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PRESS RELEASE

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MWA granted \$1.75 million to bolster drought resiliency

APPLE VALLEY, CA — Mojave Water Agency has secured \$1.75 million in congressional funding that will help address critical water resource challenges in its 4,900-square-mile service area.

Led by Congressman Jay Obernolte, Senator Alex Padilla, and the late Senator Dianne Feinstein, HR 4266, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 is a grant funding vehicle offered through the United States Environmental Protection Agency for Stormwater Capture and Recharge that included the funding for the Agency's Mojave River Pipeline Traveling Screen Project (Project).

"This funding allocation marks a significant step forward in our efforts to address water scarcity and bolster resilience in the Mojave Basin Area," said Mojave Water Agency Board President Rick Roelle. "Projects like this help us prepare for a hotter, drier future as the climate continues to change."

The Project will leverage the existing infrastructure of the Mojave River Pipeline (MRP), which was completed in 2006. To enhance the effectiveness of recharge operations and ensure the longevity of the project, a new traveling screen facility will be installed at the start of the Mojave River Pipeline. This facility will keep a majority of the moss and debris from entering the pipeline and help to restore the pipeline's capacity to its full potential, facilitating the transportation of water from the California Aqueduct in the West Victorville area to recharge sites along the Mojave River. The Project includes a new recharge basin that will be used to recharge water when it is abundant to then make it available for use in dry years.

"This area represents a critical groundwater resource for the Agency's severely disadvantaged service area, where water scarcity is a pressing concern," said Roelle.

The Project's comprehensive approach to water conservation and infrastructure improvement reflects a collaborative effort between federal, state, and local stakeholders. By investing in innovative solutions such as stormwater capture and recharge, policymakers are laying the groundwork for a more sustainable and resilient future.

For more information about the Project, contact Mojave Water Agency at (760) 946-7000 or visit www.mojavewater.org.

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