

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2026 Innovators High Desert Water Summit empowers students to “Influence the Future of Water”

Apple Valley, CA — In a world where many young people dream of becoming influencers, the Mojave Water Agency is challenging them to redefine what true influence means by using their ideas, curiosity, and creativity to shape a more sustainable future. The 2026 Innovators High Desert Water Summit, themed “Influencing the Future of Water,” introduces the water industry to future generations and invites students to explore how they can make a real impact in their communities and the world around them.

Set for Friday, Feb. 6, 2026, at Powell Auditorium in Victorville, the Water Summit brings together more than 400 middle and high school students and teachers from across the Mojave Water Agency’s service area for an inspiring day of innovation, collaboration, and discovery.

“This year’s theme encourages students to think about influence not as social media popularity, but as the ability to inspire action and create meaningful change,” said General Manager Adnan Anabtawi. “They’re learning that their voices and ideas can help protect one of our most precious resources...water.”

The 2026 Water Summit will feature:

- A keynote address from a water industry professional whose own career pathway was inspired by similar programs.
- STEM and career pathway exhibits hosted by local water agencies, colleges, and environmental partners showcasing hands-on demonstrations and industry innovations.
- Interactive breakout sessions focused on water science, conservation technology, and sustainable design.
- A presentation from this year’s essay contest winner.
- A free lunch for all registered participants and teachers.

The event will also spotlight two cornerstone student competitions:

- The Problem Solvers Challenge, where teams develop creative marketing and education toolkits to inspire water-wise habits in their communities.

- The Essay Contest, which challenges high school students to turn apathy into action by exploring how youth can influence attitudes and behaviors around water conservation in the Mojave Desert.

Together, these programs help students connect STEM learning to real-world problem solving while strengthening their communication and leadership skills.

Approximately \$13,000 in scholarships will be awarded during the event, with funds provided through community sponsorships. Sponsorship levels ranging from \$1,000 Bronze to \$5,000 Gold are available through the Greater High Desert Chamber's Futurus Foundation, with proceeds benefiting Mojave Water Agency scholarship and education programs.

"Supporting the Water Summit means investing in the next generation of innovators," said Board President Rick Roelle. "These students are proving that influence isn't about popularity, it's about making a difference."

Event Details:

Friday, February 6, 2026

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

High Desert Church, Powell Auditorium, Victorville

Admission is free | Lunch provided | Bus stipends available for schools

For registration or sponsorship information, contact Elizabeth Fratt at efratt@mojavewater.org or visit www.mojavewater.org.

Mojave Water Agency, which was established in 1960, plays a vital role in securing reliable water supplies for the High Desert region. As one of 29 State Water Project contractors, the Agency manages water resources across a 4,900-square-mile service area, through water resource planning, recharge projects, and public education.

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