

PRESS RELEASE

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Mojave Water Agency celebrates completion of Mojave River Pipeline Traveling Screen Project

Victorville, CA — Mojave Water Agency (MWA) celebrated the completion of its Mojave River Pipeline Traveling Screen Project Tuesday, marking a major infrastructure improvement designed to remove aquatic vegetation and debris from imported State Water Project water and improve the reliability of deliveries for groundwater recharge.

Immediately following the snip of the ribbon, MWA Engineering and Operations staff placed the new system into operation and escorted guests to the California Aqueduct to watch the traveling screens at work. Attendees saw water diverted from the aqueduct, pass through the new screening system and enter MWA's 48-inch Mojave River Pipeline. They then followed the water to a nearby recharge facility, where they watched the screened water discharge into the recharge basin and begin percolating into the groundwater system.

“Water reliability isn't just about having water available. We also need the infrastructure to move and manage it effectively,” said MWA General Manager Adnan Anabtawi. “This project strengthens an important connection between our State Water Project supplies and the groundwater basins our communities depend upon. Seeing the entire system operating today, from the aqueduct to the recharge basin, really demonstrates how these investments work together.”

Located at the White Road Turnout, the new facility uses two channels equipped with mechanically operated traveling screens that continuously capture aquatic vegetation and debris before the water enters the Mojave River Pipeline. The system replaces the operational limitations associated with stationary screens that could become clogged, require cleaning and restrict the amount of water moving through the system. The new facility is designed to accommodate the full capacity of the White Road Turnout, up to approximately 92 cubic feet per second.

Material captured by the traveling screens is washed from the screens and returned to the California Aqueduct, while the screened water continues through MWA's 48-inch pipeline for delivery to groundwater recharge facilities.

“This project may be highly technical, but its benefit is straightforward: it helps us make better use of the water available to our region,” said MWA Board President Marina West. “Investing in reliable infrastructure helps protect our groundwater supplies for the communities we serve today and for future generations. We are grateful to our federal, state and local partners who helped make that investment possible.”

Nearly \$3.9 million in federal and state grant funding supported the project. Congressman Jay Obernolte was instrumental in securing \$1.75 million in congressionally directed funding through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Community Grants Program. Senator Alex Padilla and the late Senator Dianne Feinstein also played roles in advancing the federal funding. The California Department of Water Resources provided an additional \$2.09 million through its Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Program.

MWA also recognized the City of Victorville for its continued partnership with the Agency. Victorville Mayor Liz Becerra attended the ceremony and joined representatives of federal, state and county elected officials in presenting certificates recognizing completion of the project.

“The traveling screens allow us to continuously and automatically remove debris before it can enter the pipeline, preventing flow restrictions and avoiding operational interruptions,” said MWA Director of Engineering and Operations Mike Simpson. “The result is a more efficient and reliable way to move imported water through the Mojave River Pipeline and ultimately into groundwater storage. Getting a project with this many components from design to an operating facility takes a coordinated team, and we're very proud of what that team accomplished.”

Simpson specifically recognized MWA Project Manager Tesfaye Demissie for guiding the project through design, permitting, grant requirements, construction and coordination. Project partners included Carollo Engineers, which served as designer and Engineer of Record; Kennedy Jenks, which provided construction management; and Nicholas Construction, which constructed the improvements.

The Mojave River Pipeline is a key component of MWA's regional water supply infrastructure, allowing imported State Water Project water to be conveyed into the Agency's service area for groundwater recharge.

Mojave Water Agency, which was established in 1960, plays a vital role in securing reliable water supplies for the High Desert region. As one of 29 State Water Project contractors, the Agency manages water resources across a 4,900-square-mile service area, promoting long-term sustainability and stewardship. For more information, visit the Agency's website at www.mojavewater.org or follow us on social media @mojavewater.

Caption: *Mojave Water Agency staff gather around the new Mojave River Pipeline Traveling Screen as it begins operation in West Victorville. The new infrastructure will remove debris before it enters the pipeline preventing flow restrictions and increasing recharge capacity.*

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