

PRESS RELEASE

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Mojave Water Agency to host groundbreaking ceremony for critical water infrastructure project in Phelan

Apple Valley, CA — Mojave Water Agency will host a public groundbreaking ceremony on July 31, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. to mark the start of construction on the Mojave River Pipeline Traveling Screen Project, a vital infrastructure upgrade located at 11987 Duncan Road in Phelan.

This innovative project is designed to restore and enhance the Mojave River Pipeline by installing a new traveling screen facility that will significantly reduce moss and debris entering the pipeline. The improvements will support more efficient delivery of imported water from the California Aqueduct to recharge sites along the Mojave River, ensuring long-term water reliability for the High Desert region.

“This is a major step forward for our local water systems,” said Adnan Anabtawi, General Manager of Mojave Water Agency. “This project is about water resilience – preparing the infrastructure we rely on to serve our communities amidst greater variability in our water supplies.”

The project also includes construction of a new two-acre groundwater recharge basin and pipeline enhancements to expand regional storage and recharge capacity during wet years, providing greater flexibility during drought conditions.

Funded in part by \$3.8 million in grants from the California Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the project reflects a shared commitment to equitable, sustainable water infrastructure that supports underserved communities.

Board President Rick Roelle emphasized the project’s long-term benefits: “This is the kind of smart, forward-looking investment that builds a secure water future for the entire Mojave region. We’re not just fixing problems, we’re preparing for tomorrow.”

The public is invited to attend the ceremony, which will feature remarks by Agency leaders, recognition of project partners, and a “shovel ceremony.”

For more information about the Traveling Screen Project or other critical water infrastructure, visit the Agency’s website at www.mojavewater.org or follow us on social media @mojavewater.

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