

PRESS RELEASE

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MWA to install new monitoring well in Hesperia

APPLE VALLEY, Calif. — Mojave Water Agency will begin construction in October on a new groundwater monitoring well in Hesperia that will provide important scientific data to support the Agency's long-term management of the region's groundwater resources.

The Headwaters Monitoring Well will be constructed near Randall Street and Stonehenge Avenue and will replace the Lake Arrowhead Monitoring Well, which MWA can no longer access. Located near the headwaters of the Mojave River, the new well will fill an important gap in MWA's groundwater monitoring network and provide both groundwater-level and water-quality data.

"This location has historically been an important monitoring point because it gives us information from the southern end of the basin, near the beginning of the Mojave River," said MWA Project Manager Dalila Boice. "Unlike the previous well, this one is being designed specifically for monitoring and will provide water-quality information in addition to groundwater levels. That gives us a much clearer picture of groundwater conditions and strengthens our ability to understand and manage the basin."

The well is expected to be drilled to a depth of approximately 750 feet, or until bedrock is reached, and will include three nested casings that allow MWA to monitor groundwater at different depths. During construction, the borehole will be geophysically surveyed, and information gathered at the site will be used to determine the final well design and monitoring intervals.

Once complete, the Headwaters Monitoring Well will become part of MWA's long-term groundwater monitoring network. Data collected through the network help Agency scientists evaluate changing groundwater conditions over time, including responses to drought and wet periods, and provide information used to guide groundwater management and recharge decisions.

The MWA Board of Directors awarded a \$333,110 construction contract to ABC Liovin Drilling, Inc. in August. That amount covers construction of the well and does not include other project expenses such as engineering and design, construction management and land acquisition.

Funding for the project comes in part from the California Department of Water Resources through a Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management grant. MWA received \$633,882 in grant funding for its groundwater-level and water-quality monitoring well program. A portion of that funding was used for the previously completed Helendale Fault Monitoring Well, with \$386,343 in grant funding remaining for the Headwaters project.

Construction is scheduled to begin in October and be completed within 60 days. Because drilling operations can generate noise, sound walls will be installed around the work area to reduce impacts to nearby residents. MWA has also notified residents near the project site by mail in advance of construction.

“After losing access to a nearby well that MWA relied on for decades, our staff worked diligently to identify a suitable location that would restore this important monitoring point,” said MWA Board President Marina West. “The Headwaters Monitoring Well is a continued investment in the scientific data and tools we need to better understand our groundwater basins, make informed management decisions and protect the water resources our communities will depend on for generations to come.”

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.

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