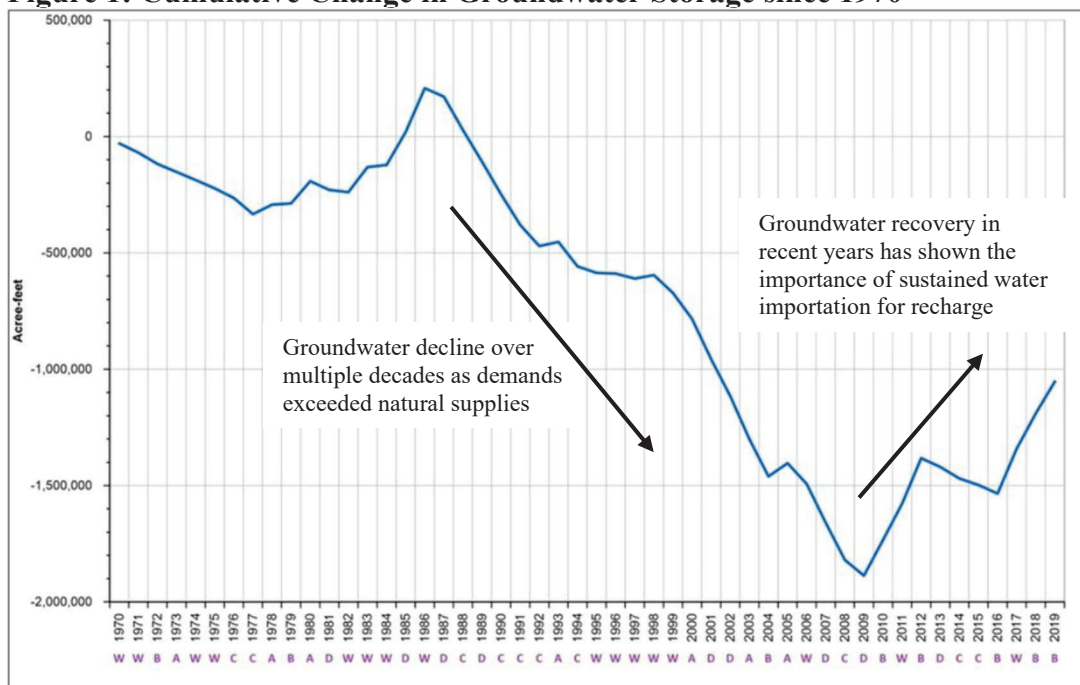
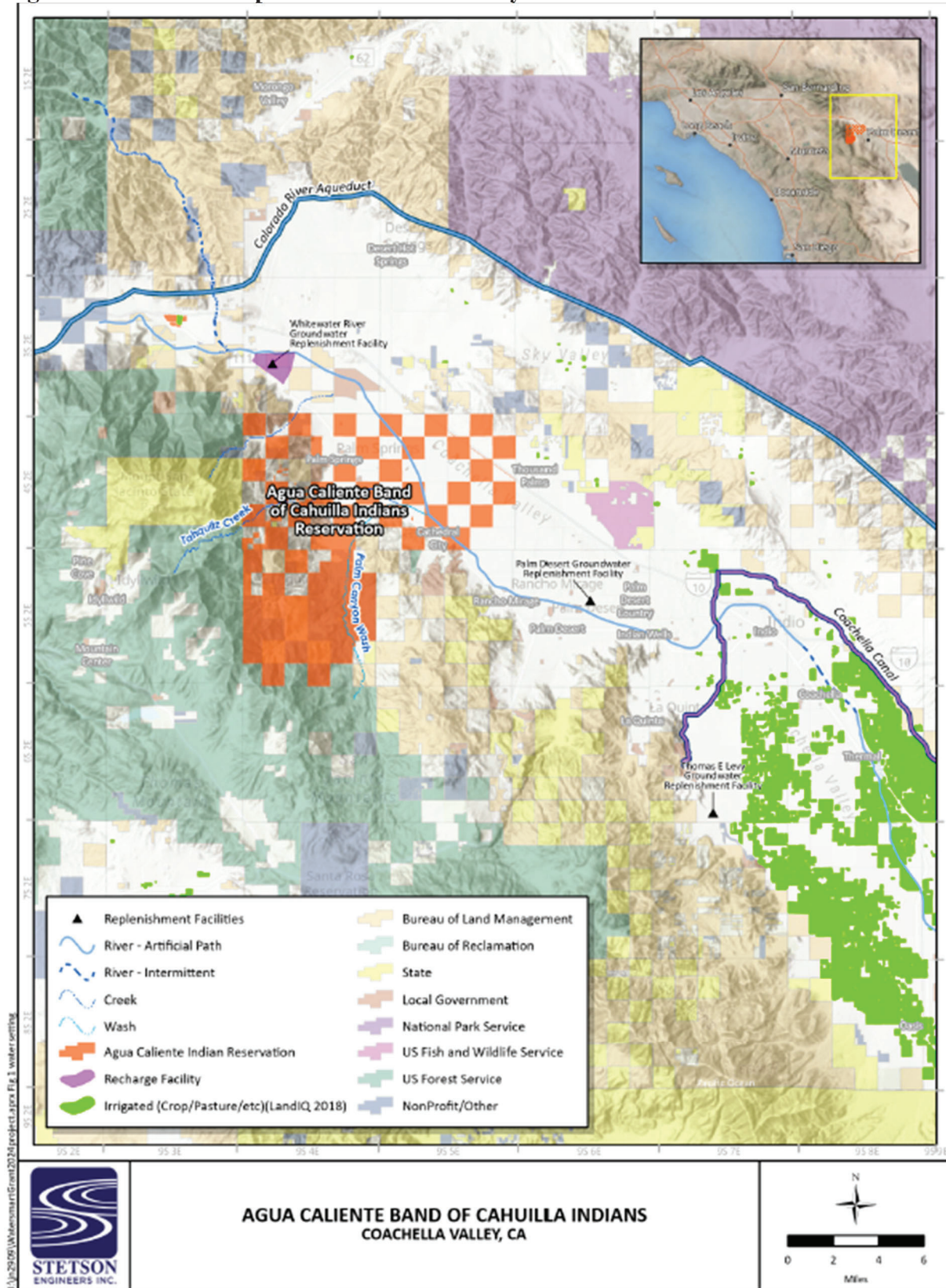


Figure copied from 2022 Indio Subbasin [Alternative Plan](#) and edited with notes.

**Water Uses of the Coachella Valley**

The population of the subject region (see Figure 2) is expected to increase from 402,000 to 616,000 by 2045. This equates to an increase of approximately 71,100 AF or 43% when compared to 2016 conditions. Domestic water use within the Reservation boundary is currently met from the local water districts through groundwater pumping that occurs both on and adjacent to the Reservation. The Tribe also supplies water to two golf courses. Currently, the Tribe is seeking to expand its use of groundwater within the Reservation to meet future economic development needs. These uses will include domestic, agricultural, and commercial enterprises.

Figure 2: Overview Map of the Coachella Valley



### ***Pursuit of Tribal Water Rights***

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians filed a lawsuit in May 2013 against the two local water districts (CVWD and DWA) requesting a declaration and quantification of the Tribe's Federal reserved water rights and requesting a cessation of actions that injure those water rights. The lawsuit is currently on hold pending mediation. As part of the mediation, the Tribe is contemplating and pursuing a Congressionally approved water rights settlement, which may include water resources funding for the Tribe to enhance local water supply conditions. The Tribe is interested in the proposed Project to start to explore the options for enhancing local water supply conditions for potential use of the water rights settlement funds in the future.

### ***Risks to Current and Planned Water Importation Sources***

The Coachella Valley is facing several water supply risks that may influence the need to draw on local groundwater supplies and could cause a decline in groundwater levels, which is an outcome that the Tribe is motivated to protect against. The following are water supply risks to the Upper Coachella Valley:

- The risks to water users in the Colorado River Basin are well documented in the 2012 Colorado River Basin [Water Supply and Demand Study](#) commissioned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and are visible in the extensive efforts being made by [Federal](#) and [State](#) officials to reduce water demands in the Colorado River Basin through a variety of tools. If cutbacks in Colorado River deliveries were taken by MWD, then importation to the Coachella Valley could suffer as that is the primary source used for basin recharge currently.
- The California State Water Project has seen water supply allocations [decline](#) due to changing snowpack conditions and concerns about endangered species in the Delta. Since 2013, the State Water Project has had three years with 5% allocation. If the State Water Project continues to yield less water, then the local water districts will have a reduced ability to exchange water with Metropolitan for conducting groundwater recharge.
- Natural recharge to the local groundwater aquifer is affected by precipitation, temperature, and the overall climate of the Coachella Valley and surrounding mountains. A changing climate presents some uncertainty on the future of recharge.
- Additionally, because the local water districts meet their demands through exchange agreements, there exists additional uncertainty regarding expiration of their long-term contracts.

### ***Need for Project***

The Tribe sees the proposed Project as a critical step to understanding its future opportunities to enhance the water supply conditions of the Upper Coachella Valley. The Tribe is motivated to start the water planning process to ensure that the Coachella Valley remains a vibrant economy and community, which is achieved by continuing to maintain imported water sources over the long term. The Project is needed so that the Tribe and the local water districts can start to take proactive steps to ensure long-term water supply reliability for the Upper Coachella Valley.

### ***Past Work with the Bureau of Reclamation***

The Tribe has previously worked with USBR on other grant awards. In January 2023, the Tribe was awarded grant funding through the Native American Affairs Program to develop conduct a Water Demand Management Study of all permitted groundwater users within the Agua Caliente

Water Authority (ACWA), an agency of the Tribe. Through that study, groundwater users were provided information on water Demand Management Measures that could be applied to irrigation water demands to reduce pumping and reliance on the Tribe's groundwater resource. In December 2022, the Tribe was awarded grant funds under the WaterSMART Applied Science grant program to build a geospatial database for its water operations. That project is currently underway and ACWA is building an important data foundation for groundwater management on the Reservation.

In January 2022, the Tribe was awarded grant funding through the WaterSMART Small-scale Water Efficiency Projects grant program for the Andreas Pipeline Water Meters & System Optimization project. That project has two objectives: (1) install meters to quantify the amount of water delivered from the Andreas Pipeline (non-Federal facility) to end users; and 2) increase efficient irrigation measures by replacing an existing electric pump powered service line with a new pressurized, gravity fed line, decreasing the dependency on and cost of electricity for the Tribe. In July 2020, the Tribe was awarded grant funding to conduct a System Optimization Review (SOR) at Whitewater Ranch. The SOR examined the current water delivery system, retention ponds, and the gravity flood irrigation system at Whitewater Ranch to identify a plan of action that includes recommendations for implementing specific improvements that will improve water efficiency and management

### **Section 3: Project Description**

The proposed Project targets the required elements of the grant, as described in the following paragraphs. Project activities are described in more detail in the scope of work.

#### ***Component 1 – Outreach and Partnership Building***

The Tribe will conduct outreach to a variety of stakeholders as detailed in Tasks 2 and 8 of the Scope of Work. This outreach will be focused on the Coachella Valley, but will also include regional water management entities to fully explore the water supply enhancement opportunities that may be available. The Tribe has been actively engaged with CVWD and DWA staff as part of ongoing mediation efforts discussed earlier, and these relationships are expected to grow in a positive way through this Project. The Tribe has a long-term goal of solidifying a good working relationship with both CVWD and DWA and this Project is an important step toward that goal. The Tribe will be sharing the results of the strategic plan with public entities to ensure that information developed from this Project is communicated and available to the public.

#### ***Component 2 – Analyses, Scoping, and Planning Activities***

The Tribe will conduct important planning activities and technical analysis under Tasks 3 to 7 in the Scope of Work. These activities include a water balance model to identify water supply risks and potential needs, a capacity analysis to understand current limitations, and an inventory and ranking of water supply enhancement opportunities. This technical work will be the backbone of a strategic plan to reduce water supply risk and enhance water supply conditions for the Upper Coachella Valley.

#### ***Component 3 – Development of a Water Strategy Document***

The Tribe will prepare a water strategy document as the key work product from this study as detailed in Tasks 7 and 9 in the Scope of Work. The strategic plan will identify the best water

supply option(s) and will outline a process and framework for pursuing the selected supply option(s). The strategic plan will incorporate feedback from local water management stakeholders and will include all required elements under the grant award.

### **Scope of Work**

This section provides a chronological summary of the Project tasks.

#### Task 1: Development of Project Work Plan

The Project will commence with the development of a project work plan based on this proposed Scope of Work. The work plan will provide any modifications to this Scope of Work that have been requested by USBR or recommended by the Tribe. The work plan will also identify a more detailed project schedule with specific milestones defined based on a known project start date. The work plan will be submitted to USBR for review and approval.

#### Task 2: Initial Outreach Activities

This task will include various outreach activities aimed at defining options and hurdles (limitations) for water supply enhancement to the Coachella Valley. These initial outreach activities are aimed at building knowledge by leveraging the existing information and past studies completed by water management entities. Options for water supply enhancement will be compiled and categorized. Limitations on water importation or local water management will be identified and discussed. The outreach activities are expected to include in-person or virtual meetings with the following organizations:

- Local Water Providers: Coachella Valley Water District and Desert Water Agency;
- Regional Water Entities: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Diego County Water Authority, and California Department of Water Resources; and
- Other Water Management Organizations & Companies: USBR, Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona, Mexico desalination project proponents, and private water companies promoting new water supply projects.

#### Task 3: Analysis of Future Water Supply Needs

This task will quantify a target for water supply enhancement for the Coachella Valley by developing a water supply-demand balance from existing information. The analysis will stress-test the different water supply sources to better understand potential risks that can be mitigated through additional water importation projects. The following sub-tasks will be completed:

- *3.1: Review Local Water Plans:* The Tribe will review existing water planning documentation prepared by CVWD, DWA, and other water organizations. Planning documents will include the 2022 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) [Alternative Plan Update](#), 2018 [Integrated Regional Water Management Plan](#), 2020 [Regional Urban Water Management Plan](#), 2020 [Water Shortage Contingency Plan](#), and others.
- *3.2: Build Water Balance Model:* The information from Sub-Task 3.1 will be used to build a water supply-demand spreadsheet model using existing and projected future conditions as a baseline. The model will include demand forecasts by water use sector and a portfolio of water supply sources for the Indio Sub-basin area. The model will simulate the exchange with MWD providing water supply for groundwater recharge to the Upper Coachella Valley.

- *3.3: Evaluate Risk Attributes of Each Supply Source:* The individual water supply sources in the water supply portfolio will be analyzed for potential risks. The risks that effect water supply yield may include:
  - Regulatory risks that constrain supply due to laws and policy,
  - Cost risks that make a water supply unattractive due to increased costs, and/or
  - Timing risks that the water supply is not available when needed to meet demands.
- *3.4: Quantify the Target Water Supply Need:* The risk attributes of each water supply source will be applied to the baseline water balance model to quantify the potential need for water supply enhancements for the Upper Coachella Valley. This quantification analysis will provide a range of results as different combinations of water supply risks are applied to the model. The end result will be an understanding of the volume, frequency, and timing of new water supply that can be secured to offset the risks of existing supplies. An underlying goal of the quantification analysis will be to preserve native groundwater resources of the Upper Coachella Valley.

#### Task 4: Analysis of Water Supply Constraints

This task will assess infrastructure required to deliver water to the Reservation or to the aquifer used by the Tribe.

The analysis will stress-test the different water supply sources to better understand potential risks that can be mitigated through additional water importation projects. The following sub-tasks will be completed:

- *4.1: Analyze Existing Agreements:* Imported water is currently delivered to the Coachella Valley through agreements between the local water agencies and Metropolitan Water District and USBR. The purpose of this sub-task is to determine how these agreements can be used to maximize the use of existing facilities. These agreements also provide a basis for cost, operational, and legal constraints that will be used for identifying preferred opportunities for delivering new water to the Reservation.
- *4.1: Analyze Existing Infrastructure:* The Tribe will review the capacity and opportunities for delivery of water through the Colorado River Aqueduct, Coachella Canal, and the State Water Project. The analysis will differentiate between capacity during dry years and wet years and how the use of existing infrastructure can be optimized.
- *4.2: Develop New Infrastructure:* Based on the results of Sub-Task 4.2, the Tribe will investigate development of new infrastructure to deliver water to the Coachella Valley. Pipeline, pump stations, and canal facilities connecting to Lake Perris on the State Water Project, or portions of existing infrastructure, will be analyzed to deliver water for use by the Tribe.

#### Task 5: Inventory & Research on Water Supply Opportunities

The Tribe will conduct research to inventory and profile water supply enhancement opportunities for the Upper Coachella Valley. This inventory will build upon previous work efforts, but is expected to be a unique and contemporary dataset of future opportunities. The Tribe will conduct research based on: (1) responses from the Task 2 outreach efforts, (2) published water planning documents and studies, and (3) experience of water consultants. The types of water supply opportunities that will be researched and profiled include:

- Projects in the Coachella Valley, such as new recycled water and reuse projects;

- Exchanges through the use of groundwater banking programs, new water supply exchanges, additional State Water Project Table A acquisitions, or pre-1914 water right acquisitions;
- Following projects involving irrigation districts along the mainstem Lower Colorado River, similar to past projects with Palo Verde Irrigation District, Yuma-Mesa Irrigation and Drainage District, Imperial Irrigation District, CVWD, and others;
- The MWD Pure Water project, working with the San Diego County Water Authority, or other water recycling and reuse projects along the California coast;
- Water supply export projects in California groundwater basins, such as the Cadiz Project; and
- Various projects that have been promoted for new water supply in the Southwest U.S., such as various desalination projects in the Gulf of California, Mexico, and new desalination technologies along the California coast (Ocean Well, SeaWell, etc.).

The opportunities will be organized and profiled in categories defined by: (1) water supply source and (2) mechanism for physical delivery to the Upper Coachella Valley.

#### Task 6: Comparison Analysis & Prioritization

The water supply opportunities from the preceding task will be analyzed for specific metrics that will allow for comparison and ranking. The metrics that will be compiled for each source will include: (1) required regulatory approvals, (2) legal basis and precedence, (3) capital and operating costs, (4) physical water supply in terms of volume and reliability, and (5) partnership opportunities and requirements. Other metrics may be developed during the course of the project. The Tribe will develop a ranking procedure that scores each project based on the defined metrics. The ranking process will provide a systematic way to compare various project opportunities.

#### Task 7: Water Supply Enhancement Strategy Plan

Based on previous tasks, the Tribe will develop a strategic plan for water supply enhancement for the Coachella Valley. The strategic plan will document the need for water supply enhancements (timing and volume) based on the water balance model, and the best options for meeting the need based on a comparative analysis of various project opportunities. The strategic plan will further define the steps and actions needed to pursue selected water supply enhancement projects including regulatory approvals, partnerships, and fund-raising. The strategic plan will be developed in draft form to allow for input and critique by local water management agencies.

#### Task 8: Final Outreach Activities

The Tribe will conduct outreach to local water management entities to share results of the analysis and to get feedback on the findings. The Tribe will setup meetings with CVWD and DWA, and possibly other organizations from Task 2 depending on their level of interest. Following these outreach meetings, the Tribe will also prepare a public-facing information sheet that summarizes the results of the study and share the summary with local government agencies. The feedback from these outreach efforts will be used to modify and refine the strategic plan. As part of the outreach efforts, the Tribe will establish a plan and framework as part of the updated strategic plan for pursuing one or more water supply enhancement projects in coordination with CVWD and DWA. The plan and framework will define roles, timelines, and action items.

**Task 9: Drafting Strategy Report**

The Tribe will draft a technical report that summarizes the preceding tasks, including documentation of references and information, water balance methods and findings, and water supply opportunity profiles and ranking. A copy of the final strategic plan will be included in the technical report. The technical report will be submitted to USBR for review and comment as the primary deliverable under the grant award.

**Task 10: Project Management**

The Project will be managed by the Agua Caliente Water Authority as the grant recipient. ACWA has established a track record of successfully managing Federal grant awards and has knowledgeable staff to ensure project success. Project management duties will include:

- *Interim progress reports:* The Tribe will draft and submit semi-annual progress reports as required by the grant award. The progress reports will include standard budget reporting and a narrative summarizing progress on each task.
- *Final deliverable review:* The Tribe will review the strategic plan and technical report to ensure that it contains the required components of the grant award.
- *Budget and timeline tracking:* The Tribe will maintain records of project completion against the budget and timeline on a monthly basis, to provide oversight and ensure that the project is completed on time and within budget.

**Project Timeline**

A project work plan will define specific milestones once the grant has been awarded and contracting completed. An anticipated project completion schedule is provided in Figure 3 below. The Project is estimated to span 18 months in total from project inception. Quantifying the need for water supply enhancements will take place over the first 6 months, evaluation and comparison of project opportunities will then span the next 6 months, and finalization of the strategy and conducting final outreach will take place during the final 6 months of the Project.

**Figure 3: Anticipated Project Completion Schedule**

*Schedule shown as months from project start date*

Task	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1. Development of Project Work Plan	█																	
2. Initial Outreach Activities		█	█															
3. Analysis of Future Water Supply Needs			█	█	█	█												
4. Analysis of Water Supply Constraints			█	█	█	█												
5. Inventory & Research on Water Supply Opportunities						█	█	█	█									
6. Comparison Analysis & Prioritization										█	█							
7. Water Supply Strategy Plan												█	█					
8. Final Outreach Activities														█	█			
9. Drafting Strategy Report															█	█	█	█
10. Project Management						█						█						█

## Section 4: Evaluation Criteria

This section provides a detailed description of how and why the proposed project aligns with the goals, objectives, and criteria for the Water Strategy Plan grant program.

### Criteria A: Project Benefits

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

There are multiple threats to the water supply of the Upper Coachella Valley where the Reservation is located. Tribal and non-Tribal water uses in this area are reliant upon groundwater pumping, with natural groundwater resources supplemental by existing importation of supply for groundwater recharge. Threats to water supply include:

- Reduction in natural groundwater recharge as result of increased temperatures, modified precipitation patterns, and other effects of climate change.
  - Modified operations and entitlements in the Lower Colorado River as a result of the broader water supply-demand imbalance, which directly impacts the volume of recharge water for the Coachella Valley.
  - Reduced allocations (yield) from the State Water Project Table A contracts which reduces the water available for exchange with MWD for serving groundwater recharge.
- *How do the threats identified above impact specific water uses or sectors in the geographic area?*

Multiple water use sectors are impacted by the threats outlined above. The threats have the potential to impact groundwater recharge volumes in the Upper Coachella Valley. All water uses rely upon artificial recharge in this area because natural groundwater recharge rates are only a fraction of current demands. The impacted water uses include domestic water uses at on- and off-Reservation residences, commercial and municipal uses in the City of Palm Springs and surrounding communities, and golf course irrigation which fuels a significant portion of the local tourism economy.

- *How will the project help address the threats to water supplies and water uses identified above?*

The Tribe is proposing to undertake a strategic planning project that will help to define water supply enhancement options for the Tribe and the broader Coachella Valley community over the coming decades. The threats to water supply listed above are not immediate, but they are present and the Tribe is seeking to be proactive in addressing these threats by building consensus and direction about the best solutions for enhancing water supply imports into the Upper Coachella Valley if the known threats to water supply start to be realized. This Project represents the first step in pursuing new water supply sources through planning work to have the confidence in making smart investments in water supply for the future. All water use sectors listed above (domestic, commercial, municipal, industrial) will benefit from the Project because the economy and population of the Coachella Valley has developed around having access to imported water supplies to supplement existing naturally occurring groundwater. The Tribe is hopeful that completing the proposed planning project to identify viable options, pursuing one of more of those options, and creating new water supplies for the Coachella Valley will help to strengthen relationships, build resiliency for local economy, and avoid conflicts over local groundwater management.

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

Yes, the proposed Project will support the sustainable supply of domestic water to the Reservation and possibly to other tribal communities in the Coachella Valley (see Figure 1). The project does not intend to design and build water supply infrastructure for domestic water service to the Tribe, but the project is an important piece of ensuring that the Coachella Valley remains a viable homeland for the Tribe. The domestic water supply for the Tribe is reliant upon sustained importation of groundwater recharge supplies and those existing recharge supplies are threatened by various conditions as outlined above. This Project will ensure that the local groundwater underlying the Reservation remains a viable source of domestic water supply for Tribal and non-Tribal residents. The average annual benefit of the Project is not known until the planned studies are completed. Current domestic deliveries to Reservation lands are estimated to be approximately 7,200 acre-feet per year.

- *Does the planning effort involve the improvement of nature-based features?*

No. The project does not involve nature-based features.

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

No. The Project is not being proposed to meet existing environmental mitigation or compliance obligations.

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## **Criterion B: Inclusion of Stakeholders, Stakeholder Support, and Previous Planning Efforts**

- *Will the project help meet the water supply needs of a large geographic area?*

Yes. The Project is being pursued by the Tribe because it represents an important component of water management for groundwater resources underlying the Reservation, but those underlying groundwater resources are part of a larger aquifer and the planning studies proposed to be undertaken by the Tribe will benefit the entire Upper Coachella Valley which is reliant upon sustained water imports for groundwater recharge. Figure 1 shows the geographic area that will benefit from the proposed planning project.

- *Is the project supported by existing water planning efforts?*

Yes. The 2022 [Indio Subbasin Alternative Plan](#) lists “Future Supplemental Water Acquisitions” as a Project and Management Action (PMA) in the planning horizon to 2045. The proposed Project is an important planning effort to identify and evaluate the best options for supplemental water acquisitions. The Alternative Plan lists out potential supplemental water projects and the Project is intended to broaden this list and evaluate more complex projects than those historically evaluated by the two local water districts. The Alternative Plan is the most recent groundwater management planning process and was done in a collaborative fashion and involved many stakeholders in the Coachella Valley.

- *Identify stakeholders who have committed to be involved in the planning process.*

Several stakeholders have provided support for the Project as listed in the subsequent response. The Scope of Work intends to involve a diverse set of stakeholders during the outreach tasks. The Tribe did not directly contact stakeholders in developing this application, but informal communications have indicated that several local stakeholders are committed to be involved in the planning process.

- *Identify stakeholders who have expressed their support for the project*

Included with this grant application are letters of support from:

- Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) which is the largest water management agency in the Coachella Valley.
- Desert Water Agency (DWA) which is a large municipal water provider serving a portion of the Reservation and the Palm Springs area.
- Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWMG) which represents six water management agencies in the Coachella Valley.
- The supervisor for Riverside County's Fourth District.

- *Efforts to ensure participation by a diverse array of stakeholders in plan development*

The Scope of Work includes two critical outreach components (tasks) organized as a series of meetings to leverage existing information and to provide opportunities for participation by local stakeholders. The Tribe wants to understand the perspectives of local stakeholders in presenting ideas on new water supply options for the benefit of the Coachella Valley.

- *Is there opposition to the proposed planning effort?*

The Tribe is not aware of any opposition to the proposed planning effort.

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### Criterion C—Ability to Meet Program Requirements

- *Describe how the project will address program specific requirements*

The three program components of (1) outreach and partnership building, (2) analyses and scoping studies, and (3) strategy development are all directly addressed in the Project Description narrative. This water strategy project will support the planning process to import water to the Coachella Valley that will support over 400,000 domestic, commercial, and agricultural stakeholders in the Valley. The existing water supply is reliant on deliveries from the Colorado River Aqueduct and Coachella Canal which is likely to see reductions due to climate change, water shortages, and Colorado Basin-wide reductions. This Project will establish relationships and partnerships with local water agencies and regional supplier to access new water markets to support future reductions and increase in growth and water demand. Although the Tribe will be the direct beneficiary of new water, the nature of the shared aquifer in the Coachella Valley allows all stakeholders to benefit from future actions.

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

The Project Description provides a detailed project schedule outlines the dates for major tasks and milestones identified in this project, and a detailed project budget.

- *Describe the availability and quality of that existing data and models applicable to the proposed project*

The Project will benefit substantially from prior water marketing efforts and infrastructure improvement projects examined by all stakeholders in the Coachella Valley. Previous technical studies have assessed expansion of the California Aqueduct, connection to Lake Perris, expansion of recycling facilities, and connection to the Coachella Valley. Hydrologic studies have assessed groundwater recharge, stormwater capture, and aquifer storage and extraction. Urban Water Management Plans and Groundwater Sustainability Plans have identified shortfalls and drought contingency requirements. These studies and investigations will provide the starting point for future planning activities.

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

The project will involve ACWA staff members to manage and oversee the project. ACWA staff members include Margaret Park, Chief Planning Officer, and Dan Malcolm, Director of Planning. The Tribe is planning to contract with two technical consultants to complete the project tasks. These two technical consulting firms have been assisting ACWA with a variety of projects, including groundwater database development, Reservation water management plans, and mediation technical support. These efforts have included preliminary investigations into water importation concepts as a precursor to the planned work. These technical consulting firms have a unique and complementary skill set to undertake the technical analysis of the project. The two technical consulting firms are:

#### **WestWater Research, LLC.**

WestWater is a recognized leader in water market analysis, economic research, and water right valuations. For more than 20 years, WestWater has been providing clients with high quality, data-driven analysis of water markets, water rights, and water transactions. WestWater has served as an economic advisor to the multiple California water agencies and has developed valuation tools and planning reports to assist practitioners with water supply planning. Specific project team members include:

- *Brett Bovee, P.E., Regional Director.* Brett is a Regional Director and past President at WestWater Research. Brett brings over 20 years of experience conducting a variety of engineering, economic, and water rights studies across the Western states. Brett brings a unique perspective to projects, combining a background in water resources engineering with a developed knowledge of water rights and economics.
- *Isabelle Lavoie, Associate.* Isabelle is an Associate with WestWater, based in the Los Angeles area. Isabelle assists with economics and valuation analysis, water rights transactions research, market analysis with specific focus in California. She has extensive knowledge of California water management and water market transaction activity.

#### **Stetson Engineers Inc.**

Since its establishment in 1957, Stetson Engineers has maintained this focus on water in California and throughout the western United States. While the company has expanded its expertise over time to include all aspects of water, the primary focus has remained constant,

which allows for the development of specialized expertise, and sets our company apart from other engineering firms. Specific project team members include:

- *Stephen Reich, PE, PG, CHG, Principal.* Mr. Reich provides technical and administrative expertise required to manage multi-faceted water resource projects that require in-depth knowledge of water rights, environmental requirements, regulatory issues, and civil engineering solutions. His expertise in hydrology, water quality, geomorphology, civil engineering, economics, state and federal water supply issues, and environmental concerns provides a wide range of experience for the Project.
- *Anne Easterbrook, Water Resources Engineer.* Anne received her BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering at University of California, Berkeley. She has over four years of experience at Stetson Engineers Inc. She has participated in the development and implementation of the data management systems for Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, and has supported several water supply and water management projects in Southern California, including in the Coachella Valley.

- *Describe any new policies or administrative actions required to implement the project*

No new policies or administrative actions are required to implement the Project.

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## Criterion D: Presidential and Department of Interior Priorities

### Combating the Climate Crisis

- *Details and examples on how the project will address the impacts of climate change.*

Southern California and the Colorado River Basin have experienced water shortages and are estimated to be impacted by future climate change. Climate change exacerbates future water supply issues due to the likelihood of more frequent heat waves and a shift in precipitation patterns. Because the Coachella Valley is impacted by both local climate and regional climate in the Colorado Basin, water supply resiliency may only be achieved through strategic planning and identification of future water markets. This strategic plan will assess the supply shortages and need for future resources so that the Tribe's resources are sustainably managed through increased water resiliency to offset the impacts of climate change.

- *Does this project strengthen water supply sustainability to increase resilience to climate change?*

The main goal of this Project is to identify and inventory water markets to offset the impact of climate change and increased demand. The Tribe seeks to expand its water portfolio to include local water, recycled water, and imported water supplies to meet its economic goals through long term sustainability for the entire valley. The strategic plan will provide the roadmap for meeting these goals.

### Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

- *Application of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool*

Yes, Reservation lands are labeled as Disadvantaged in the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. Executive Order, E.O. 13985 signed on January 20, 2021 directs the federal government to revise agency policies to account for racial inequities in their implementation and defines Native American communities as “underserved” and disadvantaged community.

- *Describe how the project benefits disadvantaged or underserved communities identified from the tool above.*

This strategic plan will be an invaluable tool to support the Tribe's water resiliency by supporting its sovereign ability to meet future water demands. The Tribe is reliant upon sound water management planning and the proposed Project develops an understanding of what water supply enhancements are needed to offset threats to current sources of recharge that are sustaining the local economy.

### Tribal Benefits

- *Does the project directly service or benefit a Tribe? Will the project improve water management for a Tribe?*

The proposed strategic plan will directly serve and benefit the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, a federally recognized Indian tribe.

- *Does the 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?*

The proposed Project will support Tribal resilience to climate change and drought impacts by providing access to new water supply sources that are not presently available and require this type of planning study to identify and develop.

- *Does the project support Reclamation's Tribal trust responsibilities or a Reclamation activity with a Tribe?*

Yes, the proposed Project supports Reclamation's Tribal trust responsibilities.

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### **Criterion E: Nexus to Reclamation**

#### Combating the Climate Crisis

- *Is there a Reclamation project, facility, or activity within the planning area?*

Yes, USBR completed the Coachella Canal in 1954 and subsequently transferred the distribution system to the Coachella Valley Water District for operation and maintenance.

- *Is the planning area in the same basin as a Reclamation project, facility, or activity?*

Yes, the Coachella Canal.

- *In what way will the project benefit a basin where a Reclamation project, facility, or activity is located?*

Water users from the Coachella Canal also rely on groundwater. Planning activities to increase water supply in the Coachella Valley will benefit all users through development of a drought and climate change supply.

- *Does the applicant have a water service, repayment, or O&M contract with Reclamation?*

No, the Tribe does not have any contracts with USBR.

- *If the applicant does not hold a type of contract named above, does the applicant receive Reclamation water through a contractor or by any other contractual means?*

No, the Tribe does not receive any USBR contract water supplies.

**AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS**  
**COACHELLA VALLEY WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT STUDY**  
**PROJECT BUDGET**

## Section 5: Funding Plan & Budget Proposal

The Project is proposed to be funded by a combination of funding from ACWA and the WaterSMART grant award in equal parts. Table 1 provides a table summary of the proposed project budget. The project has an estimated budget of \$295,174 and half of this project cost is being requested as Reclamation funding under a grant award. ACWA is seeking \$147,587 in grant funding to complete the project.

**Table 1: Summary of Proposed Funding Sources**

Funding Sources	
Non-Federal Funding: ACWA Direct Payments	\$147,587
Requested Reclamation Funding	\$147,587
<b>Total Project Budget</b>	<b>\$295,174</b>

## Budget Narrative

The proposed Project funding will be utilized to contract the professional services of the two technical consulting firms identified under Criterion C (WestWater Research, LLC and Stetson Engineers, Inc.) to complete the Project. The following paragraphs provide more detail on the proposed budget.

### *Salaries and Wages, Fringe, and Indirect Costs*

No salaries and wages will be paid by the project funding. Staff of ACWA intend to be actively involved in the project, but are not seeking any Federal funds to support their salaries, fringe benefits, or indirect costs.

### *Travel*

Travel expenses of WestWater Research, LLC and Stetson Engineers, Inc. are summarized in Table 3 and incorporated into the contractor cost budget table. No other travel costs are expected.

### *Equipment, Materials, and Supplies*

No equipment, materials, or supplies will be purchased to complete the proposed Project.

### *Contractual*

The project budget is intended to provide funding to enter into contracts with WestWater Research, LLC and Stetson Engineers, Inc. Table 2 provides an estimated project budget breakdown by task and by each firm. ACWA will follow its standard procurement policies in contracting with WestWater Research, LLC and Stetson Engineers, Inc. to complete the Project.

### *Total Costs*

The total project costs are \$295,174 as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: Project Budget**

Task	WestWater Research				Stetson Engineers				Total Contractor Costs		
	Labor Hours	Blended Hourly Rate	Labor Cost	Travel Expenses	Contractor Cost	Labor Cost	Travel Expenses	Contractor Cost			
1. Development of Project Work Plan	12	\$350	\$4,200	0	\$4,200	6	\$256	\$1,536	\$0	\$1,536	\$5,736
2. Initial Outreach Activities	56	\$270	\$15,100	\$4,000	\$19,100	52	\$175	\$9,108	\$4,000	\$13,108	\$32,208
3. Analysis of Future Water Supply Needs	128	\$211	\$27,000	\$1,200	\$28,200	204	\$162	\$33,068	\$1,200	\$34,268	\$62,468
4. Analysis of Water Supply Constraints	46	\$239	\$11,000	0	\$11,000	136	\$163	\$22,142	\$0	\$22,142	\$33,142
5. Inventory & Research on Water Supply Opportunities	158	\$205	\$32,350	\$1,200	\$33,550	50	\$171	\$8,572	\$1,200	\$9,772	\$43,322
6. Comparison Analysis & Prioritization	102	\$232	\$23,700	0	\$23,700	42	\$223	\$9,376	\$0	\$9,376	\$33,076
7. Water Supply Strategy Plan	28	\$275	\$7,700	0	\$7,700	42	\$187	\$7,852	\$0	\$7,852	\$15,552
8. Final Outreach Activities	62	\$270	\$16,750	\$4,000	\$20,750	48	\$216	\$10,374	\$4,000	\$14,374	\$35,124
9. Drafting Strategy Report	38	\$255	\$9,700	0	\$9,700	44	\$209	\$9,200	\$0	\$9,200	\$18,900
10. Project Management	36	\$225	\$8,100	0	\$8,100	36	\$210	\$7,546	\$0	\$7,546	\$15,646
<b>Total Project</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>\$234</b>	<b>\$155,600</b>	<b>\$10,400</b>	<b>\$166,000</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>\$180</b>	<b>\$118,774</b>	<b>\$10,400</b>	<b>\$129,174</b>	<b>\$295,174</b>

**Table 3: Travel Expense Budget**

Task	WestWater				Stetson			
	No. People	No. Trips	Days	Cost	No. People	No. Trips	Days	Cost
2. Initial Outreach Activities	2	1	3	\$4,000	2	1	3	\$4,000
3. Analysis of Future Water Supply Needs	1	1	1	\$1,200	1	1	1	\$1,200
5. Inventory & Research on Water Supply Opportunities	1	1	1	\$1,200	1	1	1	\$1,200
8. Final Outreach Activities	2	1	3	\$4,000	2	1	3	\$4,000
<b>Total Project</b>				<b>\$10,400</b>				<b>\$10,400</b>

**AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS**  
**COACHELLA VALLEY WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT STUDY**

## **Section 6: Additional Requirements**

The proposed Project will not involve any measurement, monitoring, or field work. Existing measurement data collected under existing Tribal, State, and Federal programs will be utilized to complete the Project.

### **Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance**

No environmental or cultural resource compliance issues are expected with the Project as it represents a planning study with no water management action or water project construction.

### **Required Permits or Approvals**

No permits are required to initiate the planning work under the proposed Project.

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

The proposed project does not overlap or duplicate existing efforts. 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.

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

There is no actual or potential conflict of interest per 2 CFR §1402.112. The Tribe will submit a conflict of interest disclosure and certification statement as required.

### **Uniform Audit Reporting Statement**

The Tribe was required to submit a Single Audit Report for the most recently closed fiscal year. The Tribe submitted the Single Audit Report through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System and is available through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse website. The Employee Identification Number (EIN) associated with the submitted Single Audit report is 95-2549724.

### **Disclosure of Lobbying Activities**

The Tribe has enclosed with this application a SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form.

### **Letters of Support**

This application includes letters of support from: (1) Coachella Valley Water District, (2) Desert Water Agency, (3) Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group, and (4) the supervisor for Riverside County's Fourth District.

### **Official Resolution**

The Tribe will provide an official resolution adopted by the ACWA Board of Directors that commits ACWA to the proposed Project. A resolution will be provided prior to any contract award, but was not available at the time of this grant application submittal.

### **Letters of Commitment**

No cost sharing or in-kind services are proposed by third parties other than funds provided by ACWA.

Paul Ortega, President (Division 4)  
Jeff Bowman, Vice President (Division 3)  
Gerald McKenna, Secretary-Treasurer (Division 2)  
Kristin Bloomer, Director (Division 5)  
Steve Grasha, Director (Division 1)

Steve L. Johnson, General Manager-Chief Engineer  
Best, Best & Krieger, General Counsel  
Krieger & Stewart, Consulting Engineers



May 20, 2024

To: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

**Re: Agua Caliente Tribe, WaterSMART Water Strategy Grant Application for Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00109**

Dear Reclamation,

On behalf of Desert Water Agency, I am writing to express support for the project being proposed by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (Tribe) to evaluate options and develop strategies for water supply enhancements that will benefit the Tribe and the Coachella Valley. I understand that the Tribe is submitting an application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant program, and we support this grant application and the shared use of Federal and Tribal funding resources to support their continued exploration of water supply enhancements.

Desert Water Agency (DWA) provides domestic water, wastewater collection, recycled water, and groundwater management services to a population of approximately 73,000 customers throughout the Coachella Valley. As a Groundwater Sustainability Agency, DWA is responsible for sustainable groundwater management in the Coachella Valley under California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and partners with local agencies through the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group to support integrated water resources management.

Improved groundwater management and increased water supply importation for both direct use and replenishment of the groundwater basin have mitigated past water resource challenges faced in the Coachella Valley. Local water managers continue to pursue supply enhancement opportunities and develop demand management strategies to address future challenges of continuing to meet water demands in our desert environment. The Tribe is seeking Federal funding to add to these local efforts with a specific focus on supply enhancement through additional water supply development projects for importation. The goal of the project is to identify and evaluate water supply enhancement opportunities so that water managers in the Coachella Valley can cooperatively work toward projects that represent a shared interest in sustainable management of groundwater supplies.

This is an important project for the Tribe and the Coachella Valley. We hope Reclamation will consider providing funding for the Tribe's project through the WaterSMART grant program. DWA appreciates the opportunity to submit this letter and we look forward to further engaging in this effort over the next few years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve L. Johnson", is written over the typed name and title.

Steve L. Johnson  
General Manager



May 15, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Subject: Agua Caliente Tribe, WaterSMART Water Strategy Grant Application for Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00109

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation:

I am writing on behalf of the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWMG) to express support for the proposed project to evaluate options and develop strategies for water supply enhancements to benefit the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (Tribe) and the Coachella Valley. I understand that the Tribe is submitting an application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant program, and we support this grant application and the shared use of Federal and Tribal funding resources to support their continued exploration of water supply enhancements.

The CVRWMG includes the Coachella Water Authority (CWA), Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Desert Water Agency (DWA), Indio Water Authority (IWA), Mission Springs Water District (MSWD), and Valley Sanitary District (VSD). The group represents a collaborative effort to implement the Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management (CVIRWM) Plan to address the water resources planning needs of the Coachella Valley, which is in central Riverside County, within the Colorado River Funding Area. Several of the CVRWMG agencies are also Groundwater Sustainability Agencies responsible for sustainable groundwater management in the Coachella Valley under California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The Coachella Valley has faced water resources challenges in the past which have been mitigated through improved groundwater management and increased water supply importation for direct use and replenishment of the groundwater basin. Local water managers continue to develop strategies to address future challenges of continuing to meet water demands in our desert environment, looking at both supply enhancements and demand management strategies. The Tribe is seeking Federal funding to add to these local efforts with a specific focus on supply enhancement through additional water supply development projects for importation. The goal of the project is to identify and evaluate water supply enhancement opportunities so that water managers in the Coachella Valley can cooperatively work toward projects that represent a shared interest in sustainable management of groundwater supplies.

This is an important project for the Tribe and the Coachella Valley. We hope Reclamation provides funding under the grant program to support the Tribe in this project, and we look forward to further engaging on this effort over the next few years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zoe Rdr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Zoe Rodriguez del Rey  
On behalf of the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group  
Water Resources Manager  
Coachella Valley Water District

CVRWMG agency representatives:  
Steve Johnson, Desert Water Agency  
Ron Buchwald, Valley Sanitary District  
Castulo Estrada, Coachella Water Authority  
Reymundo Trejo, Indio Water Authority  
Marion Champion, Mission Springs Water District



# COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

*Established in 1918 as a public agency*

GENERAL MANAGER  
Jim Barrett

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER  
Robert Cheng

CLERK OF THE BOARD  
Sylvia Bermudez

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER  
Dan Charlton

May 9, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
125 South State Street, Room 8100  
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1147

**RE: Agua Caliente Tribe, WaterSMART Water Strategy Grant Application  
for Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00109**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing on behalf of Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) to express support for the proposed project to evaluate options and develop strategies for water supply enhancements to benefit the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (Tribe) and the Coachella Valley. I understand the Tribe is submitting an application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant program, and we support this grant application and the shared use of Federal and Tribal funding resources to support their continued exploration of water supply enhancements.

CVWD provides domestic water, wastewater collection and treatment, recycled water, irrigation/drainage, regional stormwater protection, and groundwater management services to a population of approximately 300,000 customers throughout the Coachella Valley. CVWD is a Groundwater Sustainability Agency responsible for sustainable groundwater management in the Coachella Valley under California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and partners with local agencies through the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group to support integrated water resources management.

The Coachella Valley has faced water resources challenges in the past which have been mitigated through improved groundwater management and increased water supply importation for direct use and replenishment of the groundwater basin. Local water managers continue to develop strategies to address future challenges of continuing to meet water demands in our desert environment, looking at both supply enhancements and demand management strategies. The Tribe is seeking Federal funding to add to these local efforts with a specific focus on supply enhancement through additional water supply development projects for importation. The goal of the project is to identify and evaluate water supply enhancement opportunities so water managers in the Coachella Valley can cooperatively work toward projects that represent a shared interest in sustainable management of groundwater supplies.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
May 9, 2024  
Page 2

This is an important project for the Tribe and the Coachella Valley. We hope Reclamation provides funding under the grant program to support the Tribe in this project, and we look forward to further engaging on this effort over the next few years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Barrett", written over a light blue horizontal line.

J. M. Barrett  
General Manager

# County of Riverside

RIVERSIDE OFFICE:  
4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor  
Riverside, CA 92502-1647  
(951) 955-1040  
Fax (951) 955-2194



DISTRICT OFFICE/MAILING ADDRESS  
78015 Main Street, Ste. 205  
La Quinta, CA 92253-3420  
(760) 863-8211  
Fax (760) 863-8905

## SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ FOURTH DISTRICT

May 17, 2024

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation:

I am writing to express my support for the application by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant program for a proposed project to evaluate options and develop a strategy for additional water supply enhancements for the benefit of the Coachella Valley.

Local water managers continue to develop strategies to address the ever-present challenge of meeting water demands in our desert environment, looking at both supply enhancement and demand management strategies. The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians is seeking federal funding support to add to these local efforts with a specific focus on supply enhancement through additional water importation.

As supervisor for Riverside County's Fourth District, representing eastern Riverside County and the mountain communities, I support this grant application by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the potential shared use of federal and Tribal funding resources to support this important effort to continue exploration of water supply enhancements to the Coachella Valley.

If you have any questions about my support for this funding opportunity, please don't hesitate to contact me at (760) 863-8211. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Manuel Perez".

V. MANUEL PEREZ  
Supervisor, Fourth District

VMP:das