

Mojave Region Proposition 84 IRWM Drought Grant

Attachment 8 – Disadvantaged Community Assistance

Introduction

Each of the three proposed Projects in this Proposal address a critical supply for a DAC and each Project serve a DAC in more than 80% of the area being served by the Projects. The three projects include:

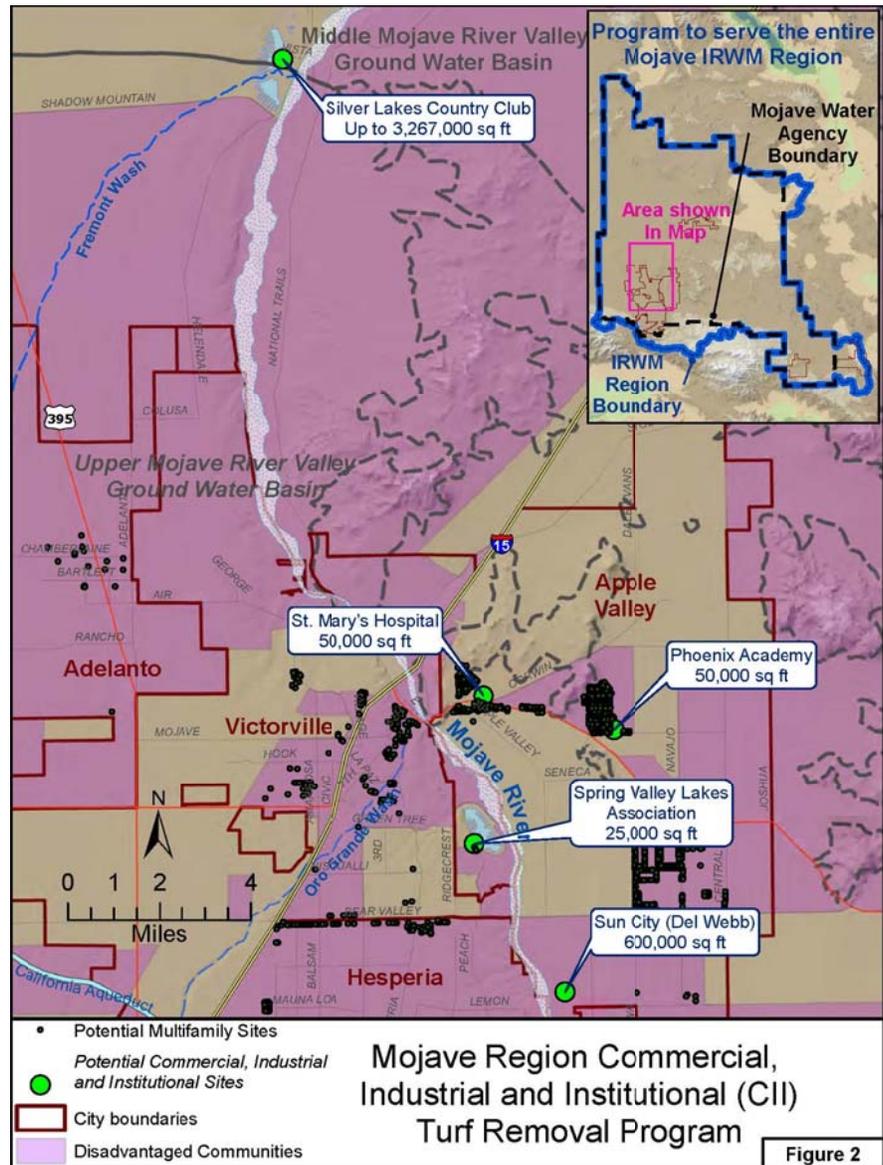
1. Mojave Region Commercial, Industrial and Institutional (CII) Turf Removal Program
2. Hi-Desert Capital Water Main Replacement Program
3. Hesperia Reclaimed Water Distribution System Project

Projects are discussed below and include information that supports the determination of DACs for each Project. Also, the critical water supply needs of the DACs for each Project are identified.

Mojave Region CII Turf Removal Program

The Mojave Region CII Turf Removal Program will serve the entire Mojave IRWM Region. As can be seen on Figure 2, which provides an overview of the Region, based on population data, approximately 68 percent of the Mojave Region qualifies as disadvantaged. The DAC determination for the Mojave IRWM Region was based on DWR’s *Appendix A of 2014 IRWM Drought Guidelines*.

Projects that reduce the use of pumped groundwater will reduce the demand for imported supplies from the SWP during the drought. Within the Mojave Groundwater Basin Area Adjudication, SWP supplies are used to recharge groundwater basins in areas where groundwater production exceeds the production safe yield of the basin. Any recycled water delivered or turf removed directly offsets groundwater production. The consumptive use portion of groundwater production results in a Replacement Water obligation for groundwater to be recharged with SWP water. According to Exhibit F in the Judgment, 50% of municipal demand and 50% of landscape irrigation demand is consumptively used; therefore half of any reduction in groundwater production from those uses contributes to reduced SWP demand.



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This Project will enable MWA to directly offset groundwater production by removing turf and reduce significant water losses that are occurring, to improve reliability of the water supply system serving the DAC. Therefore, this Project directly addresses a critical water supply need of the DAC within the Mojave Region.

Hi-Desert Capital Water Main Replacement Program

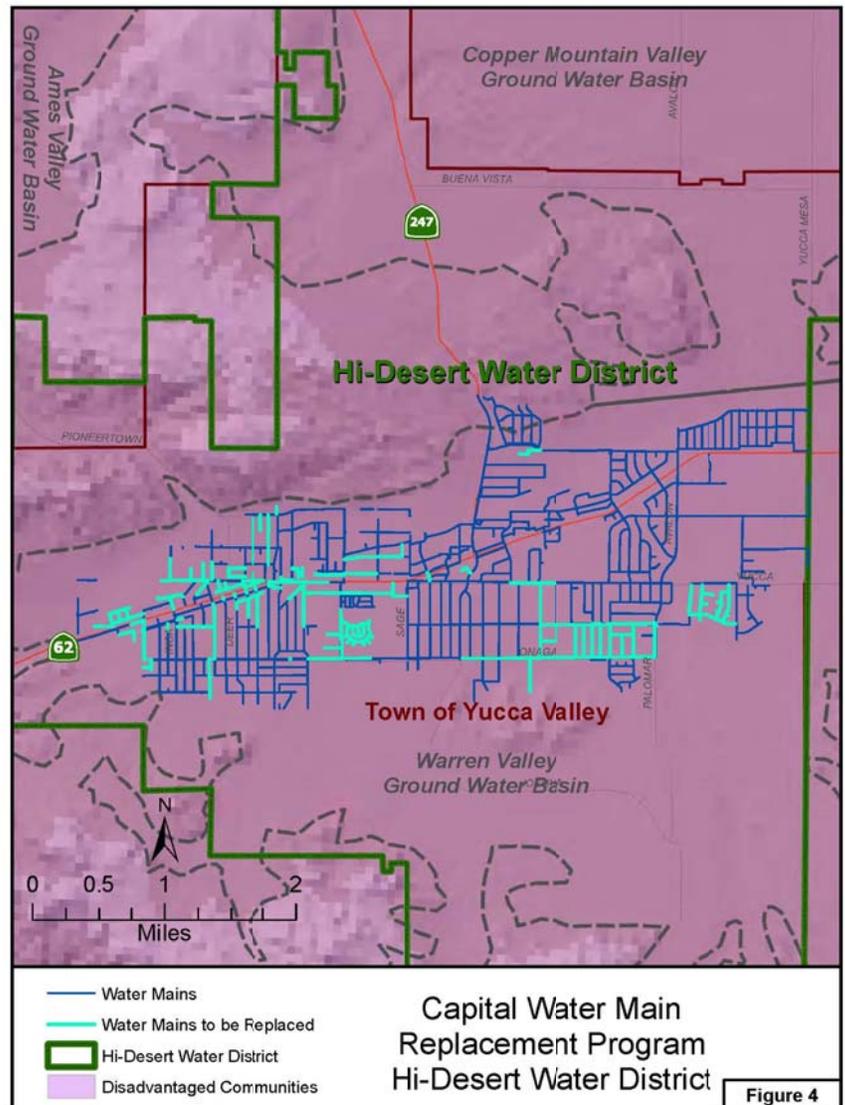
As shown on Figure 4, the Hi-Desert Water District is the agency implementing the Capital Water Main Replacement Program and its entire service area (which includes the Town of Yucca Valley) is considered a DAC; thus 100% of the Project will serve DACs. The DAC determination for the Hi-Desert Water District is based on DWR’s *Appendix A of 2014 IRWM Drought Guidelines* and includes all households where a median household income of less than \$48,706 is met (80% of the statewide MHI).

The steel pipeline infrastructure currently owned and maintained by the District is, in many cases, over 50 years old, and increasingly deteriorating. In addition to system water losses occurring through the failing pipeline infrastructure, the existing pipe does not have an ample number of properly sized fire hydrants and laterals, and does not have a large enough capacity to meet emergency demands such as fire flows in many instances. Fire flow is the amount of water that should be available to provide fire protection and thereby ensure the health and safety of district customers.

During replacement of nearly 24 miles of failing steel water main pipeline planned for this Project, new isolation valves and fire hydrants will also be installed along with service lines to customer meters within the Town of Yucca Valley.

These improvements will enable Hi-Desert Water District to provide the necessary fire flow protection to the Town of Yucca Valley and reduce significant water losses that are occurring, to improve reliability of the water supply system serving the DAC.

This Project therefore directly addresses a critical water supply need of a DAC, the Town of Yucca Valley. In addition, the current conditions of the Hi-Desert Water District water supply system, by not providing fire flow demands, also meet the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SDWSRF) Priority List Ranking Criteria E: “Water systems with water outages, significant water quantity problems caused by source water capacity, or water delivery capability that is insufficient to supply current demand.”



Hesperia Reclaimed Water Distribution System Project

The Hesperia Reclaimed Water Distribution System Project will serve the City of Hesperia/Hesperia Water District (Hesperia), which has a service area that is considered 100% DAC, as shown on Figure 3. The DAC determination for the Hesperia is based on DWR’s *Appendix A of 2014 IRWM Drought Guidelines* and includes all households where a median household income of less than \$48,706 is met (80% of the statewide MHI). Based on 2007-2011 U.S. Census Bureau estimates, Hesperia has a MHI of \$48,624, which is less than 80% of the Statewide MHI (\$48,706).

Under current drought conditions, water supplies available to Hesperia are becoming increasingly limited. As a result of the drought and reductions in State Water Project allocations, Hesperia may not be able to purchase water from its wholesaler Mojave Water Agency (MWA) required to make up exceedances in its allowed pumping from the adjudicated Mojave Groundwater Basin. As a result, Hesperia is anticipating having to take drastic measures, such as water rationing, to stay within its adjudicated pumping allowances.

Additionally, under continued drought conditions, it may become necessary for Hesperia to purchase water on the open market at a highly inflated rate. These costly purchases would increase customer rates, which would cause the greatest hardships on DACs.

Implementation of this project will allow demands on potable water to be offset by providing reclaimed water for non-potable uses; thus additional potable water will be available to meet needs of the citizens of Hesperia.

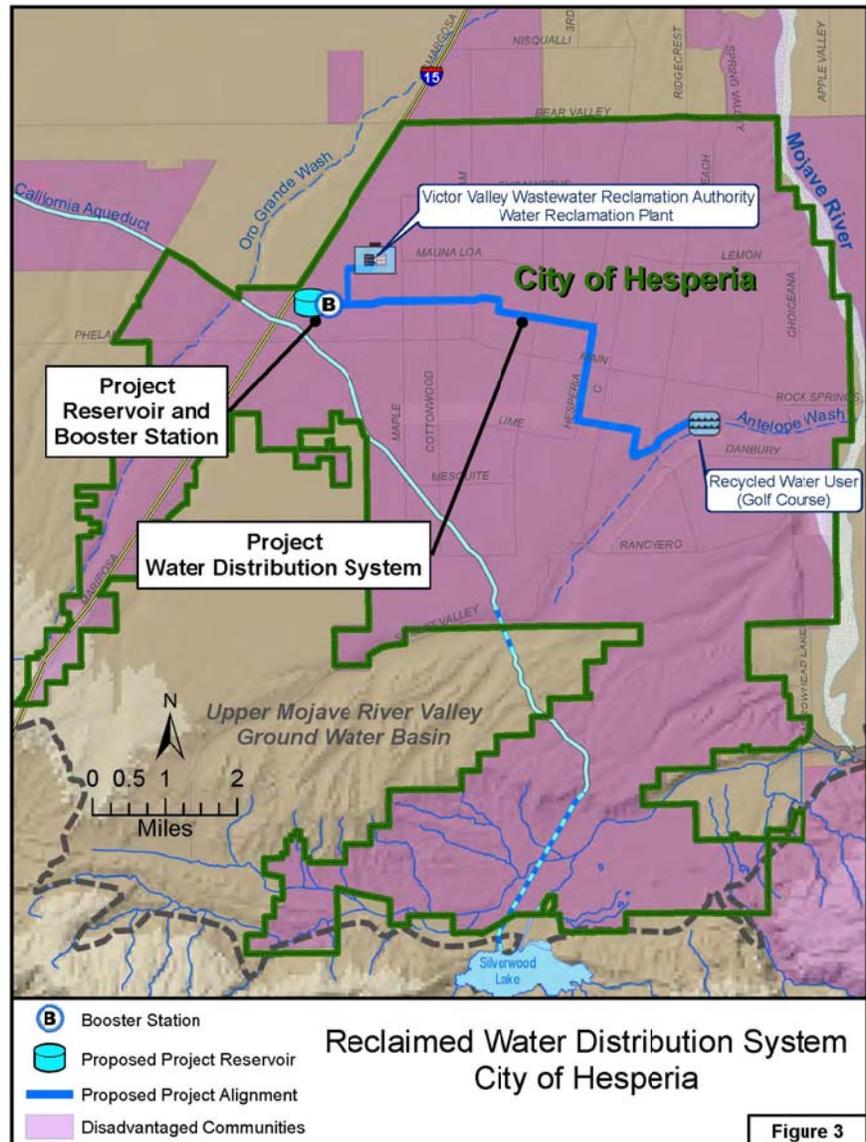


Figure 3