

10 Disadvantaged Community Assistance

Filename: Att10_IG2_DAC_1of1

This attachment is required only if the proposal includes a project that specifically addresses a need of a DAC.

10.1 Documentation of the Presence and Needs of DACs

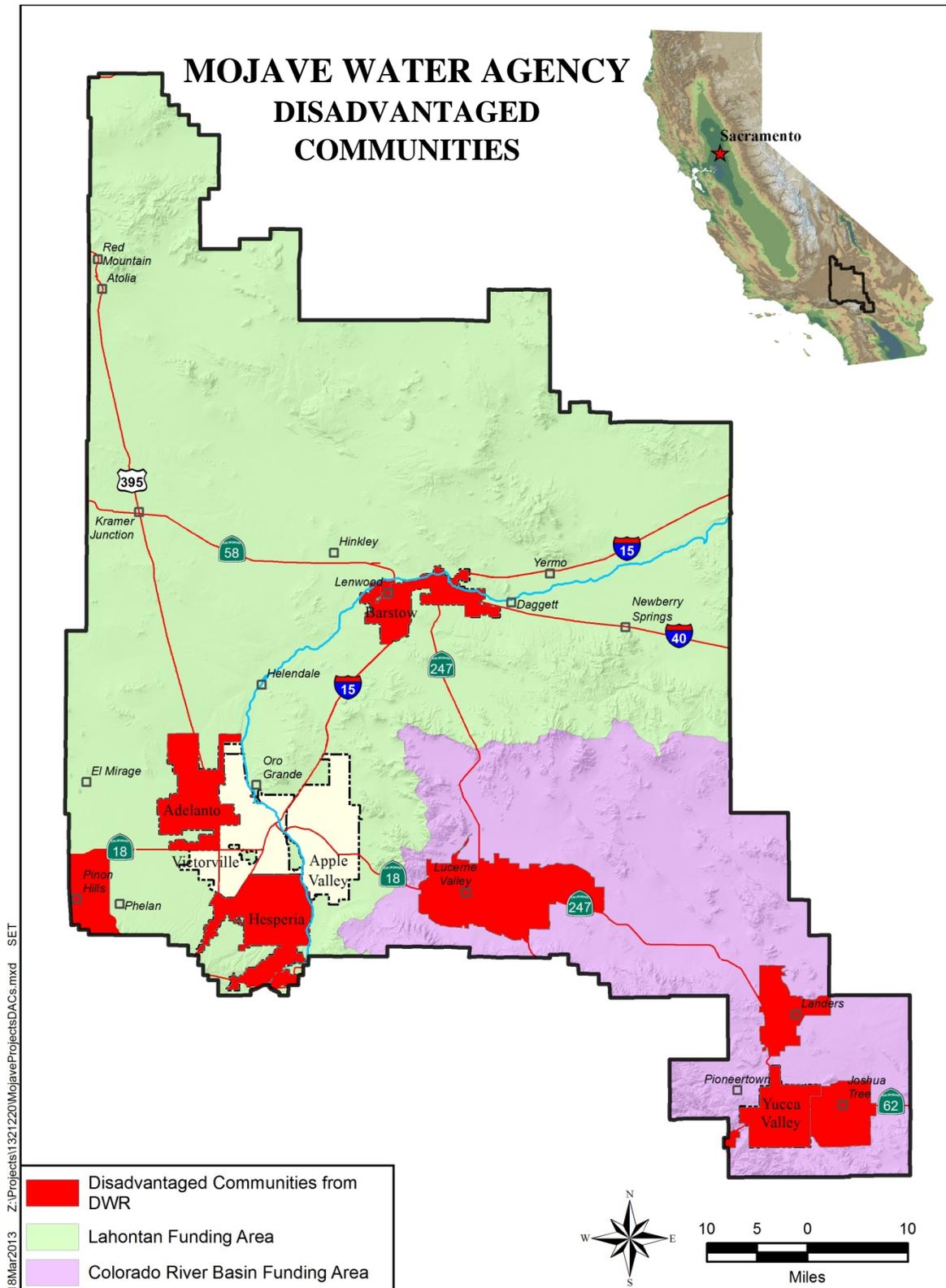
A disadvantaged community (DAC) is defined by DWR as an area with a median household income less than 80% of the statewide median household income of \$60,882. This threshold would be \$48,706.

The **Hi-Desert Water District Wastewater Treatment and Water Reclamation Project** will provide wastewater treatment and collection services and reclaimed use of the tertiary treated effluent to the community of Yucca Valley and environs. The entire community is currently using septic tanks, which have been linked to high levels of nitrate in the drinking water supply. Figure 10-1 shows the locations of disadvantaged communities within the Mojave Water Agency service area.

The community of Yucca Valley served by the Hi-Desert Water District is considered disadvantaged with household income below 80 percent of statewide median based on 2010 census data. The initial area to be served in the Phase 1 area covered in this grant application includes the low-income Paradise Valley neighborhood. The Hi-Desert Water District is under a RWQCB order to eliminate septic discharge facilities, or face septic moratorium requirements that would essentially stop economic growth and apply penalties to all septic tank dischargers.

The **Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority Subregional Reclamation Project** will provide wastewater treatment and collection services and reclaimed use of the secondary treated effluent to the communities of Apple Valley and Hesperia. The City of Hesperia is considered disadvantaged with household income below 80 percent of statewide median based on 2010 census data.

Figure 10-1: Locations of Disadvantaged Communities in MWA's Service Area



Polygons provided by DWR

10.2 Operating Cost Funding

The Hi-Desert Water District is a municipal agency empowered to levee fees and charges to fund its activities. On-going operation and maintenance costs will be funded through these fees and charges.

10.3 Funding Match Waiver

A funding match waiver is not being requested in this grant application.

10.4 Description of Proposed Project and Targeted Benefits to DACs

Hi-Desert Water District Wastewater Treatment and Water Reclamation Project

Hi-Desert Water District will construct Phase 1 to begin construction of the District's ultimate wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system. The intent is to provide a blueprint for the multi-phase sewer service to the Town of Yucca Valley. Phase 1 will provide 5,500 sewer connections in the Town of Yucca Valley and convey and treat an average of 1.25 mgd. The project will be expanded in stages to collect up to 4 mgd. The wastewater will be treated to meet Title 22 recycled water standards and discharge to percolation basins to recharge the treated effluent into the Warren Valley groundwater basin.

The first phase of the wastewater treatment and collection system will provide service to the most densely populated area in Yucca Valley, which is also the location of the majority of the District's groundwater wells. The Town of Yucca is disadvantaged community based on 80 percent of year 2010 statewide median household income and is listed on the DWR website as such. A wastewater system will result in the elimination of septic systems, as customers will be required to connect. The effluent from the treatment facility will be percolated into the District's recharge basin. Diversion of a portion of the effluent to parks and the local golf course is being considered as a future option, but currently there are no immediate plans for this.

The project will directly benefit the Town of Yucca Valley, which does not currently have wastewater collection and treatment service and relies exclusively on septic tanks for its wastewater treatment and disposal. This project's major beneficial impact is that it will alleviate a considerable level of demand for SWP purchases, which has been used to supplement the groundwater to meet potable water demands in the region. The installation of this project is considered essential to the Yucca Valley Community in order to continue meeting the public health and safety requirements for water supply and to meet the water quality objectives of the Colorado River RWQCB.

Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority Subregional Reclamation Project

Construction of two water reclamation plants (WRPs) will recycle water and percolate to groundwater and serve recycled water customers in Hesperia and Apple Valley. This expands VVWRA's regional groundwater recycled water system to new locations within its service area. The Apple Valley WRP and Hesperia WRP have been designed as scalping facilities, meaning that these facilities will take a relatively constant wastewater flow from the interceptor up to the plant treatment capacity. Wastewater flow in the interceptor in excess of the plant capacity will continue to flow through the collection system to the Westside Regional WRP for treatment. The WRPs have been designed with membrane bioreactors and ultraviolet disinfection to provide advanced treatment suitable for both Title 22 customers and groundwater percolation basins.

The proposed "subregional" plants will reuse 8,960 acre-ft per year for groundwater percolation and recycled water customers, satisfying about 28% of the area's water demand. This use of recycled water will replace a portion of the local groundwater and State Water Project Water. For 50 years, the groundwater basins have been drawn down. The basins were historically replenished with water imported from the San Joaquin River/Bay Delta System, but legal restrictions for protection of threatened and endangered species, including Delta Smelt, in the Bay Delta have reduced the annual flows to southern California to 5% in 2010. In recent years of continued drought, the demand for imported water is much greater than the state water project or the Colorado River can supply. Continuing dry climate patterns flow restrictions make water recycling a necessity for the people served by VVWRA and MWA.

The project will directly benefit the City of Hesperia and provide the capacity for years of future growth leading to new construction and more jobs coming to the area. The construction of the plants will also create local jobs and help the local economy. The specific users of recycled water that serve disadvantaged community members include:

- **Mojave Mesa Elementary School**
- **Phoenix Academy**
- **Lewis Center For Educational Research, Thunderbird Campus**
- **Brewster Sports Complex and Park**
- **Apple Valley Town Hall**
- **Apple Valley Civic Center Park**

10.5 Documentation of DAC Representation and Participation

RWMP Chapter 9 of the 2004 Regional Water Management Plan⁵⁰ describes the development of Basin Management Objectives, formulation of alternatives, and selection and prioritization of projects and management actions. A total of 53 distinct projects and management actions were identified and screened. Each project was first described with costs and yield described on a comparable basis. Each project was tested using a Decision Support Model for the MWA service area. Combinations of projects and actions were

⁵⁰ Attachment 2 to this application, electronic file "Att2_IG2_Adopt_2of2"

evaluated based on their ability to meet Evaluation Criteria that were developed to measure success in obtaining the project objectives. The adopted plan identifies 19 primary projects or actions (RWMP Table 9-9), 60 Management Actions (RWMP Chapter 10), and 43 mitigation measures (RWMP PEIR Appendix A) to implement these strategies.

The RWMP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was active in all phases of this process. The TAC developed the objectives, provided input on development of evaluation criteria, selected projects for implementation, and assigned a priority to each. The TAC was also active in development and review of the Program EIR and selection of the Environmentally Superior Project.

There has been a concerted effort to contact all communities and groups within the Plan area. TAC meetings are open to all, with meeting agendas and minutes posted on the internet. The MWA also maintains a regular mail and email list of entities and individuals for distribution of TAC Agendas and meeting materials.

Community, Governmental, and Industry Groups. Examples of involvement with these groups include:

- The Agency has Memoranda of Understanding in place with local colleges (Victor Valley Community College, Copper Mountain Community College, and Barstow Community College) and provides funding and assistance for development of conservation demonstration gardens and water resource related educational programs.
- The Agency has an MOU with the Lewis Center for Academic Excellence that covers training for students, equipment, etc. for water supply and environmental studies.
- The Agency has outreach and information exchange MOUs with the
 - Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and
 - Victor Valley Association of Realtors

How stakeholders, including DACs, are identified and invited to participate:

- Disadvantaged communities (DACs) within the IRWM planning region include both rural and urban areas. The DACs were delineated based on comparison of 2010 census data to 80 percent of the statewide median household income⁵¹.
- All DACs have been involved with development of the MWA IRWMP through the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).
- Considerable portions of the Plan area meet the definition of Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). Examples of DAC participation and outreach include:

⁵¹\$48,706

- MWA staff regularly attends the Watermaster Subarea Advisory Committee meetings that represent all five Subareas of the Mojave Basin Area.
- One MWA Board member regularly attends Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association meetings and staff periodically present to them on various topics.
- MWA has an active program with the Hinkley School to improve their water supply situation⁵².
- The MWA Regional Recharge and Recovery (R3) Project will assist the DAC parts of Victorville and Adelanto. The Agency is discussing the possibility of providing financing to assist Adelanto with participation in the project.
- MWA is assisting the City of Adelanto with retrofit of their City Hall landscape.
- MWA has pledged funds from its General Fund to assist Hi-Desert Water District with its water supply project; the HDWD project is included in MWA's grant application.
- MWA provides DACs (and the whole Agency) with General Fund money and staff time for water conservation incentive programs (WCIP).
- The Agency secured grant funding to build the Mojave River Pipeline at no cost to local residents, including DACs, who all benefit from the facility.
- MWA helped Lucerne Valley get grant funds and provided local match to perform a sewer system feasibility study.
- The Morongo Pipeline (which serves HDWD) was funded by bond sale, with MWA expending considerable time and money to build it.
- MWA now supports the operation, maintenance, and replacement costs for both pipelines from general fund revenues.
- MWA has funded a number of studies by the USGS, installed wells and perform our own and consultant prepared geohydrology studies that benefit DAC areas. Monitoring wells that benefit these areas have been installed and are regularly monitored by MWA staff.

Outreach Process. Procedures, processes, and structures that promote access to and collaboration with people and agencies with diverse views within the region include:

- The RWMP incorporates all required elements of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (RWMP p.1-7), a Groundwater Management Plan (RWMP p.1-8),

⁵² The Hinkley school was having trouble meeting demand. MWA studied the local hydrology and the water system and then focused on improving their sports field turf and irrigation system.

and an Urban Water Management Plan (RWMP p.1-9) – there is significant overlap in the requirements of these plans. The development of the RWMP and associated Program EIR were public processes that included open meetings with posted agendas and minutes, and noticed public hearings.

- Recent laws⁵³ now require UWMPs of water suppliers that utilize groundwater (all urban suppliers in MWA use groundwater) to include a description of the groundwater basin and location and amounts of groundwater pumped. Seven water supply agencies (RWMP p.7-5) within the MWA have developed Urban Water Management Plans that were reviewed and incorporated into the RWMP. The publication and adoption of these plans are noticed, public processes.
- Land use plans in the basin are developed by a number of different entities including the county and each of the cities through their General Plans, General Plan Amendments and Public Facilities Elements.
- Twenty-four regional entities have banded together to form the **Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation** (RWMP p.7-1) to educate local communities on the importance of water conservation, provide tools to reduce per capita consumption, and reduce regional water use by 10 percent (5 percent in the more water efficient Morongo Basin) by 2010, 15 percent by 2015, and 20 percent by 2020. The MWA provides staff to and manages the program.
- Significant public outreach efforts were made during development of the RWMP. These efforts involved distribution and evaluation of stakeholder questionnaires, and conducting meetings with individuals, groups, agencies, and a Technical Advisory Committee. The TAC met regularly during development of the Regional Water Management Plan, reviewing and providing comments and suggestions on the Plan.
- Outreach efforts were directed at stakeholders from local water agencies, state and federal agencies, municipalities, San Bernardino County, and 25 local community groups.
- **RWMP Management Actions** (RWMP Chapter 9) related to planning and stakeholder involvement include:
 - MWA will provide information regarding regional water balances and availability of supplemental supply to local purveyors to allow them to reach appropriate conclusions regarding the sufficiency of supply for SB 221 and SB 610 assessments.

⁵³ SB 221 and SB 610

- New developments within the Mojave Basin Area will be assessed the Replacement Water cost by the Watermaster, who will request MWA to import State Water Project water to replace the pumped water.
- MWA will work with local planning agencies to ensure that areas that should be set aside to recharge the groundwater basin are reserved for that purpose and are not subject to development.
- MWA will coordinate with local planning agencies to ensure that growth projections, proposed land use changes, and types of proposed developments are consistent with water planning efforts, as required by SB 221 and SB 610. Significant deviations from projected growth and water needs will be noted and corrective action taken. Corrective actions could include securing additional sources of water, or making a finding pursuant to SB221 or SB 610 that an adequate water supply does not exist and notifying the water purveyor.
- MWA will work with the Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation (AWAC) and serve as a clearinghouse for water conservation measures and performance data. Water conservation programs will be evaluated through the AWAC and actions taken as needed.
- Increased water conservation efforts will be identified and plans developed for implementation of cost-effective demand management measures based on the reports on effectiveness.
- MWA will continue to coordinate, participate in, and implement recommendations of the Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation.
- MWA has organized and held three water symposia with local water leaders and regulators in Victorville, Morongo Basin, and Lucerne Valley and plans to make the water symposium an annual event.
- MWA will continue its outreach and education efforts through continued funding of the Community Liaison Officer.
- MWA will continue to develop and publish its newsletter, The Panorama. Regular updates on the development of the Regional Water Management Plan have been included.
- MWA will maintain its Speakers Bureau to provide timely water related information to the public.
- MWA's web site (<http://www.mojavewater.org/>) contains information on MWA projects, water supplies and resources, water education, Watermaster, Agency publications, a calendar of events, meeting agendas, and general information about MWA. MWA will continue to provide this service.

Collaborative efforts. The MWA IRWM region is inclusive and utilizes a collaborative, multi-stakeholder process that provides mechanisms to assist DACs, address water management issues, and develop integrated, multi-benefit, regional solutions that incorporate environmental stewardship to implement future IRWM plans. MWA has made an on-going commitment to monitor progress on IRWMP implementation and to update the plan on a regular basis.

Public Outreach. The process used to make the public both part of and aware of the regional management and IRWM efforts includes:

- The Plan is, to the maximum extent possible, being implemented through collaborative regional and local efforts.
- Since Plan inception in 2001, the Mojave Water Agency has been developing and implementing the Regional Water Management Plan (its IRWMP) as a cooperative effort between water suppliers, regulators, and other stakeholders. Oversight of the Plan implementation is being performed by the same local Technical Advisory Committee that formulated the Plan.
- As noted in RWMP Chapter 2, water users form the core of the stakeholder group in the basin, which also includes water districts, cities, private water agencies, and agribusiness. Additional essential stakeholder involvement includes environmental organizations, regulatory agencies, development interests, and community associations. RWMP Chapter 8 provides a more detailed list of stakeholder issues developed from individual and group meetings and a questionnaire process.
- Ways the public can participate include:
 - Attend Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings; review posted agendas and minutes
 - Review the Plan and Program EIR posted on the web page,
 - Review the State of the Basin reports posted on the web page,
 - Participate in Plan updates and public hearings.
- The following public outreach activities are identified in the MWA Strategic Plan Update:
 - Ongoing activities:
 - *ABCs of Water* Educational series, sessions held in Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep and Nov; 5:30—7:00 p.m.

Strategic Plan Goal #4—Develop public awareness so that individuals and stakeholder organizations support our efforts and understand their role in contributing to the Agency’s mission.



- ***Bi-annual “Mini-Tour,”*** conducted in May and November (with a special Rotary tour Mar 2009)
 - ***Newly-Electeds Orientation,*** conducted each November within 10-days after the election
 - Regular contributor to the “High Desert Report”, 600 regular subscribers + 1,500 additional mailings per quarter
 - Coordination with MWA’s five strategic partners⁵⁴
- Sponsored and presented at Second Annual San Bernardino County Water Conference (Ontario Convention Center, August 14, 2008; 430 in attendance)
- Coordinated third Water Symposium in Joshua Tree, October 9, 2008; 76 in attendance
- Oversaw development and implementation of Public Education Outreach Program for the R3 Project, by TMG Communications
- Disseminated eight news releases
- Published and distributed four electronic newsletters (Mojave Messenger, now a periodic publication)
- Joined Newberry Springs Chamber of Commerce
- Water management articles written for:
 - Victor Valley Association of Realtors
 - Newberry Springs Chamber of Commerce
- New/developing endeavors:
 - Development of a Regional Legislative Alliance with region-wide water purveyors
 - Development of a Strategic Partnership with High Desert Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
 - Steps taken to participate in “Social Media;” MWA Facebook page has been created (augments Agency website)
 - “Virtual Tour” video in final editing for use with Mini-Tour
 - Two video projects (Water Quality & Non-Native Species Removal) in final editing as well

⁵⁴ Barstow Community College, Copper Mountain Community College, Lewis Center, Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District, Victor Valley Community College



- Cooperating with other Southern California water agencies to develop a regional response to state-wide legislation and planning efforts

Decision-making process. How decisions are made, the steps in which RWMG arrives at decisions and how RWMG members participate in the decision-making process includes:

- The MWA Technical Advisory Committee oversaw development of the IRWMP, and was involved in every stage of developing objectives, prioritizing projects for implementation, and continues to oversee Plan implementation.
- The TAC employs a consensus-based process of decision making, and elects its own officers.
- The TAC met approximately monthly during the three-year IRWM planning period. Attendance typically reflected 40 stakeholder groups over this period.
- Chapter 9 of the RWMP50 describes the development of Basin Management Objectives, formulation of alternatives, and selection and prioritization of projects and management actions. A total of 53 distinct projects and management actions were identified and screened. **The adopted plan identifies 19 primary projects or actions (RWMP Table 9-9), 60 Management Actions (RWMP Chapter 10), and 43 mitigation measures (PEIR Appendix A) to implement these strategies.**
- The adopted IRWMP Management Actions include provisions for periodic review and update of the IRWM Plan.
- All stakeholder and interest groups within the MWA boundary are welcomed into the TAC review and advisory process.
- Mojave Water Agency as the regional water manager derives revenue from its tax base and from water sales. No member agencies are required to provide funds toward the development or administration of the IRWM planning process. Agencies contribute their staff time to these efforts, which can involve considerable distances and travel times.
- In addition to the TAC, the Mojave Basin Area Judgment established Subarea Advisory Committees, forums where geographically-linked entities can share information and develop strategies.
- The consensus-based TAC process and geographical division-based elected Directors of the MWA have been very successful in collaboratively developing the Region's goals, objectives, management plans, and in putting those plans into action.
- The MWA IRWM Plan is a living document that continues to guide development and implementation of water project and management actions to meet the region's objectives.

10.6 Letters of Support

A letter of support was provided to Hi Desert Water District for its Water Reclamation Plant by the City of Yucca Valley (Figure 10-2 and Figure 10-3). A letter of support was also provided to Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority from the City of Hesperia, in which one of the proposed plants will be built, for its Subregional Reclamation Project (Figure 10-4).

Figure 10-2 City of Yucca Valley Town Manager Letter of Support



March 11, 2013

Keith Wallace
Program Manager, IRWM Implementation Grants
CA Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Regarding: Support for Mojave Water Agency's Proposition 84 IRWM Implementation Grant Application

Dear Mr. Wallace:

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Yucca Valley in support of Mojave Water Agency's (MWA) application for Proposition 84 IRWM Implementation Grant funding for the Hi-Desert Water District (HDWD) Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project was identified in MWA's IRWMP as a high priority project. Furthermore, the region's stakeholder advisory group, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), voted in November 2012 to support including this project in the grant application.

The Town of Yucca Valley has supported Hi-Desert Water District's efforts to secure grant funding for this critical project. As a Disadvantage Community, the residents of Yucca Valley cannot afford to shoulder the burden of delivering this essential infrastructure project without assistance from granting agencies; Phase 1 improvements are estimated at \$125,000,000.

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board has made the Town of Yucca Valley a top priority for eliminating septic systems, due to high nitrate concentrations that are severely polluting our local groundwater. As such, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a Basin Plan amendment establishing a May, 2016 deadline to complete the Phase 1 improvements, impacting locally-owned retail businesses and restaurants, and a majority of our residents of lower socioeconomic status. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board will enforce a Septic Prohibition, if progress is not made by this critical date. Such a septic prohibition would result in daily fines to property owners and requirements to pump septic tanks more frequently, which would be financially devastating to our already economically disadvantaged community.

Awarding grant funding would not only assist the Hi-Desert Water District in making progress toward the Wastewater Reclamation Project, but it will greatly benefit our local community to ensure a safe and reliable water supply for the future. Continued use of septic systems will cause irreversible damage to our groundwater. This project is consistent with the General Plan of the Town of Yucca Valley and the state of California's interest in eliminating septic systems statewide.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Nuaimi
Town Manager



The Town of
Yucca Valley

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



Figure 10-3 City of Yucca Valley Town Council Letter of Support



March 28, 2013

Keith Wallace
Program Manager, IRWM Implementation Grants
CA Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94238-0001

FUND YUCCA VALLEY'S TREATMENT PLANT DESIGN!

Dear Mr. Wallace:

The Town of Yucca Valley and her residents & businesses need your help! Last year, our community was facing significant challenges at the heart of the Great Recession – elimination of Redevelopment Agencies, cost increases for public safety, and severe impacts to property values due to high foreclosure rates throughout our entire region. On top of that, the community was also handed a Septic Prohibition and a state mandate that a solution be provided by 2016.

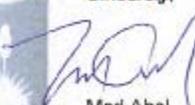
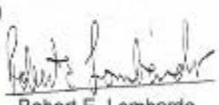
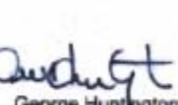
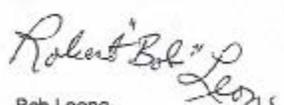
Yucca Valley is not a wealthy community. We have a disproportionate percentage of retirees on fixed incomes and median household incomes well below the County and State averages. We're certain that our community qualifies as a Disadvantaged Community consistent with state standards for determining such declarations. So to place the burden entirely on the backs of our residents is simply unfair. We need your help.

To date, the Town and Hi-Desert Water District have searched for viable funding sources to deliver the sewer system to our residents. We are writing you today to support the Hi-Desert Water District's application for Proposition 84 funding to assist in the design of the regional wastewater treatment plant. Time is of the essence to move this project forward and this grant is essential in delivering this necessary improvement.

At a time when Redevelopment was eliminated across the state, the Yucca Valley Redevelopment Agency was looking to assist in the design costs. Needless to say, those funds have dried up or are frozen due to the State's actions. We need these Prop 84 funds now in order to meet the deadline established by the state water board.

We appreciate your time and attention to this matter!

Sincerely,

				
Merl Abel Mayor	Robert E. Lombardo Mayor Pro Tem	Dawn Rowe Council Member	George Huntington Council Member	Bob Leone Council Member



The Town of
Yucca Valley

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Figure 10-4 City of Hesperia Letter of Support



City of Hesperia

Gateway to the High Desert

November 6, 2012

Kirby Brill, General Manager
Mojave Water Agency
13846 Conference Center Drive
Apple Valley, CA 92307-4377

RE: Support for Subregional Wastewater Reclamation Plant

Dear Mr. Brill:

On behalf of the City of Hesperia, I am pleased to write this letter supporting the Mojave Water Agency's (MWA) and the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority's (VVWRA) efforts to pursue Proposition 84 grant monies for the Subregional Wastewater Reclamation Plant in the City of Hesperia.

Hesperia's current sewer infrastructure is not adequate, and the ability to send over one million gallons of wastewater per day to this new facility will take the pressure off the current system and help improve efficiency. With purple pipe installed throughout the City in preparation for the day that reclaimed water becomes available, we are poised and ready to construct the proposed Subregional Wastewater Reclamation Plant.

Hesperia's goal to use reclaimed water for irrigation in new developments has been recognized as a project of regional significance because it will reduce wastewater overflows; conserve potable resources; reduce long-term dependence on fresh water as the sole source of irrigation; and contribute to reduced flows in existing interceptors which are shared with neighboring cities.

For these reasons, the City of Hesperia wholeheartedly supports VVWRA and MWA in their pursuit of Proposition 84 funds for the Subregional Wastewater Reclamation plant for our city and we urge your utmost consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Russell Hewett
Mayor

Russell Hewett, Mayor
Bill Holland, Mayor Pro Tem
Paul Rosaró, Council Member
Mike Leonard, Council Member
Warren Smith, Council Member
Mike Anderson, City Manager

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