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PRESS RELEASE

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Mojave Water Agency supports Delta Conveyance Project Final Environmental Impact Report release

Apple Valley, CA - Mojave Water Agency welcomed the news that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released the <u>Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR)</u> for the Delta Conveyance Project – a critical climate adaptation strategy to modernize existing State Water Project (SWP) infrastructure in the Delta.

This is a major step forward toward making the state's water system more resilient to climate change and natural disasters while protecting and enhancing the environment in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The proposed project's Bethany Alignment will help the State Water Project safely capture, move, and store water amidst the rapid swings between wet and dry conditions that have become our new normal as the state's climate changes. Following intense evaluation by scientists and engineers over several years, it is clear that this project is necessary to provide increased water security for the 27 million people and 750,000 acres of farmland depending on it.

"The Delta Conveyance Project isn't about access to additional water. This project supports the investments we have already made in imported water, making its delivery to our region more resilient," said Mojave Water Agency General Manager Adnan Anabtawi.

As a non-coastal service area, alternative sources of replenishment, such as desalination, are cost-prohibitive. This makes importing water the only affordable option for groundwater recharge. During the last water year, Mojave Water Agency imported close to 90,000 acre-feet of water from the State Water Project to ensure sufficient supplies to its nearly 5,000 square-mile service area.

"We look forward to seeing this Final EIR certified so we can begin the modernization work that will carry the State Water Project into the next century," said Anabtawi.

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