

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MWA challenges students to help plan the Mojave Desert's water future

APPLE VALLEY — What would you prioritize if you were responsible for securing the Mojave Desert's water supply for the next 50 years? Mojave Water Agency (MWA) is inviting high school students across its 4,900-square-mile service area to tackle that very question in this year's Student Essay Contest.

The theme, "Planning for an Uncertain Future," challenges students to imagine themselves as the region's Director of Water Planning and develop a long-term strategy to address challenges such as prolonged drought, groundwater sustainability, environmental stewardship and more. Students will need to explore the difficult choices, investments and policies needed to balance environmental protection, economic development and reliable water supplies for future generations.

Three finalists will be selected to work with a community mentor to develop their essay into a live presentation for the final round of competition. The winner will receive a \$3,000 scholarship and present their essay at MWA's 2027 Innovators High Desert Water Summit in February. The remaining two finalists will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

"There is no single answer to what our region's water future should look like, and that is what makes this year's challenge so valuable," said Adnan Anabtawi, General Manager of Mojave Water Agency. "We are asking students to examine complex issues, weigh competing priorities and tell us what they would do if the responsibility for planning the next 50 years were theirs."

Students interested in participating can find the essay prompt, eligibility requirements, contest rules and submission instructions on the [Outreach](#) page at mojavewater.org. Entries must be submitted by 4 p.m. on September 28, 2026.

Mojave Water Agency is a regional wholesale water provider and one of 29 State Water Project contractors in California. Established in 1960, the Agency collaboratively manages groundwater resources, imports water and invests in infrastructure and science to help ensure a reliable water supply for more than 500,000 residents across its 4,900-square-mile service area.

For more information, visit the Agency's website at www.mojavewater.org or follow us on social media @mojavewater.

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