

PRESS RELEASE

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Nicholas Construction, Inc. awarded contract for MWA's Mojave River Pipeline Traveling Screen Project

APPLE VALLEY, CA — Nicholas Construction, Inc. has been awarded the contract for the construction of the Mojave River Pipeline Traveling Screen Project, with a groundbreaking set for late April 2025. The project, valued at just under \$6.3 million, is expected to be completed by March 2026.

A key component of the project is the installation of a new traveling screen facility at the start of the Mojave River Pipeline (MRP). This facility will significantly reduce the amount of moss and debris entering the pipeline, thereby restoring its capacity and improving the efficiency of water transportation from the California Aqueduct in the West Victorville area to recharge sites along the Mojave River.

“This project is located in a critically underserved area where water scarcity is a major concern,” said Mojave Water Agency Engineering Manager Tesfaye Demissie. “We are working on an accelerated construction schedule to complete it within a year.”

The Mojave River Pipeline, originally completed in 2006, plays a crucial role in regional water management. The enhancements provided by this project will ensure the longevity of recharge operations and maximize the pipeline's effectiveness. In addition to the traveling screen facility, the project includes the construction of a new recharge basin on a two-acre site and pipe modification to expand groundwater recharge on an adjacent 40-acre site. This basin will store excess water when available, allowing for its use during dry periods, thereby strengthening the region's water resilience.

“We are honored to have been selected for this critical infrastructure project,” said Alex Silicz, Vice President at Nicholas Construction. “Our team looks forward to implementing these enhancements, which will improve water reliability and benefit the region for years to come.”

The Mojave River Pipeline Traveling Screen Project is being partially funded by two grants: one from the California Department of Water Resources under the Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief and Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program for \$2,088,747; and another from the EPA through the Community Grants Program for Stormwater Capture and Recharge for \$1,750,000. The combined total grant funding for the project is \$3,838,747, demonstrating a commitment to sustainable water management and infrastructure improvements.

As an EPA grant recipient, the Agency is committed to prioritizing American-made materials that align with the Build America Buy America Act of 2021. This ensures that infrastructure investments support domestic manufacturing, job creation, and long-term economic growth within the United States.

For more information on the Mojave River Pipeline Traveling Screen Project, call (760) 946-7000 or visit www.mojavewater.org.

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