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PRESS RELEASE

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Mojave Water Agency workshops kick-off integrated regional Master Plan development process

Apple Valley, CA —Key stakeholders from across Mojave Water Agency's service area gathered by region on Oct. 18 and 19 to support the Agency's Master Plan project. Four workshops were held, one each in the Morongo Basin, Apple Valley, Barstow, and Victorville areas. More than 40 representatives convened, representing local and county government, water districts, water companies, wastewater entities, local military bases and others with a stake in visioning a sustainable water future.

"This is not your typical Master Plan project," said MWA Water Resource Manager, Melody Bailey. "The Agency is using a new planning framework to create a Master Plan for our times. Future climate and water conditions are unpredictable, so it's essential to have a planning approach that anticipates change and offers a flexible framework for prioritizing policies, programs, and projects to ensure water resources meet future needs."

A key component to the framework approach for the Master Plan project is the development of solution sets by regions the Master Plan project has defined as "Growth Zones." These Master Plan Growth Zones are a tool to help the agency and stakeholders develop a shared understanding of future water demand and the opportunities for collaboration and efficiencies around water resource management within the region. At the workshops, participants began this process by providing input on expectations around future water demand and operational considerations.

The next Master Plan Project stakeholder workshops will be planned for early 2024. Any stakeholders or members of public interested in more details about the Master Plan project or future workshops can find more information at <u>www.mojavewater.org/master-plan/</u> or email <u>masterplan@mojavewater.org</u>.

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