

**PRESS RELEASE
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August 13, 2026

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Construction Underway on East Ames-Reche Groundwater Recharge Basin Project

New facility will expand groundwater recharge capacity and strengthen long-term water reliability in the Morongo Basin

APPLE VALLEY, Calif. — Construction is underway on Mojave Water Agency's East Ames-Reche Groundwater Recharge Basin Project, an approximately \$6.6 million construction investment that will expand the Agency's ability to recharge imported State Water Project supplies in the Morongo Basin.

The project will replace the existing Ames Recharge Facility, which has been in operation since 2014 but faces operational limitations including capacity constraints, weekend shutdowns, equipment access issues, and environmental permitting requirements.

The new facility is being constructed on Mojave Water Agency (MWA) property and is expected to provide approximately 2,400 acre-feet per year of recharge capacity, giving the Agency greater flexibility to replenish local groundwater supplies when imported water is available.

"The East Ames-Reche project represents a commitment made by a prior generation to secure the long-term water future of the Morongo Basin," said Marina West, President of the Mojave Water Agency Board of Directors. "Expanding our ability to recharge groundwater means we can make better use of available water supplies today while helping ensure those resources are there for the communities of Yucca Valley, Yucca Mesa, Landers, Flamingo Heights and Johnson Valley in the future."

Approximately \$480,000 in grant funding from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is supporting the project through the Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Program. The remaining construction costs are being funded by MWA.

The project was designed by Ardurra Group, Inc., which is also providing construction management services. J/K Excavation & Grading Co., Inc. is the construction contractor.

The new recharge facility will improve upon the operational capabilities of the existing Ames facility and provide MWA with additional capacity to put State Water Project supplies into the groundwater basin for future use.

"Recharge facilities are an important part of how we manage water supplies in a desert environment," said Tony Winkel, MWA Senior Principal Hydrogeologist and Project Manager.

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"This project will give us greater operational flexibility and allow us to take better advantage of opportunities to recharge the basin when State Water Project water is available."

Construction began this summer and will continue over the coming months with an anticipated completion in mid-January.

The East Ames-Reche project is part of MWA's broader investment in infrastructure and groundwater management throughout its 4,900-square-mile service area. As one of California's 29 State Water Contractors, MWA imports water through the State Water Project and strategically recharges that water into local groundwater basins for future use.

"One of the Agency's most important responsibilities is planning beyond today's water needs," said Adnan Anabtawi, General Manager of Mojave Water Agency. "Infrastructure such as East Ames-Reche Groundwater Recharge Basin allows us to responsibly manage imported supplies and store water underground, where it can contribute to the long-term reliability of the region's water resources."

Mojave Water Agency is a wholesale water agency serving more than 500,000 residents across the Mojave Desert. The Agency works collaboratively with local water providers and stakeholders to ensure a reliable and sustainable water future through groundwater management, imported water supplies, scientific monitoring and regional water planning.

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