NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION Oeste Basins Groundwater Recharge Project, Piñon Hills, CA

Project Title: Oeste Basins Groundwater Recharge Project, Piñon Hills, CA

Lead Agency: Mojave Water Agency

Attn: Matthew Johnson, Senior Water Resources Specialist 13846 Conference Center Drive, Apple Valley, CA 92307

(760) 946-7032

Project Location - City: Piñon Hills, CA (unincorporated)

Project Location - County: San Bernardino

Project Location - Specific: The Project Site is located within the unincorporated area of San Bernardino County known as Piñon Hills, approximately 0.88 mile south of SR-18 and approximately 3.6 miles east of SR-138 (see attached Location Map). Specifically, the Project would occur within a 10-acre vacant parcel (Assessor Parcel Number [APN 3099-081-01]) located on the south side of Cayucos Drive, approximately 0.36 mile west of Oasis Road and approximately 0.45 mile east of 263rd Street East, and the associated piping to be located within an adjacent 0.03-acre area within the Department of Water Resources right-of-way. The Project is located at approximately Latitude 34°29'13.14"N, Longitude 117°39'3.41"W and can be found within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Mescal Creek 7.5' Topographic Map, within Section 30, Township 5 North, Range 7 West.

Description of the Project: The MWA proposes to construct two, approximately 4.5-acre groundwater recharge basins on its 10-acre parcel in the Piñon Hills area. The proposed Project will also install four 8-inch diameter flexible suction hoses into the aqueduct that will feed a new 16-inch pipe that will be installed underground from the aqueduct to the recharge basin. It is anticipated that the site will percolate SWP water into the ground at approximately 2 ft per day and 9 acres of the recharge area will be in use approximately 60 percent of the time allowing a total of approximately 3,900 acre-feet per year to be recharged into the proposed groundwater basin.

The MWA has determined that the above project will not have a significant effect on the environment and has recommended the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) in compliance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Copies of all relevant material, including the project specifications, are available for review at the Mojave Water Agency, located at the address stated below.

Address Where Hard Copy of the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration is Available: The Draft Initial Study and MND are available for public review on the MWA's website at https://www.mojavewater.org/

Public Review Period: The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is being circulated for a **30-day review period**, which will commence on **August 19, 2023**, **and close on September 17, 2023**. Due to the time limits mandated by State Law, your comments must be received at the earliest date, but not later than September 17, 2023. Please send your comments to Matthew Johnson, Senior Water Resources Specialist, Mojave Water Agency, 13846 Conference Center Drive, Apple Valley, CA 92307. Mr. Johnson may be reached by phone at (760) 946-7032, or via e-mail at mjohnson@mojavewater.org

Public Hearing: Written and oral comments regarding the MND/Initial Study and project may also be submitted at public hearings that will be held before the Mojave Water Agency. The date, time, and place of future public hearings will be appropriately notified per MWA and CEQA requirements. Copies of all relevant material, including the project specifications, the MND, and supporting documents, are available for review at the MWA office located at the address stated above.

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